

شَمَل

TANDEM

CULTURAL MANAGERS EXCHANGE
EUROPE – ARAB REGION

**Tandems at a
Glance**

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Tandem / Shaml – Cultural Managers Exchange Europe – Arab Region

Tandem / Shaml – Cultural Managers Exchange Europe – Arab Region – is a joint initiative of the European Cultural Foundation (Amsterdam), MitOst (Berlin), Al Mawred Al Thaqafy (Cairo) and Anadolu Kültür (Istanbul). It is supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung (Stuttgart), DOEN Foundation (Amsterdam) and Mimeta (Norway). This initial pilot project brings together important cultural players from Egypt, Germany, Latvia, Spain, the Netherlands, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey – and runs from June 2012 until June 2013.

The project encourages cultural managers from across Europe to collaborate closely with partner organisations from the Arab region. For 12 months, six projects will create a joint artistic collaboration, developed through exchange visits to each other's organisations and supported by general group workshops. Although the participating cultural organisations have experience in international project work, Tandem / Shaml helps to enhance the participants' skills and knowledge in an intercultural working environment.

The main objective of Tandem / Shaml is to establish long-term cooperation links between European and Arab cultural organisations and to create a network of creative people working in a transnational cultural surrounding. Bringing together diverse backgrounds and experiences, the cultural managers will embark on a 12-month journey developing new modes of thinking and innovative approaches to usual working routines.

Project	Arab Cultural Manager	Arab Organisation	European cultural manager	European Organisation
Inhabiting Spaces	Hatem Hassan	Rezodanse Center	Inga Lace	Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art
Balady	Donia Maher Abdalla	7assala Productions	Emilie Vidal	Fundació Interarts
Undiscovered Revolution Stories	Ahmed Hassen Mohamed	Eltak3iba Center for Art and Development	Nastasja van't Westende	Dancing on the Edge
InterLab: Cairo-Dresden	Dia Hamed	Medrar for Contemporary Art	Joanna Szlauderbach	Trans-Media-Akademie Hellerau e.V.
Not time for sadness/To stay or to leave	Mudar El Hejji	Ettijahat – Independent Culture	Stella Cristofolini	Kultur im Turm e.V. - kitev
Tunesia-Turkey Express: an Artistic Journey	B'chira Triki Bouazizi	B'chira Art Center	Tuna Yilmaz	Izmir Kultur, Sanat ve Tasarim Denerji

Centre Rézodanse - Égypte

Hatem Hassan
(Alexandria, Egypt)

hatem.hassan@rezodanse.com

- Theatre director and culture projects manager
- Worked in Avignon Festival in 2009 and 2010
- Cultural activist



Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art

Inga Lace
(Riga, Latvia)

inga@lcca.lv

- Project manager and curator
- Worked at contemporary art centre kim?, (Riga, 2010)
- Organised the 72nd TEH (Trans Europe Halles, independent culture organisations network) meeting at TNT in Bordeaux, prepared an auction of artworks (Mains d'oeuvres)

Inhabiting Spaces

A collaboration between theatre director **Hatem Hassan** from *Centre Rézodanse* in Egypt and curator **Inga Lace** from the *Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art*, this project explores the conflict between dance and architecture, representing opposites in terms of movement and immovability, lightness and weight. The project is framed by the concept of the body within the shape of the architectural piece – representing society as a whole. The first phase consists of research looking at the notion of body and space from ancient times to modernist experimentations and current trends. The different conceptions are reinterpreted in an artistic way, involving choreographers, architects and visual artists from across Egypt and Latvia. The final outcome will be a dance performance/public intervention captured in a video art piece and photography. It is designed to inspire conversations that seek practical solutions and innovative ways of looking at architecture as a space we inhabit together.

Field: Dance, architecture, visual arts

Budget: 9 000 EUR

Partner: AFAC

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Fundació Interarts

Emilie Vidal
(Barcelona, Spain)

evidal@interarts.net

- Works at Interarts, being in charge of the design and management of international cultural projects
- Collaborated with Instituto Cultural Cabañas (Mexico) and Monolithe Productions (France)
- Organised the 1st edition of "Hors Lits", a circuit of art performances, in Spain together with the Colectivo Suelto (in 2012)



7assala Productions

Donia Maher Abdalla
(Cairo, Egypt)

doniadona30@yahoo.com

- Studied fine arts in Egypt and Market Management in the USA
- Practiced many forms of expression such as acting, stop-motion animating, writing and digital arts
- Co-founded El Hassala for independent art

Balady

This cultural collaboration between **Donia Maher Abdalla** from *7assala Productions* (Hassala) in Egypt and **Emilie Vidal** from *Fundació Interarts* in Spain turns the spotlight on belly dancing as a cultural practice in Arab countries – as a feminine form of expression, as a potential tool for the empowerment of young people and women, and as a vector for intercultural dialogue between European and Arab countries. By documenting the perceptions and uses of belly dancing in Cairo and Barcelona, the collaboration explores how cultural practice can help to shape society's imagery. The project is developed on a local urban scale in Cairo and Barcelona with small groups of teenagers and adults. The resulting documentary will be screened to stimulate discussions on critical issues including women's rights, gender equality, cultural participation, tolerance, cultural diversity and social integration. By raising awareness through dance and dialogue, the project's goal is to challenge stereotypes in Arab and European societies, in particular prejudices about Arab culture and women.

Field: Women empowerment, dance (belly dance), audiovisual arts: film / documentation

Budget: 14 834 EUR

Partner: LaborBerlin, Spanish and Egyptian Networks of Anna Lindh Foundation, Barcelona's Culture Network for Spanish Inclusion, Cervantes Institute, Casa Egipcia Barcelona, Emetis, Centre of Women Culture Francesca Bonnemaison

Eltak3iba Center for Art and Development

Ahmed Hassen Mohamed
(Cairo, Egypt)

ahmed_hassen107@yahoo.com

- Founder and director of El Tak3eiba Centre for Artistic and Cultural development
- Studied Literature, Hebrew language and literature, critique and drama
- Theatre director, actor and cultural activist, Founder of El Balad Theatre group



Dancing on the Edge

Natasja van't Westende
(Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

n.vwestende@dancingontheedge.nl

- Director of Dancing on the Edge
- Developed and coordinated a number of co-productions with theatre and dance companies, artists in residence programmes, training programmes, educational and research programmes, reflection and film programmes
- Holds a M.A. in Cultural Anthropology

Un(dis)covered Revolutional Stories

This collaboration between theatre director and cultural activist **Ahmed Hassen Mohamed** from the *Eltak3iba Center for Art and Development* in Egypt and **Natasja van't Westende**, Director of *Dancing on the Edge* in The Netherlands focuses on the stories of individuals who did not take part in the revolution of 25 January 2011 in Egypt. The project will interview people from the Shobra El Kheima neighbourhood in Cairo, whose stories have not been told so far. Their reasons for not participating – and the effect of the revolution on their lives – will be central to the research as their stories are collected. Egyptians in the Netherlands will also be interviewed to gain an outsider's perspective on the revolution. Their stories will be recorded and/or filmed in both countries and a few of the testimonies will be reinterpreted into small street performances or graphics that will also be filmed. These in turn will inspire an installation that will be created and presented in Cairo during the project, and will subsequently travel to The Netherlands.

Field: Film, street performance/graphics, artistic installation

Budget: 5 900 EUR

Partner: Local artists in both countries, British Council, Tahrir Lounge (German Cultural Centre)

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Medrar for Contemporary Art

Dia Hamed
(Cairo, Egypt)

dia@medrar.org

- Studied Art Education in "Helwan University"
- Engaged in experimental interactivity in public spaces with his projects "situation-complication" and "Native Tourists"
- Co-founder of Studio Moroni Theater Company, Sabeel project and Medrar for Contemporary Art



Trans-Media-Akademie Hellerau e.V.

Joanna Szlauderbach
(Dresden, Germany)

szlauderbach@cynetart.de

- Worked at RIAM- festival for music and media art in Marseille (France) & FutureEverything – festival (Manchester)
- Co-curator and coordinator of Mind the Gap – International Urban Art Exhibition in Hildesheim (Germany)
- Project assistant at CYNETART festival (TMA) & works for the Digicult Agency

InterLAB: Cairo-Dresden

A collaboration between **Dia Hamed** from *Medrar for Contemporary Art* in Cairo, Egypt and **Joanna Szlauderbach** from *Trans-Media-Akademie Hellerau e.V.* in Dresden, Germany, this project's goal is to bring together young scientists/students of computer science and media design from Dresden and Cairo to encourage an exchange of ideas, knowledge and practical skills. First, up to five young people from each country will be offered an online platform and tools for active one-on-one communication. Second, intensive project camps will take place in Cairo and Dresden for the production phase of the project. There will then be an interactive exhibition launching simultaneously in Egypt and Germany that will invite mutual exchange with each other across both cities. Subsequently, a joint seven-day workshop will take place in Cairo. The outcomes will be shared at the end of the workshop at D-Caf Festival 2013.

Field: Computer science, media design, interactive installation, digital culture

Budget: 15 440 EUR

Partner: Goethe Institute in Cairo, SEE Foundation, Funds Roberto Cimetta, DAAD

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Kultur im Turm e.V. - kitev

Stella Cristofolini
(Oberhausen, Germany)

stulla@gmx.net

- Cultural scientist and cultural manager
- Artist in the field of installation, performance and theatre, working on the interface of research/theory and artistic/social practice
- Is part of the artists initiatives "Theatre Arbeit Duisburg" and "kitev" where she realised several documentary theatre performances



Ettijahat. Independent Culture

Mudar Al Haggi
(Damascus, Syria)

mudaren@hotmail.com

- Playwright and cultural manager, co-established the street ensemble for Playwriting in 2007
- Published two plays: "The don gwan", in 2010 -"Bronze" in 2010; writing always focused on "Damascus Today"
- Dramaturge in many performances: "Enemy of people" (2008) by Henrik Ibsen; "Décor" (2010); "foofalls" (2011) by Samuel Beckett

No time for sadness / To stay or leave

A collaboration between playwright and cultural manager **Mudar Al Haggi** from *Ettijahat. Independent Culture* in Damascus, Syria and **Stella Cristofolini**, artist and cultural scientist from *Kultur im Turm e.V.- kitev* in Germany, this project explores what is happening in Syrian society today by looking at everyday life experiences under the conditions of war. Working together with young Syrian writers and artists, the project partners will collect and record stories in different cities in Syria, Lebanon and Germany around the crucial question of staying or leaving. The outcome of the project will be a "neorealistic storytelling" theatre text in Arabic and German (and possibly also English), as well as a performance.

Field: Performance, "neorealistic storytelling"

Budget: 5 000 EUR

Partner: Safar, Mawaeid, Zoukak, Goethe Institut, ESDC, Grenzgängerprogramm Bosch Foundation

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Izmir Kultur, Sanat ve Tasarim Denergi

Tuna Yilmaz
(Izmir, Turkey)

tunayilmaz@tunayilmaz.com

- Film section programmer at Istanbul Design Biennial & film curator for Istanbul Fashion Week (2012)
- Festival programmer for International Izmir Short Film Festival, Hong Kong Turkish Film Festival, International Izmir Animation Festival
- Wrote "a David Lynch Book" (2005) & "Istanbul, not Constantinople: Representing Istanbul in American Cinema" (2010)



B'chira Art Center

B'chira Triki Bouazizi
(Sabelet Ben Ammar, Tunisia)

btrikibouazizi@yahoo.fr

-Tunisian artist that organised many individual and group shows in Tunisia and abroad
- Her work was presented in the Venice Biennale 2002; in Belgium 2003; in Teheran 2005; in Alexandria Biennale 2009; and other national and international exhibitions
- Founded B'chira Art Center, in 2011, and is its director

Tunisia-Turkey Express

This is a collaboration between artist **B'chira Triki Bouazizi**, Director of the *B'chira Art Center* in Tunisia and film curator **Tuna Yilmaz** from the *Izmir Kultur, Sanat ve Tasarim Denergi* – Izmir Culture, Arts and Design Society in Turkey. The project focuses on artistic production as a mean of cultural encounter and cultural exchange between the cities of Izmir/Istanbul in Turkey and Tunis in Tunisia. The main objective is to create an interdisciplinary platform for cultural exchange and artistic experimentation, where different disciplines merge together and create an integrated vision of contemporary life. The project includes an exchange of cultural managers, and the opportunity for artists from Tunisia to present their work in an international context. The research and the creative process will culminate in a contemporary Tunisian art exhibition in Istanbul called ACT/ART!: Art as a critical force // Art as Criticism, which will demonstrate the commitment of Tunisian artists to the principle of freedom. The exhibition will be supported by a publication that will serve simultaneously as an exhibition catalogue and as a summary of the whole process

Field: Visual arts

Budget: 10 080 EUR

Partner: Institut Francais Istanbul

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