

OPEN CALL FOR ARTISTS

Application deadline:
30th May 2023 – 4 PM (Paris time)

HAND
TO
HAND

A European contemporary circus exploration
in public space to collectively question
the notion of social ecology

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Who is it for?

For 16 circus artists looking for an opportunity to get a first insight in issues related to sustainability, trans-sectoral aspect and circus in public space through 3 workshop days in Châlons en Champagne, France from July, 3–6th, 2023.

A selection of 8 circus artists will be done after this workshop to follow the whole project.



Hand to hand ? What is it ?

The ecological and environmental mutations all over Europe request from us to think about our carbon footprint and more deeply to rethink our ways of living, our choices of development. They force us to (re)connect ourselves in a different and urgent way to spaces which we inhabit and to people who live there. As a body of ideas, social ecology, used as a synonym for human ecology, envisions for instance, a world that reharmonizes human communities with the natural world, while celebrating diversity, creativity and freedom. For such an ecological transformation, we need collectively, to create the operative conditions for a possible social and sustainable transformation.

Facing these ecological issues, the contemporary circus sector, as well as the cultural sector in general, needs to redefine its practices. It raises the question whether to concretely translate the implementation of more sustainable and ethical means into collaboration and how to contribute to a change in behaviour. This approach thus implies the development of a new

set of capacities to train artists in new artistic, scientific and collaborative approaches, when initial circus training often prioritises technical skills.

The hypothesis chosen for **Hand to hand**, is to create new cooperation and new modes of understanding through social ecology where art - more specifically contemporary circus - in public space can contribute to the transition of our sector, transforming its artistic and methodological practices.

The project brings together 4 European partners, cultural circus and performing art operators : **Le Palc**, a national circus centre in France, **ROOM 100** in Croatia, **Bússola** in Portugal and **Helsingør Theatre** in Denmark. It aims to explore the issue of sustainability through learning and experimental spaces of innovation and research for circus artists, especially emerging artists in their artistic practice in public space, and give them new capacities of initiating such a transition.

Through a journey of **four exploration times and immersion residencies**, **Hand to hand** offers **experimentation spaces** through a **cross-sectoral collaboration**, including cultural and creative industries, researchers in ecology and art, as well as private firms : Joseph Perrier, champagne house; Fila Arches, paper mill of art in France ; Solana, salt marshes in Croatia ; a maritime workshop for the renovation of wooden boats and a professional fisherman in Denmark ; Codfish Harbor of Ílhavo, distant water fishing in Portugal.

A introductory workshop in July 2023

The **introductory workshop** will gather for 3 days the **16 pre-selected artists** the 3–6th July 2023 the partners, the mentors, the associate partners, researchers in art and in ecology and other experts. This workshop is intended to discover and learn about issues related to sustainability, the trans-sectoral aspect and circus in public space. It will allow us to sensitize and explore in common the main focus of the project, creating a base of knowledge as well as a first practice. Circus practices in public space will alternate with intellectual inputs with researchers and other professionals. The last morning of this workshop, the artists will pitch their ideas that they would like to explore further. The last selection of the 8 artists will be given after this workshop.

4 exploration times from September 2023 to April 2024

They are experimental pedagogical spaces offering the possibility of shifting practices and exchanges of knowledge, to think differently about the relationship to sustainability and the relationship to others as a principle of social ecology and to share the issues underlying the artists' projects. These days will be devoted to theoretical sessions alternating practical learning time and exchanges, meetings with workers from different activity sectors. It will also be an opportunity to explore public spaces and meet all stakeholders of each country.

Each exploration time will be designed around a theme/issue related to sustainability and the chosen environment with the intervention of artistic mentors, a researcher related to the gesture and a scientific researcher to which the artists can also refer between exploration times.

It will be 3 full days. The aim is to create a time of meeting, reflection, research, and sharing on an environmental issue.

Each exploration time will invite partners for a scientific approach. Scientific themes are also conceived as a path: first public spaces (sea - ground, soil), secondly material which composes it (organic and living material).

Each activity sector chosen is also deeply representative of the local landscape of the territory explored and has a special link to sustainability.

Exploration time 1 in Helsingor – Denmark

The main activity sector chosen is linked to the **sea and several trades representing this sector**: fisherman, the marine, the harbour, activity linked to the boats, to the property of the sea and the protection of biodiversity.

The scientific theme will be **the sea as a public space and medium for understanding** in collaboration with [Øresundsakvariet – Maritime research institute](#).

**Exploration time 2 in
Châlons en Champagne
France**

The main activity sector chosen is linked to **the vineyards and several trades representing the champagne sector** in general.

The scientific theme will thus be **the care of the development of the living ground** and the necessary resilience for sustainable relationships between soil cultivation, vineyard maintenance and territory in collaboration with [Institut Georges Chappaz](#).

**Exploration time 3 in
Ilhavo – Portugal**

The main activity sector chosen is linked to **the Codfish Harbour** and the codfish packaging, distribution industry.

The scientific theme will thus be **the human impact and climate change on the biodiversity** in the sea in collaboration with [The CIEmar – Centro de Investigação e Empreendedorismo do Mar \(Ílhavo Maritime Museum\)](#).

**Exploration time 4 in
Split – Croatia**

The main activity sector chosen is linked to **the salt marshes**.

The following environmental issue will be: how **the material (like the salt - the salinity) in the sea is impacted due to climate change** and what solutions proposed are possible, in collaboration with [The Faculty of Science in Split – the Environmental Physics Department](#).

The immersion residencies

This is a period of **immersion / residence “sur mesure”** for each artist in one activity sector in one country **for 10 full days**. 2 artists will be welcomed by a partner in its country.

This period will be dedicated for the artists to be immersed in an activity sector, discover and meet **the private firm** and their workers, to be fed with everything that makes up the techniques of the body at work - be inspired by the **repetitive gestures** and the traditional, the manual know-how of the workers and **translate** the material collected inside the company into a common/public space around the company or in a place that resonates.

Testing and collective sharing in 2024 and 2025

This journey will continue with the prototypes testing in an experimental approach of presentation in each festival. It will be the occasion to **test and share with the audience the artistic projects in public space** and an aspect linked to sustainability addressed in each of the works presented.

The prototype test is understood as a presentation of **works in progress**. Each partner will present these tests during their own festivals in public space which highlights the desire to facilitate the visibility of the artists alongside professionals.

These work prototypes also will be created in situ in the activity sector where the immersion residency will be. Each artist will thus adapt his artistic work to other places in Europe by the other partners of the consortium.

It corresponds to 1 to 2 days of rehearsals + 2 days of public presentation.

What Hand to hand searches for?

Hand to hand aims at identifying **contemporary circus artists** who develop a singular approach to circus as **professional creators**, preferably with **no previous experience of the public space** (emerging artists in public space) from the European Union (+ UK), **having a fluent practice of the English language (all the activities will be in English)** and available for each activity of the project.

Emergence is understood as a level of knowledge of artistic practices in public space and should not be confused with youth: there is **no age limit** for applicants. The **students aren't accepted**.

Focus on circus disciplines: use your body for this project or what feet in your luggage!

While examining the applications, the jury will be attentive to **the following criteria:**

- > Position as a **professional creator**: being able to defend one's work and artistic choices, ability to position oneself and one's work in the field of circus art, etc.
- > Contemporary circus artists, **emerging** in the artistic practice **in public space**
- > The **educational, creative and professional background**, no circus degree requested but a professional experience as creator
- > A strong **motivation to explore artistic practice in public space and the transsectoriality** through an immersion in an activity sector
- > A real interest to participate in a **collaborative project** in order to **learn new skills** linked to sustainability, social ecology & constraints for a "sustainable" creation in public space

The selection will also focus on **diversity of backgrounds**, on specificities of an international project based on mobility, where the ability to work with a multidisciplinary team should be a mandatory requirement. **Age range, gender balance and European geographical diversity** will be also taken in consideration in the last phase of the selection methodology.

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What is the selection process - the dates ?

It is a 2-step selection process which starts with the open call from the **30th of March to the 30th of May 2023 (4 PM Paris time)**. The registration is online.

On the basis of the online applications, **16 artists** will be pre-selected by a committee gathering all cross-sectoral representativeness of the project: artistic sector (the consortium of partners), the artistic mentor, the mentor in sustainability, the researchers in gesture, the associated partners.

First step : the **16 pre-selected artists** will be reached on **the 5th of June 2023** to be part of the introductory workshop in Châlons en Champagne 3-6 July 2023 .

We will ask these 16 pre-selected artists to **fulfil online a document of 6000 characters maximum** to give an original and innovative idea, with ecological, social and political relevance they would like to develop during the process. It will be linked for sure to the two preferred choices of the activity sector (the vineyards in France, the historical artisanal factory of art papers in France , the codfish packaging and distribution industry in Portugal, The Salt Marshes in Croatia, an artisanal firm of boat renovation workshop and a fisherman in Denmark)

The deadline to send this document is the 15th of June 2023.

Second and final step : a final selection will be done after the introductory workshop. The definitive answer will be done on the **7th of July 2023.**

An agreement will be sent and a signature will be asked for the **15th of July 2023**. If any selected participant fails the deadline for signature a replacement can be decided by the selection committee.

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When and where will the programme take place?

Introductory workshop for the 16 pre-selected artists :

3 > 6 July 2023

Introductory workshop in Châlons en Champagne with le Palc in collaboration with le CNAC

For the 8 selected artists:

4 Explorations times

(4 nights - 3 full days)

3 > 7 September 2023

Exploration time 1 in Helsingor with the Helsingor theatre (Denmark)

14 > 18 November 2023

Exploration time 2 in Châlons en Champagne (France) with le PALC

11 > 15 March 2024

Exploration time 3 in Ilhavo (Portugal) with Bussola

8 > 12 April 2024

Exploration 4 in Split (Croatia) with ROOM 100

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**1 immersion residency in one activity sector.
Please find below the different possibilities :**

- The **vineyards** with the House of Champagne Joseph Perrier - Châlons en Champagne (FR) 20–31 May 2024 : one artist
- The **historical artisanal factory of art papers** Papeterie Arches SAS - Arches (FR) 10 -21 June 2024: one artist
- The **codfish packaging and distribution industry** at the Cod Harbour in Ilhavo (PT) 18 -29 June 2024 : two artists
- The **Salt Marshes** in Nin, Pag, Ston (HR) 16–26 July 2024 : two artists - *Be aware that these dates could evolve if it is possible due the weather and the conditions to collect the salt.*
- An **artisanal firm of boat renovation workshop** - Maritime Workshop Hall 16 and a **Fisherman** Soren Jacobsen in the Harbour of Helsingor (DK) 20-31 May 2024: two artists.

Important precisions: each partner welcomes 2 artists in its country. If we have too many choices for one destination, we will do a repartition in discussion with the artists to balance the choices.

.....
Public tests at festivals and events from August 2024 to June 2025
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Dates (including the transportation days)

29 July > 3 August 2024

First public test at the Passage festival in Helsingor (DK)

4 > 8 December 2024

Second public test at the LEME festival with Bussola in Ilhavo (PT)

6 > 11 April 2025

Third public test with ROOM 100 in Split or Ston (HR)

30 May > 4 June 2025

Fourth public test and conclusion with Le Palc during the Furies festival (FR)

Who is involved in the project ? A collective implication of eclectic stakeholders

A multiplicity and heterogeneity of actors are involved in the project: artists and institutions from the cultural sector in the field of contemporary circus, as well as private firms and the world of research in ecology and art in form of ecosystems of partners joined to each of the co-organisers according to its specific context .

This collective implication of eclectic stakeholders also includes :

- a continuous support from mentors : 1 artistic mentor for the follow-up of the creative development, 1 mentor on sustainability and 1 mentor on research in gesture during the whole project,
- a support from 4 scientific researchers and their laboratory specialists on an environmental issue in the 4 exploration times.

The artistic mentor will be in charge of the collective physical exercises linked to the local environment in public space (harbour, vineyard, salt marshes) and in charge of following up the artists with all the questions they might have about their practice, their artistic prototype.

Delphine Lanson (France)

Graduated from L.I.S.A (London and International School of Acting). Since then, she leads a career as an actress, author and director. She has always sought a balance between different artistic disciplines. It claims the complementarity of the arts in the service of a common creativity and engages actively in research with circus artists, filmmakers, writers and actors.

She is an actress also for the theatre and the cinema ranging from Shakespeare to various films. From 1990 to 1994, she was Israel Horovitz's assistant in France. She writes "Le Banc", "Loup-Y-es-tu" and participates in many creation projects.

Since 2002, she has been involved in the circus sector and collaborates regularly as dramaturg with circus artists and collectives such as AOC collective, Gaétan Lévêque, Mille Lundt for "Womanhood", Frédéric Vernier and Sébastien Van-Gelder for "Out Of the Blue", Elsa Guérin, for "Strange Scenes in a Gold Mine." She has been co-artistic director of Anomalie &... , a French circus collective.

She also makes documentaries and short films linked to the circus,"Décroche!", "A morning of Alouha","Falling in Love". Since 2012, she has collaborated with Chiharu Mamyia to artworks mixing dance and theatre. More recently, she played in films like "Shakespeare songs" with Guillaume de Chassy and Christophe Marguet, "Love songs" with Lambert Wilson. She plays and dances "In the belly of the ballerina" directed by Jean-Benoit Mollet (2018), "Chers" with Kaori Ito (2020), "La parole Nochère" at the Théâtre de la Colline, a co-creation Wajdi Mouawad and Kaori Ito (2020). She plays and co-writes creations for young audiences.

She teaches at Sciences Po Europ'asie and is member of the artistic, pedagogical and scientific college of the CNAC - Centre National des Arts du Cirque in France.

A mentor in sustainability will intervene in the introductory workshop and during the whole process collectively under digital mentorship between the physical mobilities and individually also for the artists. She will bring intellectual and practical knowledge about sustainability for the artists during their process.

Gwendolenn Sharp (France)

founder of The Green Room

She has worked with cultural institutions and environmental NGOs in Europe and Tunisia. She regularly writes articles on environmental issues in link with the music industry. She is an assessor for A Greener Festival (UK), a Jump Fellow and a Keychange Innovator. TGR, a non-profit association, works to support environmental and societal change in the music industry and the cultural sector in general. Placing environmental issues at the core of its activity, TGR develops strategies and co-creates solutions to mitigate the

environmental impact of cultural professionals by jointly rethinking our practices. TGR works on the local, national and international scale, from supporting artists and providing workshops to the local authorities to collaborating with international professional events, organisations and networks (Womex, IETM, OTM, Climate Chance, Liveurope, Footprints, CNM, Slash, etc.). TGR is a partner in the Erasmus+ project C'man, providing tools and guidance to cultural managers in Europe on Green project management.

Two researchers in gesture will be associated for the project in collaboration with the **CNAC – Centre National des Arts du Cirque**. The researchers have a double function. The first one is to give an intellectual and practical knowledge about circus-gesture-ecology and public space in each exploration time and the conclusion time. Each subject matter is conceived in resonance with the local partnership, the private firm and a focus proposed by the local scientific researcher. The second function is to produce knowledge about transformed gestures from workers in circus public space.

Nathalie Blanc (France)

Nathalie Blanc works as a Research Director at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS). She is the Managing Director of the Center for Earth Politics (<https://u-paris.fr/centre-politiques-terre/>) and is based at the University of Paris.

As pioneer of ecocriticism in France, she has published and coordinated research programs on areas including habitability, environmental aesthetics, literature & environment and nature in the city. A founding member of the French Environmental Humanities Portal, she has also been from 2011 to 2015 the French delegate of the European COST research project *Investigating cultural sustainability* and then is the delegate of the European COST program on New Materialism 'How Matter Comes to Matter' (2015-2018).

She has published the book *Form, art, and environment: engaging in sustainability*, by Routledge in 2016. Other selected publications include: *Ecoplasties. Art and Environment*, with Julie Ramos, 2010, Manuella. *Towards environmental aesthetics*, 2008, Quae; *Les animaux et la ville/Animals and the city*, O. Jacob, 2000; *Nouvelles esthétiques urbaines / New urban aesthetics*, Colin, 2012. Her books to come in

2022 are : Towards an ordinary environmentalism (in French, éditions Au Bord de l'eau), Art and sustainable farming (in English, Routledge).

She is also an artist and an art commissioner, working on the theme of ecological fragility. She animates and coordinates a project of LABArtSciences devoted successively to urban soils of the Anthropocene SOIL FICTIONS (2016) and sustainable food THE TABLE AND THE TERRITORY that give rise to experiments in writing and exhibition (Domaine de Chamarande, 2016 ; Ferme des Cultures du Monde, Saint-Denis).

Magali Sizorn (France)

Magali Sizorn is a lecturer at the University of Rouen (UFR STAPS) since 2008 and is a member of the Centre for the Study of the Transformation of Physical and Sports Activities. She teaches the anthropology and sociology of physical, sporting and artistic practices. She also runs a weekly choreography workshop (SUAPS). Within the Department of Cultural Professions of the LSH UFR, her courses focus on the circus and art in public space, the sociology of the audience and cultural practices.

Her research focuses on artists at work (particularly in the relationship performer/director in the circus sector) and on cultural practices, observing the values in the construction, the transmission of the tastes. She is a founding member and member of the board of directors of the Collective of researchers in circus.

Scientific researchers will intervene locally during the exploration times and can be reached by the artists during the whole artistic process. They are working on specificities linked to the local territories but at an international level. They will give scientific knowledge about the environment and issues linked to local sustainability.

The project has also associated partners :

[ARTCENA, National Centre for Circus, Street and Theatre Arts \(FR\)](#)

[The Centre national des arts du cirque \(FR\)](#)

[The French Institute \(FR\)](#)

[The Furies festival \(FR\)](#)

[The Municipality of Ilhavo and LEME festival \(PT\)](#)

The local partners are :

Joseph Perrier (FR) ; Fila Arches (FR) ; Solana (HR); Maritime Workshop Hall 16 (DK) ; Firsherman Soren Jacobsen (DK) ; Codfish Harbor (PT) ; Institut Georges Chappaz (FR) ; The Faculty of Science in Split - the Environmental Physics Department (HR) ; The CIEmar - Centro de Investigação e Empreendedorismo do Mar/Museu Marítimo de Ílhavo (PT) ; Øresundsakvariet- Maritime research institute (DK).

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What are the responsibilities of the artists participating in the project?

- The artists have to be fully available for the project activities and dates planned
- They commit an active and collaborative participation in the whole process during the project
- They will create, test and share with the audience an artistic prototype (work in progress) in public space in each festival's partner
- They will contribute to keep tracks during the artistic process and be in contact with local video teams through interviews and films

- They will take part in the final conclusion to share their experience and their new knowledge
- The need to demonstrate a sense of collaborative work and ability for European projects, as well as collaborate with the whole partners for the administrative needs and evaluations for the report to the European Union.

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How to apply and precisions

What is covered?

Each selected artist will attend **a collaborative process and a learning space (free of charge)** with :

- An **approach to sustainability**, in particular **social ecology**, which runs through all the stages of the project and will be seen as a tool in the service of a narrative;
- An approach to **skills acquired through knowledge** transfer and application through a complete process combining prototyping of artworks and sharing / testing of prototypes;
- A collaborative intelligence approach focused on the process, prototyping rather than a finished creation;
- A **European mobility** of the participants through exploration times designed according to specificities of each partner structures and their local context.

The project will cover:

- **Travel expenses** (international flights and local transportation at destination) for all activities (up to 300€/person/trip) from the introductory workshop to the conclusion of the project
- **The accommodation** during the whole activities described and respecting the exact number of days planned
- **The meals** (breakfast, lunch and dinner) during the whole activities described and respecting the exact number of days planned
- The 8 selected artists taking part in the project, after the selection process, will receive an artistic fee of 6.300 € for their whole participation and the final creation (prototype / work in progress). The introductory workshop (July 2023) is part of the selection process and no payment is due for that action.

Which eligible geographic area to candidate ?

Eligible Countries from Creative Europe :

European Union: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland (Republic of), Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands

Other countries participating in the Creative Europe programme: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Kosovo, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Ukraine

+ United Kingdom

+ Switzerland

Last precisions

It is an online application process on google form. All requested compulsory documents should be filled in and uploaded online.

We recommend that you submit your application in advance of the deadline to make sure that there won't be any technical problems. Please read carefully the open call and the entire application form.

To access and complete the online application form, you need a Gmail account.

Click here to apply



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Other questions

Additional information requests may be submitted by email:

info@handtohandproject.eu

www.handtohandproject.eu



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