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فوتوغرافية
قصص مصورة

موسيقى

شعر

Cinema
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Los
Encuentros Creativos

Mundos Árabes
اللقاءات الإبداعية
للعوالم
العربية



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AZIMUT

Azimut is a non-profit organization broadcasting artists from the Arab worlds which objective is to give them more visibility and to show contemporary realities from the Arab worlds through arts.

The project was born out of a meeting between two young women and their passion for art. Linked to the Arab world through our stories and life course, we follow very closely the news, the challenges the people have to face, and the tools and spaces of expression that arise in this contemporary context. We are both passionate about art and convinced of its capacity to encourage a better understanding of the other, and thus a greater tolerance. Located between Morocco, Algeria, Andalusia and Marseille, we created a network of cultural actors and artists from the Mediterranean South Shore that allowed us to launch the activities of Azimut in Seville.

Why 'Azimut' ?

The azimuth or azimuth is the angle formed by the geographical north and the direction of a star or a satellite. That is more or less what we measure with a compass. The word azimuth, attested in the 15th century, comes from the Arabic word "as-samt" the plural being "as-sumūt", which means both direction and point on the horizon. For us, it is a question of opening a window on a world of possibilities and that our creative encounters show both the creativity of certain artists but also that they stimulate the creativity of each of us, bringing the infinite of the starry skies to earth, through arts.

CONTEXT

RISE OF ISLAMOPHOBIA AND FAR-RIGHT PARTIES IN EUROPE

The number of migrations has tripled in forty years. This migratory phenomenon, defined by voluntary or forced mobility, is not new and has always been accompanied by an imagination and the construction of rumours: the foreigner fascinates while at the same time inspiring fear, between reception and rejection. However, in our time, the novelty lies in the nature of migration flows and the very diversity of migrants. In response to these flows and to the decisions taken by host countries, born of the notions of "tolerance thresholds" and "migration risk", placing the foreigner as "another" (Mazzela, 2016).

Over the last years, we have witnessed an increase in the phenomenon of Islamophobia in our societies. The study "Muslims in Europe: Between Islam and Islam" (excerpts from publications of the European Observatory of Racism and Xenophobia EUMC) published by the Casa Arabe, demonstrates this thriving perception that Muslims tend to be perceived as "a unity", distant, separate, inferior and dominated by characteristics such as fanaticism, fundamentalism and irrationality. These stereotypes are partly fabricated by media reports. A study on the image of the Arab and Muslim world in six major Spanish newspapers (El Pais, El Periodico de Catalunya, Vanguardia, El Mundo, ABC and La Razon) shows that the main subjects are negative: wars, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, terrorist attacks, violations of human rights in general and of women in particular, homosexuals and political dissidents. There is a tendency to speak not of individuals, but of a mass, presented in situation. The rise of extreme right-wing movements throughout Europe proves this rise of Islamophobia in Europe.

Spain was thought to be excluded from the phenomenon of the European rise of extreme right-wing extremists, because of its Franco past. But in December 2018, Vox's party entered the Andalusian Parliament with 12 deputies. According to a 40Db poll conducted the day after the elections, 41.6% of voters voted for this party for its immigration speech, a 33.7% to defend Spanish "unity".

In Seville, few cultural or intellectual manifestations on the contemporary Arab worlds are presented. Only the Foundation of the 3 Cultures (a foundation created through collaboration between the Andalusian Region and the Kingdom of Morocco) offers a programme on the theme of the Arab worlds. However, this place has few visitors and sometimes conveys an institutional message.

EMERGENCE OF NEW VOICES IN THE ARAB WORLDS

For the past ten years, we have witnessed an artistic effervescence in several Arab countries in parallel with citizen mobilization in response to crisis situations (structural, political, religious, etc.). The management of cultural policy in several of these countries is vertical: it comes from above and advocates a single message. The artist therefore encounters difficulties in expressing himself, often censored or repressed if he wishes to convey a different message... Repression can be political but also socio-cultural in nature.

These last years and recently in Algeria, Sudan, and Egypt, citizen mobilizations have succeeded in reappropriating public space to challenge a crisis situation. This occupation of public space by citizens has led to a production and profusion of images (videos, drawings, graffiti, etc.) distributed via the Internet and has thus given rise to a breath of freedom of expression. For many artists, these new spaces are an opportunity to create, express themselves and thus bring out the diversity of points of view. The focus is no longer on the work of art as a finished product, but on its ability to raise questions and debate. We are witnessing the birth of new artistic formats, new forms of expression.

CHALLENGE AND OBJECTIVES

To show the diversity of the Arab worlds and other contemporary realities outside those transmitted through official channels, in order to awaken consciences and overcome prejudices.

Create spaces for artistic expression and encourage the dissemination of new writings.

In order to respond to these challenges, AZIMUT chooses art as a medium for social transformation. Through the organization of multidisciplinary event (Azimut's Creative Encounters on the Arab Worlds) in Seville, AZIMUT aims to show works by young artists, new writings and new formats in order to present realities that are not very visible through official channels. The objective of these Encounters is not to essentialize an Arab identity but to show its diversity. Art has the particularity of being a permanent laboratory of inventions, and in territories in crisis, it seems necessary to invent new forms of expression. Artistic creation allows individuals to speak for themselves, to formulate ideas and feelings that are often difficult to express. Artists are social actors influenced by the cultural, social and political context in which they live, and often engaged in the issues of their time. As much as the artist is influenced by society, his works influence it in return.

The works shown will be selected either for their innovative forms of expression or for the message or information they want to convey. We seek to ensure that each work is the subject of reflection and debate with the public and the artist who will be present.

In addition, the dissemination of these works is for AZIMUT a form of support for the freedom of expression of these artists, for whom it is often difficult to create and express in a free manner, sometimes subject to censorship.

SPECIFICS OBJECTIVES

- Support the diffusion of the works of emerging artists
- Consolidating trans-Mediterranean partnerships
- Propose alternative programming and support freedom of expression.
- Enrich the cultural offer in Seville and establish the event as an annual event
- Encourage the participation of the Sevillian public

