

## Artistic perspectives for community development

Official launch: 23 February 6-9pm

### Charity sale, showcase and reception

Ifa laboratory is a consultancy offering services as advice on cultural strategies but also creative team-building. ifa laboratory is likewise a social enterprise with a community development programme for the Marolles.

Together with the non-for profit association Arts Lab Brussels we offer you to be a patron for the community development programme 2017 and 2018 through purchasing a unique artwork on the kick-off evening 23 February.

Purchasing an artwork during this evening results in several benefits for you and for the community work:

- o You will be a patron for all the five community projects (presented below) and get your place as patron in the communication of the whole community programme
- o You will be invited to a lunch meeting with one of the artists from one of the five projects. During the lunch you can find out more about the artist's work and also about ideas behind the his/her specific project
- o You will get invitations to all five launches/openings
- o You will be invited as VIP to one of the openings for a meeting with the other public and private partners
- o You provide valuable support making it possible for these project to realise

### Background / Why do we do this?

Last year ifa laboratory started working with community development in the Marolles through a project called "Engaging Through Art and Enabling communities". This project was made with and for the embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Brussels. The initiative made it possible to offer painting and monotype workshops for children and young persons living in the Marolles. They also discovered a part of the local art world, which was completely unknown to them.

The Marolles is a diverse neighbourhood and we aim to continue working on consolidation for different communities present here whether they may be boutique owners, immigrants, expats, job or homeless persons, gallery owners, local residents, or social housing residents.

People living and working in the Marolles come from different backgrounds and have different perceptions and assumptions, but they all share the same

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neighbourhood. This year we continue the community work based on enthusiastic return from previous work and conclusions made.

In order to build the financial base for these projects we plan a sale, together with artists, who either donate, or significantly lower, their margins upon sale of their work.

### **The artists who are lining up and generously participate to the charity sale on 23 February are**

Dimitrios Oikonomou (GR) John Ligda (US) Aimée Joaristi (CR) Jenni Emilia (FI) Ozlem Buyukarman (TR) David Dusart (BE) Adil Haouata (MA) Patrik Qvist (SE), Agnieszka Wogiel (FR) Mariam Abbas (UAE) and Christophe Demaître who is resident in the Marolles, from Kortrijk/Courtrai.

### **Community development through art projects planned for 2017**

The projects for which we are fundraising are large-scale public space projects. These projects will have both private and public partners, and then YOU who come and buy a work at the charity sale. The projects will all be interactive and participative; each project has its own strategy for interaction and qualitative dialogue with people living and working in the Marolles. The objective with all of the projects is community consolidation from an artistic angle, to let art be a method for uniting people through different projects addressing different topics and offer platforms for discussion. All projects below will be visually showcased on 23 February.

#### **Kaarina Kaikkonen (FI) The Social Elevator (working title)**

Large-scale installation involving the elevator of the Marolles between the palace of Justice and rue de l'Épée. The installation invites to debate about the community and its different resident people, going back to a historical aspect of the neighbourhood. Talks will be organised. <http://kaarinakaikkonen.com>

#### **Riikka Kuoppala (FI) and Thomas Martin (FR) - Dreams of the Street**

This work will be based on months of research and interviews with homeless people in the Marolles taking into account their experience of living on the streets and mainly their dreams and sleep. How are these impacted by a life on the street? The final artistic product will be a sound archive installation at ifa laboratory, and a booklet. In addition a public event will be organised based on the experiences acquired during the production process of this project. The objective is both to facilitate a discussion between different actors working to improve the homeless' situation in Marolles" and to together gather ideas, conclusions and facts. <http://riikkakuoppala.net>

**Jon Rubin (USA)** working title TBC

Jon Rubin has great reputation for his social development and community projects. The idea for the Marolles is to create a community project linking the Marolles with a similar neighbourhood in the States. A research trip to Brussels planned for May 2016. More news to come shortly.

The artist is currently working with Guggenheim in New York on their first installation outside the institutional walls. <http://www.jonrubin.net>

**Patrik Qvist (SE) Uncertain Times** (working title)

This work will be about environment and social environment. Based on a case in Sweden the artist will create links to the local context and environmental worries. The initiative will be based in a market stand on the flea market of the place du Jeu de Balle. <http://www.patrikqvist.com>

**Deborah Marino Lost + Found**

Archive, database and installation about the story of lost and found object. What happens with lost objects, what people are holding them in their hands? What particular stories are linked to it? An installation in the space of ifa laboratory and an online database with planned interactive activities within the neighbourhood of the Marolles. The project leads way to making acquaintance with persons who would not normally cross your path. <http://deborahmarinobook.tumblr.com>

On 23 February you can meet the artists Déborah Marino and the duo Riika Kuoppala and Thomas Martin. You will also meet artists who generously contribute with works to the sale; David Dusart and Adil Haouata.

See you on 23 February!

Warm regards from the ifa laboratory team

(Johanna, David, Fredrik, Jacques, Alexis and Quentin)