

# DISTRESS FLARE



SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCHER'S GUIDE



2019—2022



*The Distress Flare project was born out of a desire to open up a dialogue involving the wide range of groups that make up our modern societies (citizens, public decision-makers, the media, etc.) on the subject of the political and social experience of migrants in Europe today. The goal is to use artistic means of expression to give citizens a voice and to send a clear signal, one that should concern us all, with regards to the gradual loss of certain human values (hospitality, gratitude, caring for others).*

**BRUSSELS**  
**ISTANBUL**  
**BARCELONA**  
**MILAN**  
**LISBON**  
**RENNES**

# DISTRESS FLARE

→ *SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCHER'S GUIDE*

# PARTNERS

## BELGIUM

- The CIFAS, the International Centre for Training in the Performing Arts (Brussels)
- Euro cities, network of cities (Brussels)

## FRANCE

- L'âge de la tortue (Rennes)
- The city of Rennes
- Les Tombées de la Nuit festival (Rennes)
- University Rennes 2 (PREFics urban sociolinguistic laboratory, Visual Arts Department, Center of Audiovisual Ressources)
- Le Triangle, city for dance (Rennes)
- Regional Music Conservatory (Rennes)
- The TOPIK sociology association (Rennes)
- The National Museum of the History of Immigration (Paris)

## ITALY

- Company Effetto Larsen (Milano)
- Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti

## TURKEY

- The University of Galatasaray, humanities department
- Theatre Company of students of the University
- French Institute of Istanbul

## SPAIN

- VULNUS Artes Vivas e Investigación (Barcelona)
- City of Barcelona, Culture department
- Agenda 21, The Committee on culture of the world organization of United Cities and Local Governments (Barcelona office)
- NGO Ariadna (Iaragona)
- Faculty of Fin.Arts (Barcelona)

## PORTUGAL

- NGO Renovar a mouraria (Lisbon)
- The City of Lisbon, Culture Department

# THE ARTISTIC PROJECT



The Distress Flare project was born out of a desire to open up a dialogue involving the wide range of groups that make up our modern societies (citizens, public decision-makers, the media, etc.) on the subject of the political and social experience of migrants in Europe today. The goal is to use artistic means of expression to give citizens a voice and to send a clear signal, one that should concern us all, with regards to the gradual loss of certain human values (hospitality, gratitude, caring for others).

The symbol of the distress flare is central to this project. Although it might appear at first as a somewhat negative image, there is also that sense of it being a beacon of hope, lighting the way towards a brighter future. Fired from the ground, when a distress flare lights up, it becomes a new marker, a focal point for perspectives and, above all else, a way of grabbing the attention of all of those present in order to encourage them to take action, to change their behaviour and to work together on "the people who need saving". Fired from the ground towards the sky, the vertical trajectory of a distress flare also symbolises the way in which the project aims to force public decision-makers to consider the current plight of migrants.

The project follows up on the work carried out during the production of *The Encyclopedia of migrants*. The original idea was to create meaningful artworks that would encourage people to consider an eminently political matter using a sensitive, personal approach. The aim is to get us to question ourselves, both collectively and as individuals, about the future of our societies and the values that we want to defend, with the artistic research for the project (set design, stage direction, music) guided by this principle throughout its development. The texts contained in *The Encyclopedia of migrants*, as well as the methods used for their publication, will be used as a starting point for all artistic creations.

The following countries have been selected for the development of the project at a European level: France, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Italy and Turkey.

The artistic creation processes developed throughout the life cycle of the project will bring artists together with individuals from a variety of different fields. Artists, citizens, researchers in the fields of human and social sciences and students from the different partner towns will all contribute to the project during the collective work period to varying extents, depending on their expertise and availability. For example, individuals from the community could be invited to participate in discussion groups in order to work on the project's methodology or invited to participate in the performance and to learn musical and theatrical techniques alongside the artists themselves. Researchers in social sciences and humanities will be invited to participate in the creative process and to offer a critical perspective on the project, with regards to their discipline. Lastly, students from art schools will participate in the creation of the project's graphic image. They will collectively create a space where knowledge and know-how can be exchanged and passed on, while ensuring that everyone gradually has an increasingly pragmatic appreciation of the way people's cultural rights are put to work, in order to make humanity better together.



**CREATIVE RESIDENCIES** will be held in each city for 5 days. These residencies are made up of the theatre director, a group of actors, a social sciences and humanities researcher and the director of the documentary series. A group of graphic design students will work with each residency to produce communications materials.

**THE THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES** will place on the sixth day of the residency, in a public space (preferably), as part of a local cultural event.

On the seventh day, **LOCAL SEMINARS** will bring together the participants of the residency and the performance, as well as the local coordination team, to critically analyse the entire process. Observations, recommendations and best practices will then be shared with all partners, and finally during a day organised for public decision-makers.

<b>BRUSSELS</b> → September 2019	<b>MILAN</b> → October 2020
<b>ISTANBUL</b> → February 2020	<b>LISBON</b> → February 2021
<b>BARCELONA</b> → July 2020	<b>RENNES</b> → July 2021

# 2

SEPTEMBER 2019 → JULY 2021  
**ACTIONS**  
 (residencies + shows + local seminars)



Organised in September 2019, this first seminar will bring together all the co-organisers and partners of the project. It is a special opportunity for the project's key players to get to know each other and exchange information, and for the working methodology to be communicated. The event will take place in Brussels.

# 1

SEPTEMBER 2019  
**FIRST  
 TRANSNATIONAL  
 SEMINAR**

**PROJECT  
 SCHEDULE**



# 3

FROM MARCH 2022  
**DISSEMINATION  
 OF PRODUCTIONS**

**THE ANALYSIS** will be written once the project has drawn to a close in 2022. It will feature two types of academic contributions. The first will be six documents, each one produced by a researcher during his or her residency. The papers will be linked to the observations they have made and their reflections on the project process. The second contribution will be documents written by associate researchers throughout the project, touching on its themes such as artistic creativity, migration, citizenship and informal education. The publication will also include a documentary section featuring photographs taken during each phase of the project. This analysis will be co-published by Editions Incertain Sens and L'âge de la Tortue.

**THE DOCUMENTARY SERIES** will be recorded over the course of the project and will be made up of short episodes of around ten minutes long. Each creative residency will feature in its own themed episode in which the documentary-maker will focus on a particular aspect of the project. Episodes will be broadcast on the project website and on social media platforms as and when they are produced. Once the project is complete, the documentary series will provide a comprehensive insight into how the project was carried out, and capture it for posterity.

**AN ARTISTIC MANIFESTO** will be written collectively once the project has been completed. Its role will be to state the ethical and aesthetic principles that have gone into our artistic and participatory projects. Groundwork for the manifesto will be done during seminars scheduled after each creative residency. The published manifesto will be based on this collective work, with the consensus of all project co-organisers. The manifesto will be available to access once the project is over, and will help to share the participants' feedback.



# 4

JUNE 2022  
**THE PUBLIC  
 DECISION-MAKERS'  
 DAY**

An artistic manifesto will be written collectively once the project has been completed. Its role will be to state the ethical and aesthetic principles that have gone into our artistic and participatory projects. Groundwork for the manifesto will be done during seminars scheduled after each creative residency. The published manifesto will be based on this collective work, with the consensus of all project co-organisers. The manifesto will be available to access once the project is over, and will help to share the participants' feedback.

# THE ROLE OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RE- SEARCHER

*The researcher will be present throughout the duration of the project. Once the residency is over, the researcher will attend the performance and contribute to the seminar. Lastly, each researcher will write an article for academic publication, which is to be published when the project closes.*

By committing to the project, the researcher affirms his or her commitment to the values conveyed by the project and contributes concretely to the achievement of the following objectives:

- Recognising the value of people's life stories and contributing to creating spaces that encourage people's freedom to express themselves and take action whilst respecting their cultural rights.
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- Encouraging the active participation of migrants in democratic life by strengthening their capacity to express themselves publicly through the acquisition of interpersonal and intercultural skills.
- Supporting the design, implementation and dissemination of innovative practices by putting their scientific skills at the service of the project.

The work of the researcher is carried out in cooperation with the project's key players: the artistic director, the local coordination team, the team of actors and graphic design students.

## THE RESEARCHER UNDERTAKES TO:

- attend the entire creative residency in order to participate in the artistic process and the interactions between the different people who make up the team;
- attend the performance (6th day)
- contribute to the local seminar (7th day);
- at the end of the week of immersion in the heart of the creative process, write an article of 6,500 words that will be integrated into the scientific publication (published in 2022);
- be in regular contact with the scientific research department;
- write and publish one text per day on the project site, describing the situations experienced during the day;
- contribute to the writing of the manifesto;
- participate in the qualitative evaluation of the project, based on the testimonials of the participants in relation to the initial objectives and respect for the cultural rights of the people involved;
- Contribute to the organisation of a day for public decision makers;
- assign their copyrights to the L'âge de la tortue (main publisher of the project's productions).

# PRODUCTIONS

## THE REFERENCE KIT

The reference kit contains all the various reference materials and an ethics charter that will guide how the actions are implemented. It includes existing documents selected by all the project's partners, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Fribourg Declaration on Cultural Rights. As the project progresses, the kit can be cooperatively expanded and enriched with documents created by the project team (to include, for example, the ethics charter, manifesto, guides and so on).

## THE PERFORMANCES

Six performances will be created as part of the project, one in each partner city. They will use extracts from The Encyclopedia of migrants as their starting point, and they will take place in the public space. The performances will be acted out by a group of amateur readers, and designed and directed by local stage director (see: schedule, p.16).

## THE ACADEMIC ANALYSIS

The analysis will be written once the project has drawn to a close in 2022. It will feature two types of academic contributions. The first will be six documents, each one produced by a researcher during his or her residency. The papers will be linked to the observations they have made and their reflections on the project process. The second contribution will be documents written by associate researchers throughout the project, touching on its themes such as artistic creativity, migration, citizenship and informal education. The publication will also include a documentary section featuring photographs taken during each phase of the project. This analysis will be co-published by Editions Incertain Sens and L'âge de la Tortue.

## THE GUIDES

A series of guides will be produced when the project launches and as it unfolds. Their role will be to help the team of directors, operational partners and researchers with their work, but also to inform audiences and public decision-makers about the approach used for this project. These guides will be freely available on the project website.

## THE WEBSITE

The website will act as a showcase for the project and offer a springboard for widely disseminating information about its approach and initiatives. It will also serve as a shared platform for any partners who might help to create and spread content about the project and its themes.

## THE VISUAL RESOURCES

In each city, a group of visual arts students will be asked to create resources such as posters and prospectuses, which will be distributed in public spaces and contain information about the project and performance. These resources will all be based on a shared visual identity designed before the project begins and adapted to suit each city.

## THE DOCUMENTARY SERIES

The documentary series will be recorded over the course of the project and will be made up of short episodes of around ten minutes long. Each creative residency will feature in its own themed episode in which the documentary-maker will focus on a particular aspect of the project. Episodes will be broadcast on the project website and on social media platforms as and when they are produced. Once the project is complete, the documentary series will provide a comprehensive insight into how the project was carried out, and capture it for posterity.

## THE PUBLIC DECISION-MAKERS' DAY

A training and information day will be organised in June 2022 for European public sector decision-makers. The aim will be to feed back observations participants made over the course of the project, establishing as we do so a direct link between civil society and European elected representatives, communicating the former's recommendations to the latter.

## THE MANIFESTO

An artistic manifesto will be written collectively once the project has been completed. Its role will be to state the ethical and aesthetic principles that have gone into our artistic and participatory projects. Groundwork for the manifesto will be done during seminars scheduled after each creative residency. The published manifesto will be based on this collective work, with the consensus of all project co-organisers. The manifesto will be available to access once the project is over, and will help to share the participants' feedback.

# SCHEDULE

2019

2020

2021

2022

## MARCH

- Diffusion of the scientific publication
- Diffusion of the whole documentary series
- Diffusion of the manifesto

## MAY

- Creation of the kit of transmission for the public decision-makers

## JUNE

- Seminar for european public decision-makers (Paris)
- 3rd transnational meeting (Paris)

## FEBRUARY

### LISBON (February)

*Period to be confirmed with the partner*

- Action n°5 (creative residency + performance + seminar)
- 2nd transnational meeting

## JULY

### RENNES, Festival Les Tombées de la Nuit

- Action n°6 (creative residency + performance + seminar)

## SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER

- Finalization of the scientific publication
- Finalization of the documentary series
- Finalization of the manifesto

## JANUARY

- Launching the final version of the website

## FEBRUARY

### ISTANBUL

*The week of february 24<sup>th</sup>*

- Action n°2 (creative residency + performance + seminar)

## JULY

### BARCELONA

*Period to be confirmed with the partner*

- Action n°3 (creative residency + performance + seminar)

## OCTOBER

### MILAN

*Period to be confirmed with the partner*

- Action n°4 (creative residency + performance + seminar)

## SEPTEMBER

- Launching the first version of the website
- Creation and diffusion of the kit of referentials
- Creation of the kit for communication
- Creation of guides for operational partners, stage managers and researchers

### BRUSSELS, URBAN ACADEMY (CIFAS)

- 1st transnational meeting, 26th and 27th of september
- Action n°1 (cf p.16-17) in frame of the Urban Academy organised by the CIFAS : \* Creative residency (22nd to 26th of september) \* Performance (27th of september) \* Seminar (28th of september)

## NOVEMBER

- Workshop for the students in visual arts, University Rennes 2

# TEAM

## GENERAL COORDINATION

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L'âge de  
la tortue

ARTS VISUELS  
ARTS VIVANTS



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