# **CLOSE ENCOUNTERS I PRESS RELEASE**

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# FIRST EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY OF CONTEMPORARY ART CENTERS

THIS TIME WE TALK ABOUT GENDER

On 8 March, 12 April, 10 May, and 7 June, d.c.a, the French contemporary art centres network and its European partners will meet to discuss gender equality and diversity in art centres and, more generally, in cultural institutions.

These free online meetings will be open to everybody and they will be the occasion to welcome around 20 French and International speakers who have been invited to share their reflections on the issue of gender inequality in the art world.

As guarantors of artists' creative freedom, contemporary art centres are concerned with current systems of representation and patterns of discrimination, including those affecting women, LGBTQIA+ people, racialised people, people from disadvantaged social classes, and people with disabilities.

Art workers, artists, curators, institutional directors, thinkers, and researchers will be brought together to explore the structural and material circumstances that perpetuate these inequalities and to find concrete, shared solutions. The list of participants and moderators include: Xavier Arakistain, Mercedes Azpilicueta, Angela Dimitrakaki, Iris Dressler, Dora Garcia, Géraldine Gourbe, Céline Kopp, Quinn Latimer, Elisabeth Lebovici, Julia Morandeira, Tominga O'Donnell, Julie Pellegrin, Marthe Ramm Fortun, Helena Reckitt, Émilie Renard.

# Mapping and deconstructing to improve our practices

The art field can be a privileged vantage point for deconstructing homogenous narratives of power and for voicing and defending concerns that echo those of both artists and broader society.

The first two meetings, to be held on 8 March and 12 April, will adopt a social, economic, and historical perspective as a way to map and deconstruct the structural and material conditions

that give rise to unequal institutional practices. These events will consider multiple approaches to organising the cultural sector that are situated at the crossroads of feminist, post-colonial, queer, and intersectional thinking.

The last two meetings, to be held on 10 May and 7 June, will focus on the preparation and development of a common Europe-wide strategy with the presentation of tools, methodologies, transformative actions, and true equality measures.

"Since 2015, the d.c.a has been building relationships with European partner institutions that share the same values as the contemporary art centres in our network. From this mutual understanding was born the desire to 'create' an assembly by setting regular times for collective reflection that are open to both the general public and cultural professionals, and that address the major themes that impact our lives beyond the diverse contexts that impact our organisations.

Initially planned as a large two-day event in Paris in May 2020 to focus on the issue of gender inequality, this inaugural edition is instead being held online over the coming months in a format that is adapted to the current possibilities of cross-border gatherings and travel. More than ever, we remain committed to gender and diversity issues and the place of women in our contemporary societies. The health crisis, by exacerbating all forms of inequality, has made it even more necessary to reflect on these issues."

**Elfi Turpin**, co-president of the d.c.a (French national network of contemporary art centres), member of the steering committee of the first edition of the European Assembly of Contemporary Art Centres, and director of CRAC Alsace contemporary art centre in Altkirch.

#### STEERING COMMITTEE

#### **Antonio Cataldo**

Curator, writer, director of Fotogalleriet, Oslo (Norway) Member of the Kunsthallene í Norge

# **Marianne Hultman**

Curator, Director of Oslo Kunstforening, Oslo, (Norway) Member of the Kunsthallene í Norge

#### Filipa Oliveira

Artistic Director of Case da Cerca, Almada (Portugal)

# Manuel Segade

Curator and Director of CA2M Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo, Madrid (Spain)

#### **Ursula Schöndeling**

Exhibition curator (Germany)

## Elfi Turpin

Director of CRAC Alsace contemporary art centre in Altkirch (France) Member and co-president of the d.c.a network

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

# First European Assembly of Contemporary Art Centres

Programme & Info rewww.europeanartassembly.org

# Register online:

Tuesday 8 March, 15:30 - 17:30

Tuesday 12 April, 15:30 - 17:30

<u>Tuesday 10 May, 15:30 – 17:30</u>

Free online live meetings, open to everybody, subject to availability. Prior registration is required. Caution, each day has its own link.

#### A NATIONAL NETWORK

Founded in 1992, the **d.c.a** is a national network that unites **51 contemporary art centres** from all over France (47 cities and municipalities). Supported by the French Ministry of Culture and the Institut Français, the d.c.a is one of France's benchmark cultural networks and plays a key role in France's cultural policy by ensuring nationwide access to culture and creation for all audiences.

www.dca-art.com/en

#### **PARTNERS & SUPPORT**

Organised by the d.c.a / French association for the development of contemporary art centres, in partnership with the ADKV (Germany) and the Kunsthallene i Norge (Norway) networks, and the European artistic institutions Fotogalleriet (Norway), Oslo Kunstforening (Norway), CA2M (Spain), and Casa Da Cerca (Portugal), with support from the Ministry of Culture, the Institut Français, and the Fondation des Artistes.

#### **PRESS CONTACT**

For more information and interview requests, please contact: **Close Encounters**, Media Relation Agency

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## **WEBSITE AND VISUAL IDENTITY**

The website was designed and produced by the Brussels-based graphic artist Loraine Furter, who is specialized in editorial design, hybrid publishing, and intersectional xfeminism. The visual identity was designed in collaboration with Laurie Charles. The fonts in this website were designed by the collective Bye Bye Binary (Baskervvol), Clara Sambot (DINdong) and Anja Meiners (ABeeZee).

https://www.lorainefurter.net/en