

Both in the European Union and Ireland a lot of work has been put into building up communities and discussions with migrant organisations as well as adopting the Intercultural Cities charter, but is it succeeding?

The conversation will endeavour to help Dublin become a more Intercultural and tolerant City by highlighting areas that have and do succeed and areas that need greater emphasis.

The discussion, “Societies on the crossroad between Multiculturalism and Interculturalism? Why is it relevant?” will take place in the Centre for Creative Practices, 15 Pembroke Street Lower. Dublin 2 on 28 March 2013 at 7pm and is free to attend.

The discussion will look at intercultural dialogue through Multiculturalism, Interculturalism, identity vs. identification and how we should address the issues of mixed race and second generation youths.

An important issue that will be addressed will be the distinction as to whether Ireland is a country of plural mono-cultures or does it have more of a sense of multiculturalism, community cohesion or interculturalism?

These issues will be addressed by moderator Chinedu Onyejelem who is the Editor/Publisher of Metro Eireann, Director of Concern Worlwide and a member of Irish Department of Foreign Affairs /NGO Standing Committee, which advises the Irish Government on Human Rights issues overseas. Chinedu has played a leading role in the promotion of cross-cultural relationships in the emerging multiethnic community in Ireland.

Chinedu will be accompanied by a panel of professionals such as David O'Donovan, (Office of Integration, Dublin City Council) Dr. Eloise Tan, (Teaching and Learning Developer, Dublin City University) Helena Clarke (Director of Public Affairs, Integration Centre) and Kirsti Kotilainen (Finish Artist)

The group will conclude the discussion with the final question “Can more be done and if so what?”

The discussion, “Societies on the crossroad between Multiculturalism and Interculturalism? Why is it relevant?” was organised as a part of the Migrant Artists on Ireland Series curated by Monika Sapielak, Director of the Centre for Creative Practices.

The Migrant Artists on Ireland Series runs until June 2013 covering the period that Ireland will take over the Presidency in the EU. The Presidency aims to tackle the economic crises in Europe but also the topic of Multiculturalism and Integration will be high on the agenda. In this context CFCP presents views of migrant artists, both those who have migrated to and emigrated from Ireland on how living in a new country shaped their art and changed

perspectives as well as how they intend to change or shape their current environment or the home country.

Inside - Outside

State or political affairs come sometimes as a handy **catalyst** for remarkable cultural initiatives. The special focus on Ireland as the President country of the EU and its role in Europe which became unpredictable and apprehensive was the reason for us to look at the recent Ireland from an **inside**, but given our **origins**, also **outside perspective** and find an adequate **representation** for this twist. This apparent contradiction becomes a reflection of the reality as soon as we include both the 17 % of migrants' population living **in Ireland** and also Irish citizens who emigrated to other countries in recent years. Our call is to see how migrant artists are finding their ways in a new country, culture and language, and to help them to become visible and their work rewarded.

Due to the **specifics** of migration we still don't know how many migrant artists **live in Ireland**. All that we know is that we have met so many **highly skilled**, technically outstanding & very dedicated foreign artists who live in the country but who have not had the opportunity to **share** their amazing skills with wider audiences due to the fact that producing and showcasing **art requires means** they don't have. Of course this problem affects all artists or at least most of them but the newcomers have to overcome additional **barriers** to establish a working access to the arts scene in a new country.

Since we started CFCP in 2009 we worked with over 200 migrant artists resident in Ireland, promoting them, providing them with available resources and a dedicated venue, encouraging them to showcase their art to the **benefit** of the local and international **audiences**. There is still so much more to do and so many more who we haven't met yet. Our current focus is to make wider audiences and artistic programme directors aware of the incredibly diverse **artistic potential available** on their door step. The next step will be to shape a framework where the local and the migrant artist can work hand in hand and profit from each other's knowledge. In many traditions guests bring **gifts**, many of them did, just the gifts brought to Ireland by the migrant artists **need to be unwrapped...**

The sine qua non for a vibrant culture, for mental and social growth, for the pride to be able to produce outstanding pieces of work which will last for more than one generation is exchange, migration, diversity, also often connected with some frictions. Ireland knows the benefits and problems resulting from migration from its own history and the present times. However now as a host to 766,770 migrants Ireland can also become a **role model** as a country creating workable conditions for an artistic diversity and inclusion to its own benefit and to the benefit of other European countries only now **waking up** to this call. If we realise that in 2010 there were 214 million international migrants and that by 2050 there will be more than 400 million (IOM, report 2010) we realise that platforms facilitating practical intercultural exchange are an urgent necessity. As the first arts centre in Europe dedicated to integrating artistic and human potential brought by migrant artists we at CFCP will do our best to see it happening.

Migrant Artists on Ireland Series 2013

We have selected 12 artists to present their projects reflecting on moving personal experiences, historical events and places they encountered; social and cultural issues; musical idioms; questions of identity; gates as symbol of borders; transitional states and the necessity to leave a country to make a living.

Every month from January till June two artists will take over our space and present their works as exhibitions, concerts, performances, screenings, mime show and installations. An opportunity to meet each artist will be provided in our monthly in a "Making of" Q/A session.

Artists:

Kirsti Kotilainen, Finland | Nina Panagopoulou, Greece | Deepa Mann-Kler, India | Treasa O'Brien, Ireland | Jarek Dobrzański, Poland | Talie Mau, Germany | La Cosa Preziosa, Italy | Magdolna Toth, Hungary | Liadain Speranza, Ireland | Karin Pipa Wimmer, Germany | Svetlana Sobcenco, Lithuania | Britta Sandqvist, Finland |

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