

# Conference & Conversations

## Speakers' biographies

### Mauro Abbühl

Mauro Abbühl grew up in Bern. After a commercial apprenticeship he trained as a journalist at the University of Fribourg and studied flamenco and jazz guitar in Seville, Bilbao and Barcelona. Since 1995 he is the Co-Director of the Office for Cultural Cooperation artlink in Berne, a documentation and promotional body primarily funded by the SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) for artists from Latin America, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. Among other things, he is responsible for the areas of music and visual arts and is a member of the Awards Committee of the Southern Culture Fund (SüdkulturFonds). He co-published the book 'Soukous, Kathak and Bachata. Music and Dance from Africa, Asia and Latin America in Switzerland' and is a member of the Board of the Swiss Coalition for Cultural Diversity.

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### Adel Abdel Wahab

Adel Abdel Wahab is an Egyptian theatre director, curator and culture manager based in Alexandria City. From 2006, he worked as a Project Manager in various culture organizations, then he founded 'Hewar Independent Theatre Company'. In 2012, he initiated 'Theatre Is A Must' Independent International Theatre Forum for Contemporary political and socio-political theatre together with Hewar Independent Theatre Company in Alexandria; and since then he has been managing and curating all the editions of the forum (4 editions). Adel Abdel Wahab is particularly interested in the evolution of independent theatre and culture scene in the aftermath of the revolution; his work in contemporary theatre is based on political ideas and a contemporary theatre form, which uses multi-media and site-specific performance spaces. He directed several performances and his latest piece is a German-Egyptian interdisciplinary theatre production called 'Music for Unstageable Theatre' which participated in the 'Theatertreffen' festival Berlin (2017). Recently, he started exploring being a performer in the German-Egyptian theatre production 'Earthport'.

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### Abdullah Al Kafri

Abdullah Al Kafri is a playwright and cultural activist who works as a trainer in topics related to the field of culture with many organizations. He is also a regular participant at conferences and forums on culture and art, and has collaborated with art organizations such as Lift (UK), the Lark (USA) and the Royal Court (UK). He has published and directed several plays, including 'Mrs Ghada's Pain Threshold' in Beirut, and was a member of the selection committee for 'Arab Contemporary Dramaturgy' (organized by IEVP 2012) where he was entrusted with selecting nine Arabic texts to be published in French. He was also part of the project 'An Enemy of the People and Pillars of Society: the Tragedy of the Individual', produced by the Ibsen Conference in 2014 in Norway, in collaboration with Zoukak Theatre Company. He is a founding member and Executive Manager of Ettijahat – Independent Culture. Abdullah Al Kafri graduated in Theatrical Studies from the High Institute of Dramatic Arts, Damascus, 2004 and completed his Master's study at Saint Joseph University, Beirut in the same field in 2015. He is currently a PhD Student at Saint Joseph University, Beirut, Lebanon.

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### Y. S. Alone

Prof. Yashadatta Somaji Alone holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Drawing & Painting) from Chitrakala Mahavidyalaya Nagpur and a Master of Art History from the Faculty of Fine Arts, M. S. University, Baroda. He was awarded a UGC Junior Research fellowship in 1988 in Art

History. He obtained Ph. D. from the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has been working at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi since 2007. Previously he worked at Dept. of Archaeology, Deccan College Post Graduate Research Institute (deemed university) Pune and at Dept. of Fine Arts Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. He has published research papers on the interpretative framework of Dr. Ambedkar and social sciences. His research interests include ancient Indian art, Buddhist art, modern Indian art and popular visual culture, critique of post-colonial paradigms, Neo-Buddhist visual culture as well as general social sciences. Prof. Alone is currently involved in the conceptual formulation of 'protected ignorance'. He has lectured in India and outside India, mainly Sweden, Germany, Spain, USA and China. He was nominated as ICCR Chair visiting Professor in Shenzhen University China in 2012-13 and invited as visiting professor at Autonoma University Madrid Spain and Renmin University of China Beijing. He has been engaged in popular lectures as part of social movements. Prof. Y. S. Alone also served as member of various committees of state and central government as well as on academic bodies of several universities. Recently he has been nominated as member of Committee of the World Art Town Federation set up by Renmin University of China, Beijing. He was also a member of the editorial board for 'The Journal of South Asian Archaeology: Ancient Asia' till 2015.

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## Ragheda Andoni

Ragheda Andoni works as a Program Manager/IT specialist/Communication Officer at the Swiss Cooperation Office Gaza and West Bank (SDC). She has a long experience in management of social/cultural development programmes and good knowledge of the cultural scene in Palestine including cultural stakeholders and players. Ragheda Andoni is a co-founder of the first free art space in her town Beit-Sahour 'Art Salon' with her daughter, Riham Isaac, an independent Palestinian artist. She is from Beit-Sahour Palestine and holds a Bachelor of Science in Technology and Applied Science.

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## Geoliane Arab

Selected by Sciences Po Paris for WOMED 2015 (Women of the Mediterranean: Future generation of leaders), she studied law alongside theatre and performing arts at the Lebanese University and was trained in contemporary dance. Between 2006 and 2012, she worked as a performer, choreographer, exterior eye and assistant director with local and international artists. She has collaborated with several international organisations on mapping the Lebanese cultural scene and identifying valuable actors and projects, thus creating opportunities for international exchange and development. She has been jury member, moderator and speaker at different international forums. She co-directed Spring Festival 2016 (LB) and organised the IETM Satellite meeting in Beirut on freedom of expression among others. Geoliane Arab was cooperation manager for the Middle East at Mousseem (BE) and strategy and development manager at Beirut & Beyond International Music Festival (LB) until 2017. She is currently managing director at Hammana Artist House (LB) and regularly curates and produces professional programmes of international platforms (Us, the moon & the Neighbours Festival 2015 (LB), Exodus Festival 2017 (SI), Shubbak Festival 2017 (UK)). Geoliane Arab is also member of the board of directors of IETM (International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts (BE)).

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## Mantse Aryeequaye

Mantse Aryeequaye is a filmmaker and Co-Director at Accra [Dot] Alt, an independent cultural network supporting music and innovative visual practice between Ghanaian and international artists. He is the producer of Chale Wote Street Art Festival and interested in digital culture and social-political imagery.

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## Jelili Atiku

Jelili Atiku is a Nigerian multimedia artist with political concerns for human rights and justice. Through drawing, installation sculpture, photography, video and performance (live art), he strives to help viewers understand the world and expand their understanding and experiences, so that they can activate and renew their lives and environments. He addresses various concerns ranging from psychosocial and emotional effects of the traumatic events such as violence, war, poverty, corruption, climate change and that associated with our warring world have dominated his artistic forms. Born in Ejigbo (Lagos), Nigeria, Jelili Atiku was trained at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria and University of Lagos, Nigeria – Where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts) and a Master of Arts (Visual Arts) respectively. He is presently the project leader of Art Africa Forum; the artistic Director of AFiRlperFOMA – a collective of performance artists in Africa; and Chief Coordinator of Advocate for Human Rights Through Art (AHRA). He is 2015 Prince Claus Laureate and was wrongly accused, arrested, detained in prison and put on trial on the occasion of his performance in public space in 2016. He is currently artist in residence and assistant professor at the Department of Africana Studies/Brown Arts Initiative at Brown University, Providence, USA.

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## Nina Bandi

Nina Bandi is a philosopher and PhD Researcher at Lucerne School of Art and Design, and teaches at Zurich University of the Arts. Since 2015, she has been part of the research project ‘What Can Art Do?’ funded by the Swiss National Research Fund on the relevance of politically engaged art. Her research interests include the interplay of aesthetics and politics, the relation between gendered bodies, technology and materiality, as well as queer feminist and post/colonial thought. She regularly cooperates with the artist duo knowbotiq.

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## Emilie Bujès

Emilie Bujès has been the Artistic Director of Visions du Réel, International Film Festival Nyon, since August 2017. A member of the Image/mouvement commission of the CNAP– National Centre for Visual Arts in Paris as well as an expert for the Swiss Fund Visions sud est, she was previously an independent curator, teaching at the Geneva School of Art and Design (HEAD – Genève) and the Bern University of the Arts, as well as the Deputy Artistic Director of La Roche-sur-Yon IFF, France (2014–2016). She used to be a curator at the Contemporary Art Centre of Geneva (2010–2014), and contributed to the programmes of various film festivals and art institutions such as Berlinale Forum/Expanded, Transmediale Berlin, or CAC Vilnius.

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## Joëlle Comé

Joëlle Comé is the director of the Istituto Svizzero di Roma, whose mission is to promote Swiss creativity and excellence in the arts and in the academic world in Italy. With a Master’s degree in cinema and culture from INSAS (l’Institut Supérieur des Arts, Brussels), Joëlle Comé has broad experience in managing cultural and international projects (South Caucasus, Palestine), artistic education and cultural policy. Her career path has led from the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) Geneva – where she worked first on site in Asia, Africa and the Middle East and then at the headquarters in Geneva, to the ECAL (University of Arts, Lausanne) where she was head of the cinema department. She has been active with several cultural mandates and in film production before being appointed in 2007 head of cultural affairs of the Canton of Geneva and, in 2016 director of the Istituto Svizzero di Roma.

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## Romain Darbellay

Romain Darbellay has spent his career with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, mostly in the Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). He is currently Director of Cooperation at the Swiss Embassy in Tunis. He served in the same capacity in Bulgaria, Tanzania and Macedonia between 1996 and 2009. In 2011 he opened the Cooperation Office in Cairo, right after the revolution. Both in Egypt and Tunis, Darbellay has been very actively involved in setting up programmes for support to arts projects, that work also across the national borders in the region (as e.g. the musical 'Nile project'). He has a keen interest in developing a more integrated approach in supporting culture in the region and is currently preparing a new programme to support culture in North Africa as a key feature of Switzerland's cooperation strategy for the region.

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## Desire Machine Collective

Desire Machine Collective was founded by Sonal Jain (b. Shillong) and Mriganka Madhukaillya (b. Jorhat) in 2004. They work at the intersection of art, ecology, technology and activism. Their practice spans film, video, photography, digital media, public intervention, curation and writing. Their artistic language reduces the information content of the works and is underlined by the atmospheric density of their non-narrative works. Sound, deconstructed image sequences, and the rhythm of images are carefully coordinated to open up an associative experiential space. The works of the collective stress the evocative power of aesthetic experiences to address the power structures that constantly infiltrate capitalist forms of societies, rather than formulating mere commentaries on the socio-economic status quo. One of their most renowned works is 'Periferry', a project that functions as a hybrid laboratory which brings together artistic, scientific and technological practices. The aim of this ongoing project is to encourage experimentation and explore new forms of public space. It is located on a ferry on the river Brahmaputra docked in Guwahati. The project was nominated for the Visible Award 2015. Their work has been featured in group exhibitions at Solomon Guggenheim Museum, New York (2012); New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; MAXXI Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI Secolo, Rome; Deutsche Guggenheim Museum, Berlin; Indian Pavilion, 2011 Venice Biennale; 3rd edition of La Triennale, Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Eight Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art in Brisbane; MAC Musée d'Art Contemporain de Lyon; Queens Museum and Grey Art Gallery at New York University, New York.

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## Anja Dirks

Anja Dirks took over as director of the Belluard Festival in Fribourg in September 2014. From 2009 to 2014, she was artistic director of Theaterformen in Braunschweig and Hannover. She curated the 'festwochen forum' at the Wiener Festwochen culture festival in Vienna in 2008. She was assistant to Matthias Lilienthal for the 'Theater der Welt' festival in 2002 and has since worked as a programme dramaturg, initially at the FFT Düsseldorf and, from 2004 to 2007, as a member of the directorial team at the Theaterhaus Gessnerallee. From 1989 to 1995, she was an assistant in Berlin, notably at the Schiller-Theater, the Volksbühne and in the independent scene, and studied theatre directing at the Ernst Busch Academy of Dramatic Art.

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## Lindsey Doyle

Lindsey Doyle is an international conflict management professional, strategist and dancer-choreographer. She currently works for the Media + Arts for Peace Initiative. Most recently, she led and conducted the research for an initiative in South Africa with the University of Cape Town and the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation to develop artistic approaches to social dialogue, earning her the 2017 Martin Holmdahl Award for the Promotion of Human Rights – one of Uppsala University's highest honours. She also partnered with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) to elevate the profile of peacebuilding artists in conflict-affected countries. Lindsey Doyle has 18 years of artistic experience, has

choreographed for numerous dance companies in the United States and Latin America, and is bilingual in English and Spanish. She is a member of the International Advisory Council for Battery Dance Company. Previously, she worked at the U.S. Department of State in the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations in Washington, D.C. developing strategies for mass atrocities prevention, gang violence reduction, civil society engagement, and Women, Peace and Security. She also served as a Princeton in Latin America Fellow in Central America and Rotary Peace Fellow, and is an alumna of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. Lindsey Doyle holds a Master of Social Science in Peace and Conflict Research from Uppsala University in Sweden and Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.

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## Gertrude Flentge

Gertrude Flentge is manager of the international culture and media programme at DOEN Foundation. DOEN supports pioneers who work hard to establish a greener, more creative and more socially-inclusive society. It was established in 1990 by three Dutch Charity Lotteries and has been providing subsidies, loans and equity investments ever since. DOEN's international culture and media programme supports cultural expression and experimentation in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East and invests in media through the Media Development Investment Fund. As part of this, Gertrude initiated in 2007 Arts Collaboratory, a funding and exchange programme for independent visual arts organisations, in collaboration with Hivos and the Mondriaan Foundation. Arts Collaboratory (AC) developed into a self-organised ecosystem of 25 visual arts organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America in 2016, focusing on radical imagination and social change, from the visual arts. Arts Collaboratory is a testing ground for a (funding) practice in which peer-to-peer support and a more integral approach to disciplines and values are central.

Gertrude Flentge graduated in 1996 in dramaturgy and arts management at the University of Groningen and has been actively involved in developing, facilitating, fundraising for and financing international cultural projects and exchange ever since. She coordinated several networks such as the Gulliver network for artists and intellectuals in Europe at the Felix Meritis Foundation (1997–1999) and the RAIN network for visual artists' initiatives in Africa, Asia and Latin America at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam (1999–2004). In 2005 she started working as programme officer Central Asia and Latin America at Hivos, moving on to DOEN in 2007.

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## Regula Gattiker

Regula Gattiker holds an MA in Political Science, English Literature and International Public Law / MAS in Arts Management / CAS in Mediation. She has been working in peace and development cooperation for about 15 years and at the nexus of culture, development and peacebuilding for roughly ten years. Since June 2015, she has worked as a Senior Advisor for Conflict Transformation at Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation and is responsible for culture at Helvetas.

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## Joseph Gaylard

Joseph Gaylard is a researcher and arts manager with a background in training, curating and policy research, and with a particular interest in the rethinking of institutional and cultural/organisational forms and approaches. He was a member of the Joubert Park Project collective operating in the inner city of Johannesburg before becoming the Director of the Visual Arts Network of South Africa (VANSA), an independent informational network and development agency supporting contemporary art practice in South Africa. He is presently the Head of the Johannesburg office of Pro Helvetia, covering the Southern African region. He has a BA Fine Art and BA History of Art Honours degree from the University of Cape Town.

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## Jan Goossens

Jan Goossens studied literature and philosophy in Belgium and London. In 1991, he did an internship at Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels managed by Gérard Mortier. Between 1994 and 1999 he worked as assistant and dramaturg for Peter Sellars and Wim Vandekeybus, amongst others, in the fields of theatre, opera and dance. In 1999, he joined the team of Théâtre Royal Flamand (KVS) in Brussels. In 2001, he was appointed head of this repertoire theatre which, during its refurbishment, moved to Molenbeek, a multicultural neighbourhood of Brussels. He reinvented the mission of the Flemish institution by orienting it towards contemporary, multilingual and multidisciplinary creation. In 2004, the KVS returned to its historical birthplace with a renewed audience and a project deeply connected to civic dialogue open to the city and the world. Under his influence, in fifteen years, the KVS became a key cultural organisation for Belgian and international creation, strongly linked to creation in Africa and the South. In May 2015, he was appointed director of the Festival de Marseille. He took up his post in September 2015 before becoming the general director on 31 July 2016. He was the artistic director of the 2017 edition of Dream City, an art festival in the public space in Tunis. In 2013, Jan Goossens received the Citizenship Award of the Foundation P&V which rewards leading figures 'committed in an exemplary way for an open, democratic and tolerant society'. He was given the title of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres for the Spring 2016 promotion by the French Ministry of Culture.

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## Heba Hage-Felder

Heba Hage-Felder joined AFAC (Arab Fund for Arts and Culture) in January 2017 and is responsible for institutional development and overall management of new initiatives and programmes. She has twenty years of experience in development and institutional capacity building. Heba worked with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs for ten years – first at headquarters in Bern between 2006 and 2011, supporting humanitarian aid and development efforts in the Middle East, and then as director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Lebanon (2011–2016). Her work experience between 1996 and 2006 covered initiatives in peace building, youth and community initiatives, production of knowledge resources, as well as eco-tourism. She worked with diverse local and international organisations such as Search for Common Ground in Washington DC and in Jordan, Save the Children in Lebanon, Arab Resource Collective in Lebanon, and UNOPS in Geneva supporting a peace building programme in Rwanda, as well as being a co-founder and volunteer coordinator of Mada, a local NGO in Lebanon. She has conducted independent consultancy work with UN and international donor agencies. Heba has a Master's degree in International Conflict and Peace Studies (University of Notre Dame, Indiana), and a Bachelor's in International Affairs (Lebanese American University, Byblos). Heba was born in Ghana, raised in West Africa and has lived in several countries. She is fond of discovering diverse artistic works from the region, and internationally and personally enjoys writing and visual storytelling.

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## Anisha Imhasly (Moderation)

Anisha Imhasly trained in social anthropology and media studies in the UK, and has been working in the arts since 2000. She was coordinator of the 'Most Beautiful Swiss Books' competition at the Federal Office of Culture from 2008–2016, and previously worked in arts administration and media relations for museums, theatres and at Switzerland's national exhibition Expo.02 (1999–2002). Born to a Swiss father and an Indian mother and raised in both countries, she has always felt like a cultural trespasser-translator and is keenly interested in contested and shifting notions of cultural identity and diasporic culture. Since 2017, she has been collaborating with 'Institut Neue Schweiz' (INES), an emerging think & act tank in the field of migration, anti-racism and inclusion, which encourages contemporary practices and research in order to centre hybrid Swiss identity as the new normal. She has recently started her own coaching practice in Bern.

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## Christoph Keller

Christoph Keller is the head of the department for social and cultural affairs at Swiss Radio SRF 2 Kultur. As a writer and reporter, he has a long-standing experience in the field of cultural diversity and exchange, mainly in and with West African countries. He is, among others, an associate member of the Think Tank 'Institut Neue Schweiz' (INES) and a teacher at the Zürcher Hochschule der Künste and at the Swiss Journalist School MAZ. Christoph Keller grew up in Lima, Peru, and holds a Master's degree in law at the University of Basel.

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## Jovan Kurbalija

Dr Jovan Kurbalija is the Founding Director of DiploFoundation and the Head of the Geneva Internet Platform. A former diplomat, Dr Kurbalija has a professional and academic background in international law, diplomacy, and information technology. He has been a pioneer in the field of cyber diplomacy since 1992 when he established the Unit for Information Technology and Diplomacy at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies in Malta. Dr Kurbalija was a member of the United Nations (UN) Working Group on Internet Governance (2004–2005), special advisor to the Chairman of the UN Internet Governance Forum (2006–2010) and a member of the High Level Multistakeholder Committee for NETmundial (2013–2014). Since 1997 Dr Kurbalija's research and articles on cyber diplomacy have shaped research and policy discussion on the impact of the Internet on diplomacy and international relations. His book, 'An Introduction to Internet Governance', has been translated into 9 languages and is used as a textbook for academic courses worldwide. Dr Kurbalija lectures on e-diplomacy and Internet governance in academic and training institutions in many countries, including Austria (Diplomatic Academy of Vienna), Belgium (College of Europe), Switzerland (University of St. Gallen), Malta (University of Malta) and the United States (University of Southern California).

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## Laza

After having lived in Paris for 8 years for his study on cinema, Laza is now based in Antananarivo (Madagascar) where he directs and produces most of his films. He is the founder and director of the Malagasy Short Film Festival 'Rencontres du Film Court' for which he has organised Pan-African short film competitions, workshops, meetings and international exchanges since its inception in 2006. He is also a former recipient of the 'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres', the cultural award created in recognition of significant contributions to the arts and literature.

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## Rahel Leupin (Moderation)

Rahel Leupin is a PhD student in Performance Design at Roskilde University, Denmark. Her PhD project investigates contemporary performing arts as social practices and asks, 'HOW CAN WE INHABIT MULTIPLE WORLDS?' She holds an MA in Theatre Studies (University of Bern, Switzerland) and an MA in Arts Administration (University of Basel, Switzerland). She has worked as a performing arts curator and programme adviser for different art institutions including the Rote Fabrik, Zurich; Zürcher Theater Spektakel, Zurich; Belluard Bollwerk International, Fribourg and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco.

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## Federica Martini (Moderation)

Federica Martini, PhD, is an art historian and curator. She is dean of Visual Arts at the ECAV/Sierre. Previously, she was Head of the MAPS – Master of Arts in Public Spheres (ECAV), and a member of the curatorial departments of the Castello di Rivoli, Musée Jenisch Vevey, and the Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts/Lausanne. Her latest publications include 'My PhD is my art practice', 'Notes on the Art PhD in Switzerland' (2017, with P. Gisler); 'Tourists Like Us: Critical Tourism and Contemporary Art' (with V. Mickelkevicius, 2013);

'Pavilions/Art in Architecture' (2013, with R. Ireland); 'Just Another Exhibition: Stories and Politics of Biennials' (2011, with V. Martini).

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## Inés Mateos (Moderation)

Inés Mateos is a specialist, consultant and presenter on social issues related to education and diversity. She has been dealing with issues of inequality since her youth. Today she is a member of the Federal Commission on Migration – FCM and a founding member of 'Institut Neue Schweiz' (INES). The transfer between theory, practice and society is important to her. Creating new things from connections that are shaped by diversity is part of her daily work routine.

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## Patrice Meyer-Bisch

Patrice Meyer-Bisch is the coordinator of the Interdisciplinary Institute for Ethics and Human Rights (IIEDH) at the University of Fribourg and of the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights and Democracy. He has been hosting for 25 years the 'Fribourg Group', whose work is devoted to cultural rights: fundamental research, applied participatory analyses and legislative contributions. He took part in the expert group responsible for drafting the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on the values of cultural heritage for society. His latest books include: 'L'enfant, sujet et témoin, les droits culturels de l'enfant', Schulthess, 2012, with J. Bouchard and S. Gandolfi; 'Les droits de l'homme: une grammaire du développement', Paris, 2013, L'Harmattan, with S. Gandolfi, G. Balliu (éds.), 'Souveraineté et coopérations', Genève, 2016, Globethics (open source).

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## Rima Mismar

Rima Mismar was appointed Executive Director of AFAC (Arab Fund for Arts and Culture) in 2016 building on her extensive experience within AFAC as Deputy Director. She completed her studies in Communication Arts (Radio/TV/Film emphasis) at the Lebanese American University (LAU) in Beirut in 1998. Prior to graduation, she began writing for local newspapers and cultural supplements, focusing on cinema and pursuing her professional career as a film critic as of 1999. She participated in several festivals as jury member or as a member of the selection committee, contributed to serious critical writings on Arab cinema, moderated panels and wrote for several regional media. She worked briefly in television, writing and producing several episodes of 'The Arabic Lens' (Al Adasa Al Arabiya), a series on Arab cinema produced and broadcast by Al-Jazeera channel between 2005 and 2008. She also wrote and researched a number of feature documentaries produced by and broadcast on Al-Arabiya channel. Rima Mismar joined the AFAC in June 2011 as the Film Programmes Manager and in 2015 was appointed Deputy Director.

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## Boris Nikitin

The theatre director, author and essayist Boris Nikitin, born in Basel and a son of Ukrainian-Slovakian-French-Jewish immigrants, writes and directs in the international independent theatre scene as well as in city theatres. He is the initiator and artistic director of the festival 'It's The Real Thing – Basel Documentary Platform' that takes place biennially in Basel/Switzerland. For the last ten years Boris Nikitin's theatre works and festivals have been reflecting the representation and production of reality and identity in politics, economy, religion, personal stories and in the arts. His plays, texts and programmes look for the boundary between performance and illusion-theatre, between the document and its double, highlighting the ambiguous and the potential in which individuality and the capacity to act become thinkable anew. For his works, in 2017 he was given the J. M. R. Lenz-dramatist award by the city of Jena.

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## Jamal Nxedlana

Jamal Nxedlana is a cultural entrepreneur living and working in Johannesburg. After returning from a two-year stint working at various publications in the UK including Dazed and Super Super, he has been the driving force behind of some South Africa's most forward-thinking and influential cultural productions, whether it be through publishing, content production, fashion design, curation or visual art production. Jamal Nxedlana is currently publisher and creative director of Bubblegum Club, a cultural intelligence agency and content production studio. He also regularly produces work with the digital art collective CUSS.

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## Sofiane & Selma Ouissi

Choreographers, dancers and curators Selma & Sofiane Ouissi have been creating together since the beginning of their career. Graduates of the Conservatoire de Musique et de Danse and the National Dance Centre of Tunis as well as holding a Master's degree in Performing Arts in France, they are considered as major figures of the Arab world. Their creations include 'STOP... BOOM', 'Waçl', 'Here (s)', 'Laaroussa', 'Les Yeux d'Argos' and 'Le Moindre Geste' which has been programmed all over the world (Triennale du Palais de Tokyo in Paris, New Museum in New York, Triennale in Moscow, Kunsten Festival des Arts in Brussels, Tate Modern in London, etc.). In 2007, the duo founded 'L'Art Rue – Manufacture of artistic spaces' – dedicated to contextual art in Tunisia. Within this structure where all artistic disciplines coexist, they create 'Dream City – Festival d'Art dans la Cité' and develop programmes to support young Tunisian creation and art and education.

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## Akshay Pathak

Akshay Pathak has written for several Indian and international publications, including Respekt, Firstpost, the Hindu, Open Magazine, among others, on issues of politics and culture. He now contributes regularly to a digital anti-caste platform – Round Table India. His writings and translations – in English, Hindi, and German – have also been published and anthologized in several books. In 2008, as the founding director of the German Book Office, New Delhi, he joined an office of the Frankfurter Buchmesse and the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, where he worked until 2012. He is currently the head of Pro Helvetia New Delhi.

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## Achal Prabhala

Achal Prabhala is a writer and researcher in Bangalore, India. He is a fellow of the Shuttleworth Foundation, and works on access to medicines in India, Brazil and South Africa.

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## Mandeep Raikhy

Mandeep Raikhy is a dance practitioner with a particular interest in exploring the intersections between dance creation, performance, research and pedagogy. He began studying jazz at age 19 at the Danceworx, New Delhi, and his subsequent interest in contemporary dance took him to London where he completed a BA (Hons) in Dance Theatre at Laban. He undertook his first tour with the Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company, London and toured with their annual productions between 2005 and 2009. He was also part of the company's education team and has extensive teaching experience.

Since 2010, Mandeep Raikhy has created several dance works, notably Inhabited 'Geometry' (2010), 'a male ant has straight antennae' (2013) and 'Queen-size' (2016). These works have travelled across the country and internationally over the years including Kampnagel, South Bank Centre and Singapore International Arts Festival. Since 2009, he has been Managing Director at Gati Dance Forum, where he has worked to develop a supportive environment for contemporary dance in the country through projects as diverse as residencies, festivals, publications and advocacy initiatives. He has also led the curriculum development team

for the Master's in Dance Practice to be launched at Ambedkar University Delhi from September 2017. This programme will be the first of its kind in South Asia.

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## Aparna Rao

Aparna Rao, of the Indo-Danish art duo Pors & Rao, works from Bangalore, India and Zurich, Switzerland. She and her collaborator Søren Pors work with objects and installations, often incorporating lifelike physical movement and responsive behaviours. After toiling with computer simulations, the internet, and gameplay in the early 2000s, they both abandoned the screen to work with objects that engage the body. Many of their works are conceived as a kind of 'being' with basic behaviour patterns such as shyness, fatigue and dependence, highlighting involuntary aspects of human behaviour and relationships – through the use of physical movement. Some works imply a kind of pre-conceptual way of perceiving the world, where the things around us are imbued with emotion and thought – as if everything was conscious. Recent exhibitions include: Setouchi Triennale 2016; the 2nd Kochi-Muziris Biennale; Whorled Worlds, India, 2014/15; METAMATIC Reloaded, Museum Tinguely, Basel, Switzerland, 2013; 21 Rooms, Nam June Paik Art Center, Seoul, South Korea, 2011; Pors & Rao, CAB – Centro De Arte Contemporaneo, Burgos, Spain, 2011; Indian Highway, The Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo, Norway, 2009; the 4th Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan, 2009 and the Setouchi Triennale, Japan, 2015. In March 2017, Pors & Rao, established PATHOS lab at Wyss Zurich, ETHZ, which explores how life-like robotic animation can suggest complex inner states in inanimate objects. Its aim is to realise a set of animatronics tools to realise a high degree of nuance in motion and response.

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## Lineo Segoete

Lineo Segoete is a storyteller and creative in the form of writer, researcher, photographer and archivist. She is a 2016–2017 Hubert Humphrey Fellow from Vanderbilt University where she studied education policy and administration and is Co-director of 'Ba re ne re Literary Arts' and Co-convenor for the Africa Cluster in the global research collective known as 'Another Roadmap School'. Her work focuses on promoting critical literacies and cultural production through collaborative endeavours with peers in Lesotho and across Africa. She has organised and facilitated art events, writers' workshops, spelling bees; project managed four editions of the 'Ba re ne re Literature Festival' and curated a photography exhibition at Chale Wote Street Art Festival 2017. Lineo believes that to truly deal with current problems the world is facing we must interrogate history, the way it is written and who wrote it, with special emphasis on identity and the political forces that influenced it. For art to truly serve its purpose as a mirror to society it has to be confrontational and blunt, considering that censorship has always been a threat to freedom of expression and reflection.

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## Dalia Suleiman

Dalia Suleiman is a Cairo-based art management professional and consultant who has been working in the Egyptian cultural field since 2005 filling different managerial positions in various organizations. Dalia Suleiman occupied the position of Managing Director at Contemporary Image Collective (CIC), an art organization in Cairo which investigates the role of lens-based practices in society and media through a range of artistic and educational practices. Since July 2016 Dalia is the head of Pro Helvetia Cairo.

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## Anmol Vellani

Anmol Vellani is the founder and former executive director of the India Foundation for the Arts, an independent philanthropic organization. Earlier he was the Programme Officer in the New Delhi Office of the Ford Foundation with responsibility for grant-making in the performing arts, folklore and classical learning. He has served in an advisory capacity for government depart-

ments, civil society networks, international foundations and cultural organizations. Anmol Vellani has written on a range of subjects, including the arts and religion, arts entrepreneurship, the role of foundations, intercultural dialogue, culture and development, and the performing arts. He has helped to design courses on the arts and management, served as faculty for training workshops in grant-making, and used theatre methods to conduct creativity workshops. He studied philosophy at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Anmol Vellani is also an actor trainer and has directed theatre productions in different languages and locations, both in India and abroad.

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## Sophie Vögele (Moderation)

Sophie Vögele is a research associate at the Institute for Art Education (IAE) at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK). She was the co-leader of the ZHdK-located research project 'Art.School.Differences'. Researching Inequalities and Norativities in Higher Art Education' with Philippe Saner ([bit.ly/a\\_s\\_d](http://bit.ly/a_s_d)) and currently works on the implementation of its findings. Her research, publications and professional experience encompass various issues and teaching appointments in the fields of postcolonial and feminist theory, critical race and migration studies as well as the decentralization of political processes in rural India. She is pursuing a PhD in Sociology at York University (Toronto) on social inequality, processes of othering, and theories of critique grounded in the field of art and higher education institutions.

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## Dana Whabira

Dana Whabira is a Zimbabwean artist, cultural facilitator and architect. She lives and works in Harare, Zimbabwe where she founded Njelele Art Station, an urban laboratory that focuses on contemporary, experimental and public art practice in Harare. An architect by training, Whabira studied art and design at Central Saint Martin's College in London (2011). Her first solo exhibition 'Suspended in Animation' was held at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe (2013) and she has participated in group shows in Johannesburg (2015), Pretoria (2015) and Harare (2012), in addition to taking up art residencies and giving talks locally and internationally. Whabira represented Zimbabwe at the 57th Venice Biennale (2017) and will participate in the Dak'art Biennale (2018).

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## Yvonne Wilhelm

Yvonne Wilhelm forms, together with Christian Huebler, the artist duo knowbotiq. They have been experimenting with forms and medialities of knowledge, political representations and epistemic disobedience. In recent projects, they are investigating and enacting political landscapes with the focus on algorithmic governmentalities, libidinous and affective economies and postcolonial violence. Here knowbotiq are exploring molecular, psychotropic and derivative aesthetics through installations, performative settings and public interventions. knowbotiq has participated in the Venice Biennale, Moscow Biennale, Seoul Biennale, Hong Kong Shenzhen Biennale, Biennale Rotterdam and exhibited in New Museum New York, Witte de With Rotterdam, MOCA Taipeh, Kunsthalle St. Gallen, Skuc Gallery Ljubljana, NAMOC Beijing, Aarhus Kunstmuseum, Museum of Contemporary Art Helsinki, Hamburger Kunstverein, Henie Onstad Kunstsenter Oslo, HKW Berlin, and has received major awards including: the Claasen Prize for Media Art and Photography, Cologne; the international ZKM Media-art award; August Seeling-Award of Wilhelm Lehbruck Museum and the Swiss Art Award. knowbotiq has a professorship at the MA Fine Arts programme, recently teaching seminars on molecular love and on being human as praxis and the fabulator function, a machine for manufacturing giants.

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## Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa

Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa is an artist and researcher. Born in Glasgow, Scotland, she studied Literature at Cambridge University and Art at the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London. She is Research Fellow in Fine Art at the University of Bergen, Norway and Convener of

the Africa Cluster of the 'Another Roadmap School', which is a research consortium comprising scholars and practitioners of art education based in 8 African cities. Between 2014 and 2016, Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa was Director of Research-at-Large at the Nagenda International Academy of Art & Design in Namulanda, Uganda, with whom she still collaborates in the areas of staff and curriculum development.

As an artist, Wolukau-Wanambwa works in a wide range of media, formats and contexts. Recent exhibitions include: A Thousand Roaring Beasts: Display Devices for a Critical Modernity. (Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo-CAAC, Seville, ES); Museum Matters (Staatsgalerie, Stuttgart, DE); You Must Make Your Death Public (De Appel, Amsterdam, NL); and Kabbo Ka Muwala (National Gallery of Zimbabwe, ZW, Makerere University Art Gallery, UG & Kunsthalle Bremen, DE). Her essay, 'Margaret Trowell's School of Art or How to Keep the Children's Work Really African' will be published later this year in the Palgrave Handbook on Race and the Arts in Education.

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## Céline Yvon (Moderation)

Céline Yvon focuses on testing, supporting and promoting innovative approaches to social change. She has a 20-years track record in international cooperation, including with (post)-conflict Iraq, Libya, Tajikistan and the Central African Republic and with large, transitioning countries such as Russia, Brazil or India. She first worked with the Swiss Foreign Ministry and then took on advisory and executive positions at global private foundations. She also founded a boutique consultancy leveraging artistic and cultural actors as agents for change; she is supporting the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and has lectured at the Zurich University of the Arts on the matter.

Céline Yvon was involved in various Boards and associations, among which the UN Women National Committee for Switzerland. In 2017 she was selected for the Philanthropic Leadership Platform China-Europe and was invited as delegate to the Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship. She holds an M.A. in International Affairs from the Graduate Institute in Geneva and a certificate on Innovation & Sustainability from Harvard University. She also has a music background and has published fiction and non-fiction.

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## Tim Zulauf

Tim Zulauf lives in Zurich, Switzerland. After participating in research projects focusing on art in public spheres, he has produced installations and stage-projects as author and director within KMUProduktionen, an open network of theatre makers, actors, designers and visual artists since 2002. His performative works, often site-specific, focus on the relation of narration, space and working-conditions. They involve social conflicts around begging, sex work, care-work, migration and the digital domain. Contributions, amongst others, to the Venice Art Biennial 2011, the Festival Belluard Bollwerk International Fribourg 2014, the Biennial Dream City Tunis (2015 and 2017), and the Zürcher Theater Spektakel (2016 and 2017).

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