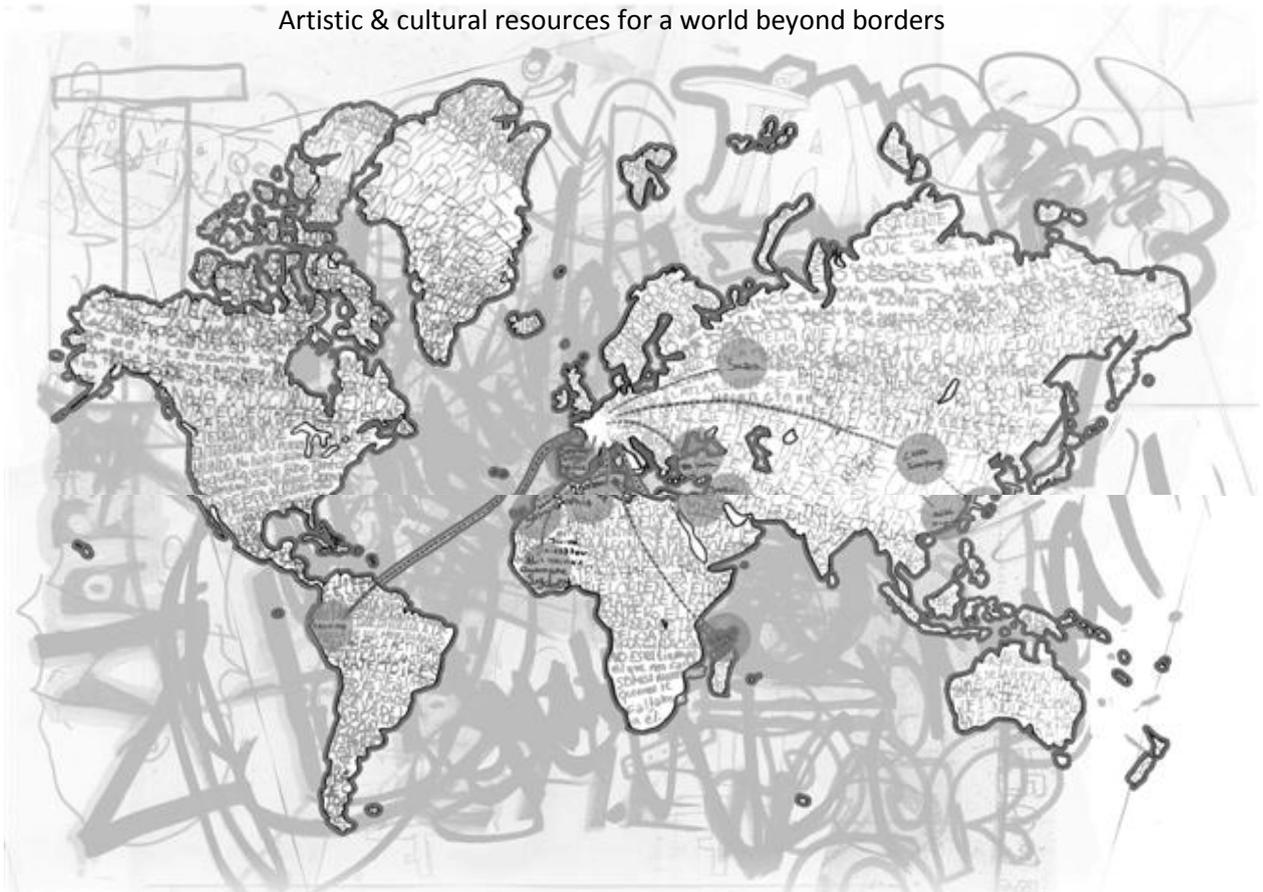


MÉMOIRE DE L'AVENIR
ذاكرة المستقبل
MEMORY OF THE FUTURE
זיכרון העתיד

MEMORY OF THE FUTURE

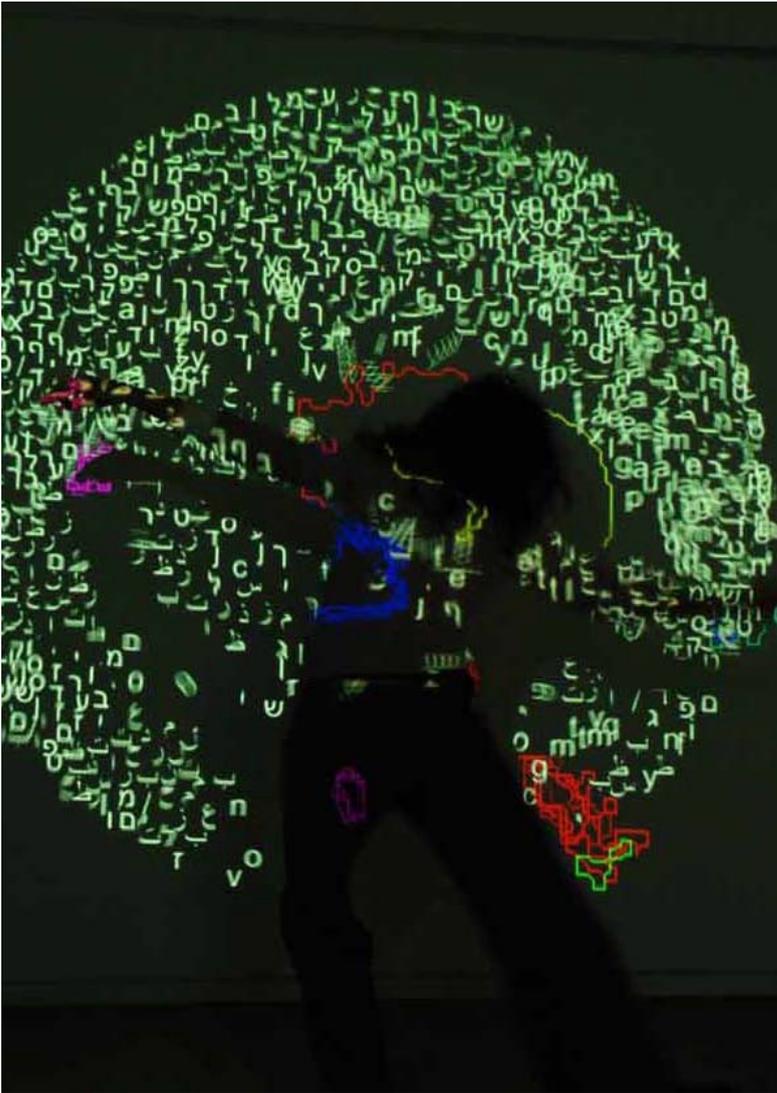
Identities, Cultures, Dialogue, Respect,

Artistic & cultural resources for a world beyond borders



Sommaire

- Memory of the Future..... p. 3
- France p. 8
- Israel & Palestine..... p. 10
 - o [Cross]cultural Center in Nazareth p. 11
- Euro-Mediterranean Network p. 12
 - o Germany p. 12
 - o Turkey p. 12
- Casamance p. 13
- A yearly final event..... p. 14
- Contacts and Partners..... p. 15



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Memory of the Future is a non-partisan, non-religious organisation that incorporates multi-disciplinary competences of scholars, educators and artists working towards **a greater knowledge of cultures, promoting pacific co-existence and cross-cultural understanding and exchange beyond political & religious connotations**, via the tools of art and education. Our international network of mediators leads cultural programmes and workshops in schools, extra-curricular and social centres, in France, Germany, Israel, Palestine, Senegal and Turkey, connecting people regardless of faith, gender and community, learning to appreciate and attest the **richness of cultural diversity**.

MOF's programmes aim to formulate and contribute, in the spirit of **respect and reconciliation**, to new outlooks for **young & older generations**, confronted each day with **questions of identity, acceptance and transmission** of one's idiosyncratic cultural identity. Seeking to transcend habitual references and ways of thinking, the various programmes propose an interactive dialogue between identities, which can be appreciated in museums, architecture, the surrounding, and an artistic activity both personal and collective as means of expression, communication, comprehension.



Tools



The language of art and the grammar of symbols are ideal, amusing and most instructive tools in order to **transcend habitual references, recognise mutual values, as well as to reinforce one's own individuality, and appreciation of our differences.**

Symbols are a world of imaginary life, living images; mirrors of human nature, intuitive and conceptual, universal and distinctive, they are source of artistic creations and keys to the understanding of the works and of social and cultural developments... They talk to our intelligence, sense, spirit. Learning their grammar allows drawing similarities, as individuals or a group, yet with room to

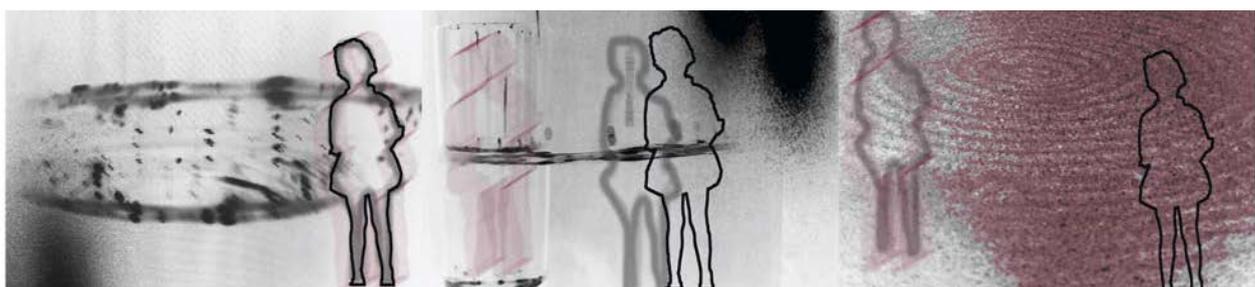
individual expression, taste, aesthetic, believes. The travelling of symbols via the cultures stimulates both the individual and the group to be critical and creative.

Programmes include all forms of expressions; Multidisciplinarity facilitates approaching questions of plural identities and cross-cultural exchanges. A yearly final exhibition brings together the works realized in the various places, as well as that of the leading artists, a way to pursue the dialogue, exchange and encounters of the participants, the diversity of their cultures and identities.

Goals & Objectives

Memory of the Future seeks to question experience of participants of various backgrounds and cultures. What are their representations of the culture of the "other"? What are the similitudes among their differences? Which place do they have in their family, their community, their society? What are the specific cultural practices that they keep in memory?

- Creating bonds between cultural, social, religious differences by promoting people to people dialogue and opening cross-cultural communication, aiming **to live together in respect in a multicultural dimension,**
- **Preventing from stereotypes, discrimination** and all forms of racism by giving the tools to understand diversity and complementarities of cultures,
- Approaching the practice of the arts and creative means as a way of opening the dialogue and **a tool for social interactions.**
- Helping participants to **regain self-confidence** by understanding their own culture and to **respect others** by discovering that they share more than they thought.
- Giving the opportunity to people who do not have easy **access to arts and cultural heritage** to discover another way of expression,



How?

The workshops are guided by two artists with different forms of artistic expressions.

The workshops consist on 10 to 12 sessions of 2 hours work according to the project/topic (related to questions of identity/civics/pluralism/living together/cultural diversity...).

- In the first session: discussion about **identity matters** and inter-cultural exchange, followed by the artist's own presentation and that of the artistic project to be accomplished with the group (tools/steps of realisation/etc).
- Regular session throughout the year (or the semester, according to the schedule accorded to the project) of discussions, **exchange of ideas** about one self, of the other, human rights, similitude's and differences among the cultures & individuals, and **artistic realisation both personal and collective** (photo, painting, collage, video...)
- Each project of MOF's workshop includes at least 2 cultural visits (museum, gallery,...) led by the artist or a representative of MOF, during which the participants **discover the richness of the art (ancient to contemporary)** via the solicitation for an **intuitive reading** of a symbolic grammar, related to colours, geometrical forms, textures, material, forms, symbolic animals, signs and symbols.

The visits in the museums allows a **better understanding of the culture of each other**, it underlines universal references, and their appropriation, evolution, differentiation with time, and through the different cultures, civilisations, individuals. Participants learn to decipher the message conveyed by symbols chosen along paths within museums but also borrowed from architecture, literature, music, and other domains, and thus realize they can "read" and understand various societies and cultures. This collective grammar of symbols finally allows them to **discover mutual values, cross-cultural similarities**, and to find that they share far more common references than they imagined. Symbols, symbolic representations, and metaphors are at the same time mirrors of human nature, living images, and sources of artistic creations.



Mediators' training

Memory of the Future offers practical training designed for the educators and social mediators taking part in educational programs.

As they interact with young generations, educators must **acquire meaningful and constructive tools** to provide answers to the questions of identity, acceptance, and transmission of cultural identities. Art and artistic production (both within school and extra curricular programs) have proven very effective in promoting intercultural understanding, recognition of universal values, while encouraging self expression and confidence.

The trainings enable participants:

- to approach questions related to intolerance, exclusion, discrimination,
- to promote the understanding of the diversity and universality of cultures
- to encourage and facilitate dialogue and self expression.

The training also endows educators to design original ways to visit museums, art exhibitions or historical or architectural sites which do not call for extensive prior background in Art history (of the educators or their audience). The approach developed aims at discovering the language of signs, and generally revolves around target symbols.

Evaluation

The evaluation follows observations gathered by a **local coordinator**. The **international coordinator** of the association will conduct a monitoring trip-evaluation twice a year.

The workshop content is prepared beforehand in a collaborative way between the artists, the local coordinator and the international coordinator. The final evaluation will be conducted according to the **observations and evaluations** of artists who led the workshops, local partners, the beneficiaries, and the coordinators.

The artists submit **notes** throughout the workshop. The local coordinator performs a **mid-term observation and interviews** artists, beneficiaries and partners for a possible reorientation or solving problems. At the end of the workshops, aside to the actual results of the atelier, a **questionnaire** will be distributed to partners and beneficiaries.

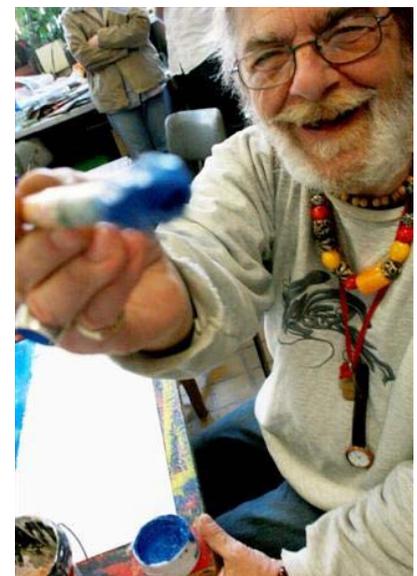
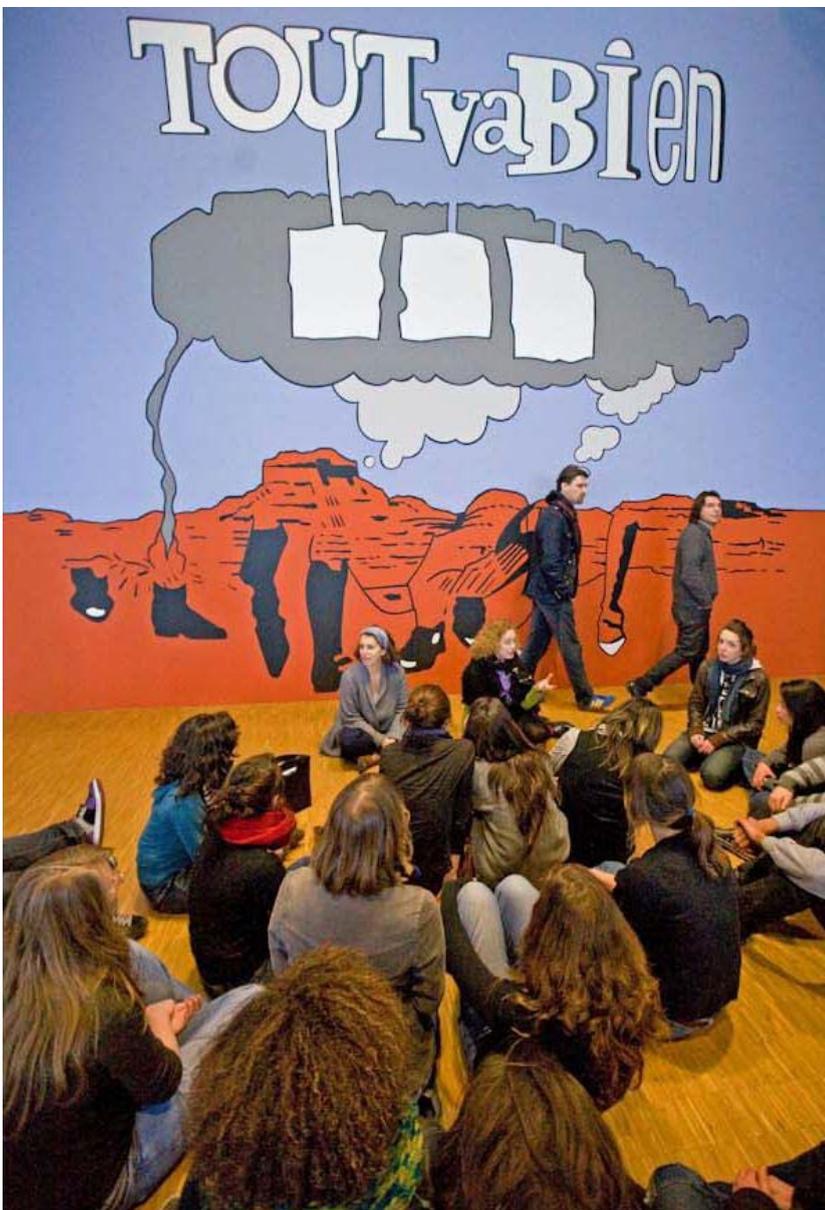
It takes into account various parameters such as **pre-existing** (to measure individual differences within the group and interpersonal relationships), **personal and interpersonal development** (to identify unusual trends and interpersonal between the beginning and the end of the project), the **general impressions**.

The international coordinator considers all these elements and draw up an assessment based on interviews and discussions.



Results

- Participants regain **self-confidence**, whatever their origins are; they become confident enough to try to play a real role in everyday life.
- Participants acquire **autonomy**.
- Participants possess a **better knowledge** of participants from other communities that they encounter everyday.
- Participants get a better understanding of the culture in which they live while maintaining the contribution of the **diversity of their identity**.
- Participants show a greater **openness** to others and a greater **acceptance of differences**.
- Participants find or discover the pleasure of learning; they want to be **active and creative**.



France

Memory of the Future started working as a non-profit organisation in Paris in 2003. Today, our organisation is motivated by the same observations that led to its creation. We all are concerned with topics such as **individual and collective identity, history, transmission**. However, a large number of people do not have the opportunity to express themselves about these matters, even though they are daily confronted to these questions: they live in neighbourhoods rich in cultural diversity; they try to conciliate their parents' or their own migration courses with their current language, goals, living situation; they confront their individual identity, as a man, a woman, a child, a parent, a migrant, a religious community member, etc. to a collective identity...

This situation leads to a **general a misunderstanding of the "culture of the Other"**, as well as a tension about the subject of cultural/social/religious belonging. **Their relationship to themselves and to the other is damaged, hindered by stereotypes and misconceptions.**

Our primary goal is thus to **promote cultural diversity**, to help building **social links** between individuals and communities and work **toward an open society**.



We first intervened in the *Goutte d'Or*, a Parisian neighbourhood rich in cultural diversity but **marked by severe tensions and even violence** between ethnic communities. Our action was always closely linked to the notion of territory, and **the perception of the nature and limits of the territory**. Years after years, we worked in different "difficult" neighbourhoods in *Ile de France*: La Chapelle (18^{ème} Ardt), Belleville-Amandiers (20^{ème} Ardt), Bondy (93), Argenteuil (95), Garges-Lès-Gonesse (95), etc.... but also in community centers or medical centers.

We want to give to our projects' participants a **better access to arts and culture** and encourage them to go out of their neighbourhoods and limited living areas (physical decompartmentalization) and **enjoy the diversity that surround them** (mental decompartmentalization).

Israel & Palestine



MOF's approach takes shape in multicultural societies. That is why the organisation started to put together coexistence projects in Israel and Palestinian Territories almost immediately after its birth. Since 2003, Memory of the Future organise cross-cultural meetings in Israel for young generation as well as adults, especially women. Those workshops, reuniting members of different ethnic, religious or cultural backgrounds, aim at promoting better mutual understanding and pacific coexistence in respect.

Beyond the simple religious, ethnic, political duality (Jews/Muslims, Hebrews/Arabs, Israelis/Palestinians), MOF makes sure that **each of its project is a meeting that considers the diversity and complexity of social, religious, ethnic or economic identities.** Depending on the project, MOF develop projects with participants of different **ages** (from pre-school to retired women), **faiths** (Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Druze) or **social or ethnic backgrounds** (Arab, Hebraic, Bedouins), from communities in conflict and from a disadvantaged background.

Each participant experiences a feeling of worthlessness and more difficulties than others to assert their place in society. All need to **strengthen their confidence to play a real role** in everyday life. Exchanging ideas about issues that affect them and taking part in a cross-cultural project make them realize that they are able to complete a project, to create something interesting and share their knowledge.



Memory of the Future worked in **different places** such as Julis & Carmiel, Ibtan & Al-Khawaled, Jaffa, Dahiesha camp, Kfar Giser al-Zarka & Kesarya, Nahariya, Wadi-al-Hamam & kibbutz Al-Ginoussar, al-Fridis, Jérusalem, Tel Aviv, Eilat, Ramallah, etc.

[Cross]cultural Center in Nazareth Dedicated to Culture, Transmission and Dialogue

Because of an increasing demand of MOF's intervention in the region, a local branch has officially been created in Israel in December 2010. Simultaneously we put together the project of a local space that could be use as an office for our local coordinator but also as a **platform for meetings and exchanges between peoples regardless of their faith, gender or community**. The cultural affairs department of the French embassy in Tel Aviv supported us and provided us the space in Nazareth.

Why NAZARETH ?

Nazareth was for us an obvious choice to develop this idea. Indeed, Galilee has a **strong symbolic dimension** in the Middle East as in the rest of the world. Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities live side by side without really crossing paths. Moreover, despite a rich cultural diversity, cultural equipment is relatively scarce and none of the rare cultural centres is dedicated to cross-cultural dialogue. We are hoping to **open the local population to a culture of dialogue** with their neighbours, but also to give them the opportunity to broaden their horizons through exchanges with our European partners.

Community Center, Workshops, Exhibitions

In addition to a **local work space**, this center will also welcome groups of children, teenagers and adults for diverse activities such as workshops, debates, projections, etc. This should allow meetings between this population and local artists and mediators working in the region, creating a **creative pool of reflexion and propositions in a difficult context of tensions and conflicts**. We see the MOF center as a warm and convivial space, beyond political and religious issues, that should welcome every month a new exhibit showing professional and amateur works, as well as artwork designed in MOF's workshops in Israel, Palestine and abroad. All exhibition themes should revolve around the **problematic of cross-culturalism, stereotypes, medias representations and discriminations, favouring sensitive and innovative approach in the promotion of cultural diversity** in a context of daily violence and harsh living conditions.



Euro-mediterranean Network

Over the years, MOF had the opportunity to meet numerous professionals in the field of cross-cultural mediation, working as we are with tools such as the arts and cultural heritage. Some of these encounters led to the **creation of solid partnership bonds** that today are turning into an emerging euro-mediterranean network.

Germany

UNESCO associated schools



Mrs Uta Forstat and Mrs Dorle Schmidt have been carrying out a research on artistic and cross-cultural mediation and its tools for many years now. MOF encountered their work in Oberhambach (Germany) in 2004 in the frame of the project "Bridge of Hopes" in partnership between the University of Haifa and the Odenwaldschule.

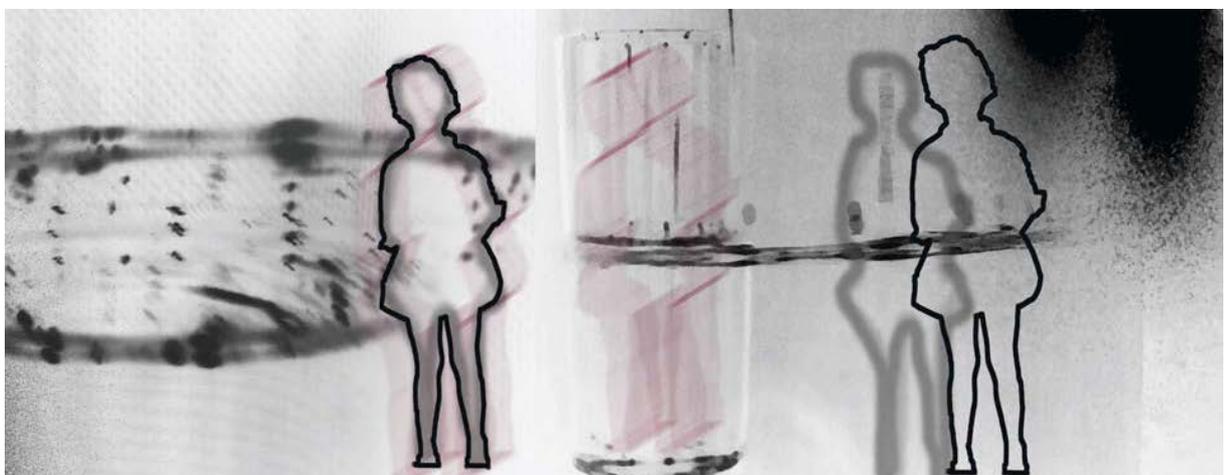
Following this meeting started the elaboration of a common method that led to multiple projects in partnership. The last one of them would be "Roots and Springs" in 2010.

Turkey

D-Atelier / I.C.A.A.

Founded in 1999 to gather artists from all ages and backgrounds and carry out artistic projects for children and adults, D-Atelier has for goals to broaden the awareness to a sustainable and ethical human development, using creative and participative tools. D-Atelier organises workshops and exhibitions, but is also invested in teachers and educators trainings.

Complementing this first organisation, I.C.A.A. was created in 2007 to be the discussion partner with international institutions concerned with children arts and international scaled projects.



Casamance LIBRARY and CULTURAL Center

The region was once one of the wealthiest of the Senegal, but is now **marked by an armed conflict that last for more than 30 years**. Casamance works today to the rebuilding of its economy and to the restoration of its image, in particular as multicultural region.

Rich in cultural diversity, we can count in Casamance half of the Senegalese ethnic populations. The main inhabitants are the Diollas, the Peuls, the Mandingues, the Wolofs, the



Sereres, the Mandjaks and the Balantes. Converted to Christianity or to Islam, traditional animist cults remain alive.

Craftsman works, dance and music are still a living testimony of different identities and cultural belongings. Transmission is the main purpose of artwork: it is a language, a communication tool linking human and nature. In addition, **contemporary craftsmanship is undeniably alive**, developing new forms and shapes, particularly with recycled objects.

Cap Skirring – Culture, books and debates

Originally set up as a library, the MOF space offers to Cap Skirring's inhabitants and to the other villages of the rural community of Djembering a wide range of cultural activities around writing and lecture but also a space for dialogue and debates, to reflect on topics such as :

- ¾ Personal and collective transmission,
- ¾ Cultural and social identities,
- ¾ Historical knowledge about Senegal, colonisation, decolonization,
- ¾ Human rights, Woman rights, Children rights,

From the start, this center has been intended to be self-managed, using the human resources in knowledge and skills of the inhabitants (griots, sage, teachers, craftsmen,...) hoping to be stone in the path to living in mutual respect and acceptance of individual and collective histories and identities.



A yearly final event in Paris



A **yearly final exhibition** in Paris brings together participants' artworks as well as the work of the professional artists. This event is a way to pursue the dialogue between participants, their relatives, artists and the public audience, to **make sense of the work accomplished and reconcile the diversity of their cultures and identities**. It gives visibility of their messages along to real skills of participants who are not accustomed to be valued because of their condition. This high moment constitute both a parenthesis and a hyphen as it closes the series of the creative and constructive workshops and allows valuing the image of each participant. Each year, a common theme is chosen in advance for this event to inspire the thinking and the creation of the various workshops.

More than a hundred collective and individual art works from France, Germany, Israel, Senegal and Turkey, representational and conceptual, combining various mediums and techniques will be presented in a public exhibition space. Besides the exhibition, MOF proposes during this month a series of events – concerts, dance, films and debate.

EXAMPLE

RACINE & SOURCE in LES SALAISONS 17th June – 9th July 2011/

COR(PS)RESPENDENCE Juin 2012 in EMMAUS

ART AGENDA Juin 2013 Centre culturelles EMMAUS paris ... (See Bilan Activities)

MOF is attached to this celebration of cross-cultural dialogue through contemporary art. This show presents each year an **accomplished and comprehensive work about cultures** that aims to take a **fresh and tolerant look at the other**.



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