

aa-e: agency of artists in exile

press kit



press office

Philippe Boulet

+33 6 82 28 00 47 - boulet@tgcdn.com

aa
—
e

aa-e: agency of artists in exile

The agency of artists in exile, unique structure in France, has the mission to identify artists in exile from all origins and all disciplines, to accompany them according to their situation and their administrative and artistic needs, to offer them work spaces and to put them in contact with professionals in order to give them the means to carry out their practice and to restructure themselves.

6 rue d'Aboukir 75002 Paris
metro line 3 (Bourse, Sentier), line 4 (Étienne Marcel), line 1 (Palais Royal – Musée du Louvre),
Line 7 (Louvre-Rivoli), RER Châtelet - Les Halles (A, B, D)

+33 1 53 41 65 96
contact@aa-e.org
www.aa-e.org

direction: Judith Depaule
codirection: Ariel Cypel

intents and history

Europe is currently experiencing the largest population movement on its territory of the last seventy years. Europe is no stranger to the history of the countries from which these people come from. Europe and Europeans remember through them their own history. Victims of ethnic, sexual, religious, economic or political discriminations, every day more human beings are forced out of their homes.

Among these displaced persons are artists, often struggling longstanding relationship with the authorities of their country. For the role of art is to say and show what is disturbing, to have the voices of the oppressed be heard, and a creative Europe must be particularly vigilant with regards to artists and set up appropriate welcoming structures. An artist must be able to continue practicing their art. He must be able to do so as an individual because every human aspires to be what he is. Although he must be able to do it representing the culture of his country. It is notably through the voices of its artists that the culture of a country imperiled can continue to be perpetuated.

This is why the agency of artists in exile (aa-e) works to identify artists in exile from all origins and disciplines, accompanies them according to their situations and their needs, provides them with workspaces and puts them in contact with professionals (French and European network), in order to give them the means to practice their disciplines and to restructure themselves.

The aa-e was born on the initiative of Judith Depaule and Ariel Cypel, former senior executives of Confluences, site of Parisian artistic commitment, where through the season of 2015-2016 several refugees are housed and in February 2016 an artistic focus is devoted to Syria (*Péril Syrie*) with exiled Syrian artists. The Office national de diffusion artistique (Onda) also hosts a “salon d’artistes en exil” there, which puts Afghan, Iraqi, Palestinian and Syrian artists in contact with French professionals.

Created in January 2017, the aa-e inaugurates its first premises in September 2017, located at 102 rue des Poissonniers (Paris 18th), made available by SCI Poissonniers and Emmaüs Solidarité. In November 2017, the aa-e initiates the first edition of its multidisciplinary festival *Visions d’exil* at the Palais de la Porte Dorée. From January to June 2018, the aa-e is invited with 15 artists to be exhibited in the window display of the ministry of Culture at the Palais Royal in Paris. In June-July 2018, the aa-e organises the performances festival *18/18* among residents and in the businesses of the 18th arrondissement of Paris. At the start of the 2018 school year, the aa-e launches its French school “Learn French through art”.

The aa-e receives the price of Culture pour la paix 2018 from the Jacques Chirac and Culture & Diversité foundations. Obligated to leave its premises in the north-east of Paris, the aa-e moves during the spring of 2020 to settle down at 6 rue d’Aboukir (Paris 2nd) of March 2020, in a building owned by the City of Paris.

missions and goals of the aa-e

- Identify exiled artists, all disciplines combined, on the European territory.
- Create a place of work and accommodation for artists where they can practice their art, meet each other, receive advice.
- Guide artists in exile in their application for asylum and their social integration, by putting them in touch with the right interlocutors and specialized organisations.
- Identify the needs of artists, create the conditions for their professional restructuring.
- Cooperate with the cultural and artistic structures of the French and European network, local authorities and all types of associations or companies, in order to offer artists in exile means of production, work and display spaces.
- Coordinate artistic expression workshops with artists in exile for professional and amateur audiences.
- Set up workshops for artistic practice and transmission of skills for asylum seekers, exiled minors and all types of audiences.
- Get closer to higher arts education institutions for the reception of asylum-seeking or refugee students.
- Provide technical training to enable artists in exile to better understand the European cultural system and develop new professional skills.
- Follow the development of the projects of the artists in exile and to support their production.
- Guaranteeing the teaching of French through the prism of art.
- Organize a multidisciplinary touring festival of a European dimension, entitled *Visions d'exil*, bringing together works by artists in exile and other artists who have lived through the experience of exile.
- Initiate workshops in several European cities, where artists in exile can be received.

ressources

The agency of artists in exile has set up an [internet platform \(aa-e.org\)](http://aa-e.org) in collaboration with the Studio des formes, which brings together 3 graphic designers from the HEAR (Haute école des arts du Rhin). This multilingual platform (French, English, Arabic, Farsi) serves both as a reference site but also as a directory of exiled artists already identified.

It provides information on the actions of the agency and its artist members, as well as resource links for administrative and professional procedures, files of identified artists, press articles or radio and TV programs about the aa-e.

the team and the means

Founded and directed by Judith Depaule and Ariel Cypel, the aa-e works with an administrator, Hortense Quitard; a coordinator Flore Couedic; a coordinator Charles Filhine-Trésarieu; a manager of its French school Myrtille Gasparutto; translators May Rostom and Maral Bolouri. The aa-e is 7 permanent staff, 4 civic services and 180 volunteers.

• Judith Depaule

Director and co-founder of the agency of artists in exile with Ariel Cypel, she is first and foremost a theatre director. In 2001, she founded the company Mabel Octobre, creating mostly her own writings and shows based on the double axis of investigation and multimedia. She teaches video and the relationship between new technologies and the stage (École régional d'acteur de Cannes et de Marseille, master's degree in directing and dramaturgy at the université de Paris Nanterre, at the Jean Jaurès high school in Argenteuil). Winner of the Villa Médicis Hors les Murs and knight in the Order of Arts and Letters, she wrote a thesis on theatre in the Stalin's camps. (Université de Paris Nanterre).

• Ariel Cypel

He co-founded with Judith Depaule the agency of artists in exile. He holds a degree in history and a CAPES de conseil principal d'éducation (certificate of professorial aptitude for teaching in secondary education), he is the artistic director and then general manager of Confluences in Paris. He is also an author-director, wondering about the spectacular scope of testimony (*Témoins Voyageurs, C'est ainsi que nous vivions*), alternating fiction and storytelling theatre. With Gaël Chaillat, he wrote two comedies, *MurMure* and *Le Mouton*, he animates documentary meetings, advises Anat Even on his film *Manshya* and is executive producer of the latest Marcel Ophuls' project, *Des vérités désagréables*.

The aa-e in numbers...

Annual budget:

- 206 895€ in 2017
- 496 737€ in 2018
- 562 477€ in 2019

Expenditure allocation ratios:

- 35% of the budget is solely for the remuneration of the artists (salary, scholarships, royalties, emergency help)
- 18% of the budget is solely for the festival *Visions d'exil*
- 12% of the budget is solely for the French school
- 35% of the budget is solely for the functionality of the association

Revenue distribution ratios:

- 45% is public finances
- 30% is autofinances
- 25% is private finances

beneficiaries of the aa-e

The identification of artists in exile is done through professional network, internet, the artists in exile themselves and the bodies, associations or NGOs in charge of receiving migrants.

The aa-e is:

- more than 200 artists in exile issued of all artistic disciplines: architecture, plastic arts, visual arts, cinema, performances, dance, theatre, music, literature, fashion.
- 40 origins: Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, China, Congo Brazzaville, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Democratic Republic of Congo, Russia, Senegal, Sudan, Western Sahara, Syria, Thailand, Tibet, Turkmenistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen.
- 30 % are women artists.

An artist in exile is an artist who can no longer return to their country because their lives or activities are threatened.

The notion of professional artists (a person who would devote himself only to the practice of his art) does not have the same meaning according to geographical origin. Some countries have an easily identifiable cultural system, others have dislocated or non-existent infrastructures. Others do not provide artistic education, art is transmitted rather than learned.

Four groups of artists are to be distinguished:

- 1 – professional artists who wish to continue their artistic activity and rebuild themselves professionally,
- 2 – semi-professional artists or "experienced amateurs" who want to perfect their training and who are moving towards professionalization,
- 3 – developing artists,
- 4 – artists who became artists because of their exile.

Their needs:

- have a space to meet up
- access to workspaces
- dispose of material (musical instruments, drawing furnitures, computers, cameras...)
- meet other artists
- write a cv, artistic record, a portfolio
- know how to set up a project, respond to calls for work, draw up a budget...
- understand the functionalities of the cultural French system
- take french classes
- perfect or begin artistic training
- start or resume graduate studies
- conduct workshops
- be socially structured (rights and wage)
- receive legal advice
- get creative grants
- find show rooms
- gain media exposure
- meet professionals
- find partnerships, a production company, a label, a distribution network, a gallery, a publishing house

The aa-e also responds to artistic initiatives implicating the participation of artists in exile. The agency can help cultural structures or project carriers to find artists.

the aa-e school: “learn French through art”

The French school is reserved to its members and answer their specificity. It offers 7 training courses depending on the oral and written level and the language of origin of the learners.

The training courses occur for a period of 6 to 9 months, at the end of which learners are able to take one of the State-recognized diplomas of aptitude for French giving access to university studies, qualifying training or request the French nationality. The courses are give in the morning so that the artists can continue their creative activities.

The curricular of the French school is based on:

1 – outings or even courses in different cultural institutions (Cinémathèque française, Jeu de Paume, Palais de Tokyo, Fondation Cartier, bibliothèque Forney...)

The content of exhibitions or iconographic collections serves as a basis for lexical and grammatical learning and the acquisition of cultural references. Their linguistic and artistic approach is designed with the educational teams of the museums, guides and curators. To move a class in a showroom or a library, encourages learners to take an active position, which uses cognitive and sensory stimuli and promotes speech and interaction within the group.

2 – artistic practices to develop oral and written skills.

Thanks to ludic and technical exercises, artistic practices such as theatre or literature induce a different relationship with the language, allowing to overcome barriers and to trigger other learning mechanisms.

3 – an internet tool

An online blog takes up the lessons by extending them with additional exercises and documents, reducing the number of hours of class attendance. Learners who have been unable to attend a course due to administrative procedures, professional obligations or health problems have the opportunity to catch up on their course by self-learning on the school's online teaching platform. Self-learning can be supervised by volunteers in the form of tutoring.

Eventually, learners can access professional training in cultural mediation, preparing them to present works of art for an audience and guide visitors through an exhibition.

artistic practice workshops

Each artist is the guardian of a know-how. Often driven by the desire to pass it on and share it with others, he develops a pedagogical practice. Transmission is sometimes for him the only guarantee of perpetuating his culture.

The aa-e offers a program of cultural mediation in the form of artistic practice workshops given by its members, whose diverse profiles allow for a wide range of discipline, aesthetic and cultural offerings.

The workshops of artistic practice are aimed in priority for:

- asylum seekers and their families, forced to wait and be inactive during their regularization procedure
- unaccompanied minors, who lack infrastructure and dedicated activities.

An artist in exile can indeed boast the same path and a similar life experience. He has gone through the same ordeals. He can become a facilitator towards a new life, helping to integrate other exiled people while socializing oneself.

The workshops are conducted in French, in order to contribute to the linguistic practice of the participants.

The aa-e aims to pay particular attention to workshops for young people (children, teenagers and young adults), to reflect with them on issues of identity, multiculturalism, human rights, hospitality and migratory movements.

The aa-e can also organize artistic workshops for a limited or disabled audience.

However, the aa-e workshops are intended for all audiences, regardless of age, social condition, gender or origin.

2019 activity review of the aa-e

- **AMARRE creation residencies (cooperative project with Hammana artist house in Lebanon and A corner in the World in Turkey)**

2 artistic teams hosted in residency from the 15th to 30th of May at the aa-e, handover on the 30th May at the Grand Parquet, Paris.

- **multidisciplinary Festival Visions d'exil 3rd edition: 1st-30th of November**

partner venues : Palais de la Porte Dorée – Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration, Musée National Eugène-Delacroix, Cité internationales des arts – Site de montmartre, Salle principale Galery, La Dynamo de Banlieues Bleues + Dunkerque / LAAC (1st dec)

- **Programmation / artistic partnership**

FGO-Barbara, Alimentation générale, Punk Paradise, Parvis poétique, Institut du monde arabe, MAC VAL, musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac, Collège des Bernardins, Collège de France, musée national Eugène-Delacroix, La Filature – scène nationale de Mulhouse, Le Regard du Cygne, Subsistances à Lyon / École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts de Lyon, Le Grand T in Nantes, CCAM of Vandœuvre-lès-Nancy, Théâtre de l'Agora - scène nationale d'Évry et de l'Essonne, Maison de la musique de Nanterre, Festival d'Avignon / Là! C'est de la musique, Idékléc Festival, La Voix est libre, H2O Festival, Jaune Moutarde Festival, Africolor Festival, Migrant'scène, Latitudes contemporaines, Pièces à emporter, Petits et grands Festival in Nantes, La Grande échelle Festival, Cour Denis Festival, Théâtre en Mai Festival in Dijon, Grand Festival / Palais de la Porte Dorée – Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration / nouveau théâtre de Montreuil, Arty Farty, Maison des pratiques artistiques et amateurs, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, Nouveau Monde Center in Villeneuve-la-Garenne, Pinault Collection – Palazzo Grassi, Villa Rose / Wise Woman / Thanks for Nothing, Centre Pompidou, Musique sans frontières, UNHCR, Ngamb'art association, Ère de jeu, Rue aux Enfants, Culture sur cour association, Ateliers d'artistes de Belleville Association and Gallery, Salon d'Automne, Espace Commynes, Génie des jardins, Coallia, Housing Europe, IUT et Delphis, Semaine des écrivains emprisonnés et persécutés.

- **Teaching French through art**

in the form of 6-week sessions, 6 language and culture training courses, preparation for the RNCP exams.

- **Coordination of cultural outings**

Jeu de Paume, Cinémathèque française, Lafayette Anticipations, Musée National Eugène-Delacroix, Fondation Cartier, Palais de Tokyo, MC 93 Bobigny, Monfort Théâtre, théâtre des Bouffes du Nord, nouveau théâtre de Montreuil, bibliothèque Forney.

- **Coordination of artistic practice workshops**

dance, writing, theatre, music, conducted by French professional artists or in exile.

- **Cultural mediation towards an audience (workshops and interventions)**

sensitive audiences, exiled minors, academic (middle and high school), graduates, all audiences.

- **Weekly courses for aa-e members**

choir, yoga, capoeira, English, computer.

- **Openings of the agency of artists in exile**

in the form of open house and guided tours.

- **Interventions**

Villa Bloch, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art in Moscow, conference "Théâtre et exil" / université de Louvain-La-Neuve, conference "la représentation des conflits dans le théâtre contemporain" / Nanterre-Amandiers – centre dramatique national, ANdÉA seminar, conference "musique et exil" / EHESS Bayonne, conference "Bérénice" à Metz, panel discussion "La place des migrants dans la vie culturelle" / maison des métallos, panel discussion "engagement et transmission de femmes de la culture" / Villa Rose, "Femmes et liberté d'expression, arts, littérature, journalisme, démarche pluridisciplinaire" / women collectiv asbl – Louvain-La-Neuve.

- **Attribution of creative and writing grants**

to artists who are members of the agency (between 1 500 and 3 500 €) in agreement with le fonds de dotation Porosus, la SACD, l'ADAGP and le fonds de dotation Marie-Thérèse Allier pour l'art contemporain.

- **Obtaining residences with scholarships**

Association des Centres culturels de rencontre (ACCR), Camargo Foundation (Cassis), Sacatar Foundation (Brésil), Cité internationale des arts (Paris), Centre chorégraphique national de Nantes et Cie 29.27 / SEPT CENT QUATRE VINGT TROIS.

rapport d'activités 2019 de l'aa-e

- **Artists in residence**

atelier briacin des artistes en exil, Champ la Lioure,
Vers-Pont-du-Gard (Cours & Jardins des Arts),
La Pratique-Vatan, Cité internationale des arts (Paris).

- **Insertion of artists in integration programs**

École nationale des beaux-arts de Paris,
École nationale supérieur des arts décoratifs
de Paris, cours et master-classes: private studios,
Atelier de Paris / CNDC, ateliers du Carrousel
du Louvre, La Pratique - Vatan.

- **Integration of facilities of higher education**

École nationale des beaux-arts de Paris, l'Académie
internationale de la danse, l'université Paris-Saint
Denis, université École nationale supérieur d'audiovisuel
- université de Toulouse, École supérieure d'art Pays
basque, Institut national des langues et civilisations
orientales.

- **Formation and mediation directed
for cultural operators**

D'Est association.

aa-e: 2020 projects

- **Cultural mediation workshops**

Halte humanitaire (fondation Armée du Salut), la maison des métallos, Francas 93, Ville de Paris, Agir pour la santé des femmes, Home Sweet Mômes; elementary, middle and high schools.

- **Programmation / artistic partners**

Punk Paradise, Les Subsistances / École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts de Lyon, théâtre du Châtelet, Image Singulières Festival, Ôrizons Festival, Parade Festival, Coucool Festival, Pièces à emporter, Opéra national de Lyon, l'Istitut du monde arabe, Institut des cultures de l'Islam, Cite internationale des arts, Centre Pompidou, musée de la Monnaie de Paris, Musée National Eugène-Delacroix, Thanks for Nothing, Manifesta, Centre d'animation Rapée-Villiot Paris 12^e, Bellevilloise, Maison des réfugiés, La Sorbonne, Musique sans frontières, Bourse du Commerce – Pinault Collection, Onda, UNESCO, La Station – Gare des mines, Arty Farty, Positive Planet international, Air Arts, Act By Art, le barreau de Paris, Palais de Tokyo, Univers project, Villa Arson, université de Nice, MAC VAL, Semaine des écrivains emprisonnés et persécutés, La Tamanoir, Uniscité, Edgee, Kodiko, Croix Rouge française.

- **Coordination of the 4th edition of the Festival *Visions d'exil***

in partnership with le Palais de la Porte Dorée – Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration, la Cité internationale des arts, la Villa Arson – université de Nice.

- **Teaching French through art**

in the form of 6-week sessions, 6 language and cultural training courses, preparation for the RNCP exams.

- **Coordination of cultural outings**

Jeu de Paume, Cinémathèque française, musée national Eugène-Delacroix, Fondation Cartier, Palais de Tokyo, MC 93 Bobigny, Monfort Théâtre, théâtre des Bouffes du Nord, bibliothèque Forney, théâtre du Châtelet, Cinéma du réel, Béton Salon, Centre culturel Suisse, Lafayette Anticipations.

- **Coordination of artistic practice workshops**

dance, writing, theatre, music, conducted by French professional artists or in exile

- **Weekly classes for members of the aa-e**

choir, yoga, English, improvised music, guitare, drums, computer

- **Opening of the agency of artists in exile**
in the form of open house and guided tours.

- **Interventions**

université de Cergy Pontoise, conference programme “création en migration” / université de Nice – Villa Arson, Carreau du temple / Arts en résidence – réseau national, EHESS...

- **Attribution of creative and writing grants**

to artists who are members of the agency (between 1 500 and 3 500 €) in agreement with le fonds de dotation Porosus, la SACD, l'ADAGP.

- **Obtaining residences with scholarship**

Association des Centres Culturels de Rencontre (ACCR), Sacatar Foundation (Brésil), Cité internationale des arts (Paris), Centre chorégraphique national de Nantes.

- **Artists in residence**

atelier briacin des artistes en exil, Champ la Lioure, La Pratique – Vatan, réseau AFA danse, Quercy Terre de fraternité organisation.

- **Creation of music label**

Musique in exile.

- **Participation in the creation of a newspaper**

Le tout-monde.

- **Insertion of artists in integration programs**

(École nationale des beaux-arts de Lyon, École supérieure d'art Annecy Alpes, Villa Arson), in classes and masterclasses: private studios, Atelier de Paris / CNDC, ateliers du Carrousel du Louvre, Académie internationale de la danse, la Pratique – Vatan.

- **Meet new foundations or copyright societies, new partnerships**

Sigrud Rausing Trust, SACEM, Colart, Habitat et humanisme, Toit et joie – La Poste Foundation.

- **Training for cultural operators**

D'Est association.

the aa-e is subsidized by



its premises is at 6 rue d'Aboukir 75002 Paris



for accompanying of artists (creative and tuition grants, broadcasting of shows and concerts), the aa-e receives support from



for artist residencies, the aa-e receives support from



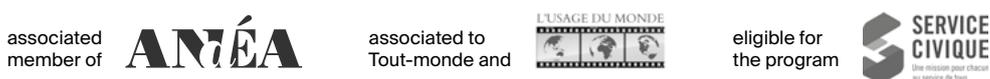
for its festival Visions d'exil, the aa-e is financed by



for its mediation workshops, the aa-e is accompanied by



the aa-e is also



winner of the price Culture pour la paix 2018 from the fondation Jacques Chirac and the fondation Culture & Diversité