

Trans-Cultural Dialogues is a platform composed of a group of young professionals from several cultural and artistic Euro-Mediterranean associations. This platform aims to examine various contemporary social issues through a multidisciplinary cultural approach in order to offer solutions and new sustainable models for mobility and exchange between cultural and artistic networks, and researchers in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

To serve this purpose, Trans-Cultural Dialogues is organizing a regional project with local importance, taking the shape of a multidisciplinary cultural Biennale to be held in different Euro-Mediterranean cities. This year, the city of Algiers was unanimously chosen for the first edition of this initiative, given its rich history, cultural diversity and its strategic position in the Mediterranean region. This first edition is titled: DJART (a contraction of the words Djazaïr and Art, a combination that sounds "Jar" meaning neighbor in Arabic).

DJART '14 encourages the democratization of culture and promotes art as a way to share knowledge, discourse and various practices. The program was designed based on a research program held in Algiers by TCD team, meeting the needs and suggestions of the public regarding the artistic and cultural initiatives. DJART '14 aims to value art practices (often hidden or blurred in the background) to the Algerian public by making it accessible, affordable and appealing to wider audiences. DJART also aims to raise public awareness among Algerians on themes that concern them such as: identity, citizenship, North African and Mediterranean dimensions of Algeria or exchange and mobility among artists.

It is envisioned through participatory methods aiming to create social impact with an optical consistency and sustainability by integrating activities that are open to general public with a cohesive "Do It together" spirit, in activities that are home-made or recycled creations within low to zero-budget productions.

DJART also encourages the public to reclaim urban spaces that have been left behind and long abandoned by giving them a new meaning and an alternative use while exploring their historical memory and considering their current state. In this perspective, a multifaceted approach is emerging combining visual arts, architecture, performances, and research that will lead to creative workshops, discussions, exhibitions, happenings and various artistic events.

The DJART '14 program, offers numerous rich and diverse activities. Walid Bouchouchi - graphic artist will lead a workshop on the image alteration and manipulation providing the opportunity for participants to express themselves by posting colourful stickers around the streets of Algiers. Walid who is also the creator of AKAKIR's concept will have his visual creations shown through an outdoor exhibition, squatting various stairwells and buses in the city.

eL Seed, Calli-graffiti virtuoso whose frescoes adorn the walls of many countries will meet and exchange with local youth to leave a historical trace in the main street of the city center, while architect Salim Lamari will facilitate a workshop open to the public to redesign the Ben-Boulaid square creating street furniture using recycled materials.

Photographer Youcef Krache will present a series of Algerian women's portraits, which will be projected in spaces where much of the public/Algerians pass by every day without paying attention. In addition to this series of exhibitions, Tunisian artist Nicène Kossentini will unveil five Algerian testimonies on their daily life through an audio installation, guiding the audience on a journey through monuments and museums which has recently lost attention from the public.

The program also includes discussions on art in public spaces and raises questions about artistic mobility in the Euro-Mediterranean region bringing together artists and cultural organisations from different nations and backgrounds, such as: Independent curator Yasmina Reggad from aria (artist residency in algiers), Tunisian artist Mohamed Ben Soltane, curator and art critic Nadira Laggoune-Aklouche, and writer Mustapha Benfodil. They will be joined by several international organizations and associations such as the famous Teatro Valle Occupato (Italy), JISER Reflexions Méditerranées (Spain), Algerian Association Chrysalide and Mains d'Oeuvres from France, all part of Trans Europe Halles network.

DJART '14 is also the occasion to celebrate and enjoy music with two free outdoor concerts by the group Yacine Belahcene & The Oriental Groove from Barcelona and Democratoz from Oran one of the newest generation of reggae-rock band, Democratoz.

DJART '14 has many surprises yet to be discovered from 6 to 15 November 2014.