



CULTURES IN CONVERSATION | INTERDEPENDENCE IN ACTION | PRACTICES OF CARE AND COMMONING

EVENT DETAILS

DATE: Saturday, 29 January 2022
TIME: 16:30 – 18:00
VENUE: DP World Majlis
PROGRAMMED BY: Alserkal



BACKGROUND

Expo 2020 Dubai's Programme for People and Planet is designed to address the most pressing challenges we face as a world today, by deploying the convening power of World Expos and the UAE to galvanise collective and meaningful action. The content of the Programme is organized into five tracks, each of which explores those challenges through a distinct lens – cultural, social, environmental, and economic – with a fifth track dedicated to issues of strategic importance to the UAE's vision for its future.

CULTURES IN CONVERSATION

The Cultures in Conversation series will spotlight the important role that culture plays in shaping us – from how we learn and view the world, to how we interact with each other. These events aim to acknowledge and celebrate the diversity of cultures that will coexist at Expo. By creating a forum to know one another better, we provide an opportunity for us to learn that while we may outwardly seem different, as humans we share values that transcend these differences and have the potential to unify.

These conversations will take place during each theme week, encouraging open and interactive sessions, where creatives and policymakers can engage in meaningful dialogue to learn from and about one another.

INTERDEPENDENCE IN ACTION: PRACTICES OF CARE AND COMMONING

This conversation between thinkers and practitioners across different geopolitical realities will revolve around the concept of interdependence and how it can play an active part in rethinking the constitutive role of institutions, architecture, art or public health infrastructures. Concrete examples will be discussed about how can one nurture practices of care, what an ecology of a caring practice means, and when and on what terms can it be understood as a sustainable practice. Many sources and tools for thinking and working with the concept of interdependence reside in situated knowledges drawn from millennium old healing, ecological, divination and other communal practices. The invited speakers will explore in what ways these gestures could be part of a larger movement that rethinks our systems of production, distribution and mutual solidarity especially in the domain of contemporary art.

EVENT FORMAT

The programme will open with a soundscape, screening, and performative intervention by artist collective 3 137 which will be followed by a conversation between participants. The programme will end with a Q&A session.

- o 1 x Artistic Intervention in Film and Sound Design Formats
- o 1 x Keynote Presentation
- o 3 x Case Study Presentations
- o 1 x Q&A

AGENDA

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER/LEAD
10 min	Artist Intervention Video screening for 10 minutes, audio-sensory experience starting at lobby	3 137
5 mins	Introduction	Nada Raza
30 mins	Keynote presentation giving context to care practices	Nataša Petrešin-Bachelez
45 mins	Case study presentations	Adib Dada Paky Vlassopoulou Léuli Eshrāghi
15 mins	Conversation/conclusion led by Nataša Petrešin-Bachelez Conclusion of 3 137 intervention (distribution of talisman)	Nataša Petrešin-Bachelez 3 137
20 min	Q&A session with audience	

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



NATAŠA PETREŠIN-BACHELEZ

Nataša Petrešin-Bachelez is an interdependent curator, editor and writer living and working in Paris. Among the exhibitions she curated are Not Fully Human, Not Human at All, organized by KADIST, Paris (2017-2021), Contour Biennale 9: Coltan as Cotton (2019, Mechelen); Defiant Muses: Delphine Seyrig and the Feminist Video Collectives in France (1970s-1980s) at LaM, Lille and Museum Reina Sofia, Madrid (2019-2020, with Giovanna Zapperi); Show me your archive and I will tell you who is in power at Kiosk, Ghent (2017, with Wim Waelput); Let's Talk about the Weather at the Sursock Museum, Beirut and Times Museum, Guangzhou (2016 and 2018, with Nora Razian); Resilience. U3 - Triennial of Contemporary Art in Slovenia at MSUM, Ljubljana (2013).

She was co-director of Les Laboratoires d'Aubervilliers (2010-2012, with Alice Chauchat and Grégory Castéra). She was chief editor of Versopolis Review (2020-2021), and was chief editor of the Manifesta Journal (2012-14) and of L'Internationale Online (2014-2017).

She organized symposiums at the INHA, Paris; Jeu de Paume, Paris; Tate Modern, London; and Museum of Modern Art, Ljubljana. Together with Patricia Falguières and Elisabeth Lebovici she is the co-organiser of the seminar Something You Should Know (2016 - ongoing, EHESS, Paris). Since 2019, she has been working as a tutor at the Sint Lucas School of Arts, Antwerpen. In 2020, together with Elena Sorokina, she co-founded the Initiative for practices and visions of radical care. Since 2021, she is head of cultural programme at Cité internationale des arts, Paris.



ADIB DADA

Adib Dada is the founder of theOtherDada [tOD] Regenerative Consultancy & Architecture firm, which mission is to activate projects across architecture, living systems, and art. Based on Biomimicry thinking, tOD's work promotes a symbiotic relationship between nature and the built environment by exploring new ways of creating generous and regenerative buildings; in essence working with nature to develop resilient and generous cities. Adib earned a BA in Architecture at the American University of Beirut - Lebanon, a Master's Degree in the Interactive Telecommunications Program at NYU - USA, completed the Biomimicry graduate certificate from the Biomimicry Institute and Arizona State University and a certificate in Ecosystem Restoration Design.

Adib has been recognized in Apollo Magazine's 40 Under 40 as a Patron of the Arts in the Middle East, and was listed as one of GOOD Magazine's GOOD 100 for his project Beirut RiverLESS, which aims to regenerate the deteriorated Beirut River. Adib is a Fellow of the Middle East Leadership Initiative, a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network, and a Bio-Leadership Fellow, a community helping transform human systems and the paradigm of leadership by working with nature.

Adib is firmly committed to the UN Decade of Action, engaged on rewilding the city and reclaiming public space by planting native Miyawaki forests in urban landfills through his new initiative: theOtherForest, a nature-based tool for ecological and social regeneration.



DR. LÉULI ESHRĀGHI

LéuliEshrāghi is a Sāmoan/Persian/Cantonese interdisciplinary artist, writer, curator and researcher working between Australia and Canada. They intervene in display territories to centre global Indigenous and Asian diasporic visibility, sensual and spoken languages, and ceremonial-political practices. Through performance, moving image, writing and installation, they engage with Indigenous futurities as haunted by ongoing militourist and missionary violences that once erased fa'afafine-fa'atane people from kinship and knowledge structures. As a curator, speaker and educator, Eshrāghi contributes to growing international critical practice across the Great Ocean and North America through residencies, exhibitions, publications, courses and rights advocacy. They are Curator of the 9th TarraWarra Biennial of Australian Art in 2023 at the TarraWarra Museum of Art, Curatorial Researcher in Residence (Blue Assembly) at the University of Queensland Art Museum, and Scientific Advisor (Reclaim the Earth) at the Palais de Tokyo.

Eshrāghi has realised art commissions for the 22nd Biennale of Sydney, Sharjah Biennial 14, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art and Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center among other group and solo presentations in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and United States, including the 17th MOMENTA Biennale de l'image. They have lectured at gatherings Creative Time, Hawai'i Contemporary Art Summit, Experimenter Curators' Hub, March Meeting, Global Asia/Pacific Art Exchange, Dhaka Art Summit, Pacific Arts Association, and Asia Pacific Triennial, as well as at universities in Europe, Asia and North America. Eshrāghi was inaugural Horizon/Indigenous Futures postdoctoral fellow at Concordia University, and curatorial consultant on international Indigenous art for the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Their award-winning research includes a PhD in Curatorial Practice from Monash University (Tracey Banivanua Marr PhD Prize 2020, Australian Association for Pacific Studies), and a BA (Honours) in Francophone Literature from University of Melbourne.



PAKY VLASSOPOULOU

Paky Vlassopoulou (b.1985) is an artist who lives and works in Athens, Greece. Her work is informed by the dialectics of traditional sculpture making in relation to spatial issues, object hood, functionality and bodily experiences. From time to time she is concerned with thematics that deal with knowledge production, history, ruins, while in recent years her work revolves around the concepts of care and hospitality.

Selected exhibitions, fellowships and residencies include: International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP) New York City, USA; Artworks– Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) Artist Fellowship Program; Phenomenon 3, The Association Phenomenon and the Kerenidis Pepe Collection, Anafi Island, Greece; WHW Akademija, Zagreb, Croatia; The Equilibrists, a project by the New Museum, New York and the DESTE Foundation, Benaki Museum, Athens, Greece; AIR Residency Antwerpen, Antwerp, Belgium, Reverb: New Art from Greece, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA; A Thousand Doors, commissioned by NEON Foundation and The Whitechapel Gallery, Athens, Greece.

In 2012, together with artists Chrysanthi Koumianaki and Kosmas Nikolaou, she co-founded 3 137, an artist-run space operating in Athens, Greece.



3 137

3 137 is an artist-run space based in Athens, founded by the artists Chrysanthi Koumianaki, Kosmas Nikolaou and Paky Vlassopoulou, in February 2012. The artists' initiative aims to create a meeting point for exchange and discussion. Its projects place emphasis on collaboration, institutional critique and hospitality. 3 137 has presented exhibitions, one-off projects like performances, talks and workshops, as well as community and research based projects in collaboration with art professionals, scientists and friends. 3 137's expanding program is a collective and collaborative practice of its founding members and aims to experiment and propose hybrid forms of being together.

Since its establishment, it has collaborated with more than 200 artists, curators, collectives and institutions. Over recent years, the program has focused on long lasting community, research and discursive projects. Temporary community radio projects have been realised in Athens (2014, 2020) and in Dubai (2019). A parallel activity of 3 137 is the establishment of an immaterial institution called GABRIELA and a self publishing project. GABRIELA deals with issues of sustainability, labor and institutionalisation questioning the role of artists' initiatives. Polar Bear, an ad hoc publishing house, commissions new artists' books and presents exhibitions once in a while.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Can we take a step back from our regular activity, reexamine ourselves and rethink our everyday self-care routines?

This intervention suggests a short pause that will work as an initiation of a discussion. It will function as a soundscape, an exercise, a communal experience, a manifesto or as a chance to stop and do nothing. The intention is to create a moment that will allow the audience to unwind, feel centered and have the chance to relax and experience themselves in a comfortable environment.

The piece is a sensorial experience. Trying to create an experience that goes beyond the information and knowledge related to wellbeing and healthy lifestyle, reference points for each part of the piece is popular material such as meditation techniques, videos and podcasts of relaxing sounds. The intervention is made out of spoken words, found footage, images, soundscape and light. Guests will also receive a small gift like a contemporary talisman.