

# Workshop for cultural mobility developers

## Tunis, Tunisia

9-12 MAY 2023

### List and biographies of the selected participants



Faraj Alsileeni



Mehdi Azdem



Mouna Belgrini



Houari Bouchenak



Toufik Douib



Marwa Helmy



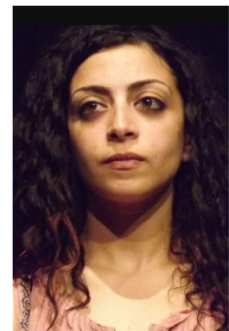
Paolo Lolicata



Margerita Pulè



Emily Sarsam



Kholoud Yaseen

**Faraj Alsileeni (Libya)**

Faraj Alsileeni, based in Benghazi, Libya, a fellow researcher in a research program with Network for Arab Alternative Screen NAAS. He is the director of Tanarout, an organisation dedicated to arts and culture and the co-founder of Hessa 6 (6<sup>th</sup> period), a platform for artists to create and reflect by producing original art works with a focus on Libyan identity. Faraj has been working for the last 2 years as resource centre officer at ACTED, an international non-governmental organisation, the centre aims to provide a space for civil society organisations to work and build networks. Passionate about art and culture, he supports civic engagement to address issues or causes that are relevant in society by contributing to a community of youth artists and cultural managers, raising awareness of these issues and trying to tackle them.

**Mehdi Azdem (Morocco)**

Mehdi Azdem is a research teacher and consultant on communication and cultural engineering. He obtained his PhD in humanities and arts, specialising in "Cultural Communication" at the Hassan II University of Casablanca in 2021. Between 2011 and 2019, he worked with numerous arts organisations in Morocco such as; Racines Association as general manager and at the Ali Zaoua Foundation as director of the cultural Center of «Les Etoiles de Sidi Moumen» in Casablanca. He also collaborated with Casamemoire - Transparency International as a project manager. Since 2021, he has started teaching in Moroccan art schools and conducting studies as an independent researcher for numerous local, regional & international organisations.

His research and consultations involve qualitative and quantitative studies on the following topics: cultural policies, cultural and creative industries, cultural entrepreneurship, freedom of expression and artistic creation, smart cities, public space, mediation and cultural management, migration, artistic mobility and cultural mapping.

**Mouna Belgrini (Morocco)**

Mouna Belgrini, born in Agadir in 1979, spent her first 18 years in a small town before throwing herself into the big bath of the metropolises: 6 years in Paris and then 18 years in Casablanca. It is in the chaos of the big cities that she finds her harmony. Becoming a multidisciplinary practitioner early on, she regularly wears the hats of copywriter in advertising, print journalist, radio host, podcaster, freelance writer for books, magazines and websites, voice actress for dubbing in French, English and Arabic, teacher, digital communication manager for several national and international festivals and more. As many hats as experiences and environments with only one common theme: the passion for art, culture, transmission and sharing.

**Houari Bouchenak (Algeria)**

Houari Bouchenak places the human being and his environment, through memory and mobility, at the heart of his work, research and creation. Member and co-founder of Collectif 220 (<http://www.collective220.net>), he has collaborated as curator and mentor in several photographic projects and artists' residencies in Algeria, France, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia. After obtaining a diploma in industrial chemistry at the University of Tlemcen (Algeria), he continued his studies in engineering of cultural and intercultural projects and in research/creation in fine arts at the University of Bordeaux-Montaigne (France). He currently collaborates with different associations as a cultural manager and curator (Jiser, ACDC, La Grande Maison).

**Toufik Douib (Algeria)**

Toufik Douib is an independent curator and event director. His multidisciplinary practice focuses on the question of Algerian-Maghrebi identities through eclectic contemporary lenses, bridging with Diaspora artists and across the eastern and western creative scene.

After completing a Masters in cultural events management, in 2015 he curated his first exhibition 'Algerianism'. This followed three distinct collaborations with the P21 Gallery in London, which included the critically acclaimed visual group show 'Pop Art from North Africa', that was also presented in Spain (2019-2020).

He was also commissioned on two occasions by Shubbak Festival, UK's largest festival dedicated to MENA culture: through 'Belonging Sideways' – a multimedia exhibition on the theme of territory and identity and 'Soundclash' gender-binding experience of politically charged sound and visuals from the Maghreb.

Other cultural ventures include the artistic research project "Generation Independence" for Portsmouth University and coordination of 'DIGI-MENA' online mapping research platform. Toufik is a recent AFAC (Arab Fund for Arts and Culture) grantee in the category Trainings and Regional Events.

**Marwa Helmy (Egypt)**

Cultural Manager and researcher in cultural policy and cultural management, Marwa Helmy has more than 15 years of experience in the cultural field in the Arab region. She is currently a Unesco expert for the 2005 convention for Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions' Expert Facility. She is a member of the "Cultural Management and Cultural Policy Development" committee of the Supreme Council of Culture, Ministry of Culture (Egypt). She was the manager of the British Council program "Towards a Creative Economy Framework from 2018 to 2020". Marwa is a PHD candidate in the field of cultural policies (Senghor University-Agence de la Francophonie/Hassan II University-Morocco). She is a holder of a Master's degree in the management of Culture and Media from Senghor University. She has a diploma in the traditional arts from Jameel House for Traditional Arts -Cairo /Prince Charles Foundation School of Traditional Arts). Marwa was the Deputy Director and the regional programs manager in Culture Resource (Al Mawred Al Thaqafy) from 2009 until May 2017. She was the manager of the cultural policy program in the Arab region from 2009 until 2017, in the same organisation. She was a member of the Egyptian Cultural Policy National Group from 2011 to 2014. Marwa graduated from the Faculty of Arts, French literature department. Marwa also received a diploma in journalism from the Center of Training of Journalists in Paris, France (CFPJ) in 2007. Marwa is also a freelance consultant in cultural management and cultural policy and a member of Culture Resource (Al Mawred Al Thaqafy) Artistic Board and General Assembly.

**Paolo Lolicata (Sicily)**

Paolo is a Sicilian, naturalised Australian, artist and curator working with an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural philosophy aiming to unfold identity related preconceptions.

He studied Performing Arts and a BA in DAMS at Link Campus University in Rome. In 2010 he relocated to Australia driven by the desire to explore other directions in his creative path through acting, curatorship, fashion design and graphic design.

In Melbourne he founded *LOLICU*, a project exploring the convergence between artisan work and artistic practice to explore social concerns such as migration, reuse and masculinity through a single symbolic fashion accessory: bowties. The project was accepted by the Incubator of Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane and distributed in stores worldwide.

He also created *FU - The Fusion People Project* creating cross-cultural projects exploring the communication between different communities in Australia with a strong focus on food.

In collaboration with the Italian Institute of Culture in Osaka he developed *Sicilia Fusion Japan*, a year-long program of cultural exchange involving artists, chefs, students and professors in both Sicily and Japan.

He returned to Europe for a Master in Curatorship in Turin and to study graphic design in Berlin. He collaborates as independent curator at Paratissima in Turin where he won Best Curatorial project in 2019 with *Human Touch*. In 2020 he curated *ISOLATION*, a residency and exhibition project in Sicily, hosted by Complesso Monumentale del Castello in Milazzo and Museo del Sale e del Mare in Salina Island's lighthouse. The same year with the *Rebirthing* exhibition at Paratissima'20 during Turin Art Week, he invited 70 artists to deal with post-lockdown trauma and to empower future visions in a collective dialogue.

In 2022 he took part in the Duplex AIR program in Lisbon, exploring curatorship as an artistic practice. In the same year, he curated *in between we swim* by Nathalie Mei during Lisbon Art Weekend. Paolo is currently developing *Universal Harmonization*, a nomadic project at the intersection between rituals, communities and art making focusing on the healing potential of art. The project was recently hosted at Moagem - Cidade do Engenho e das Artes in Fundão, Portugal and it aims to reach several remote communities around Europe.

**Margerita Pulè (Malta)**

Margerita Pulè is a curator, researcher and cultural manager, with a multidisciplinary, collaborative and symbiotic curatorial practice. She is founder-director of Unfinished Art Space, an independent and nomadic space showing contemporary art in Malta, which was created out of the need for a supportive and risk-taking spaces for artists. She is also a founding-member of the Magna Zmien Foundation, which digitises 20th century analogue home archives, forming a community archive accessible to researchers and artists. She was responsible for programming much of the community programme of Valletta's title of European Capital of Culture 2018, and has also worked with Spazju Kreattiv, Malta's centre for creativity. Current projects include the Creative Europe project Figure it out (lead by Drugo More, Croatia), the multi-site exhibition Māter, and the research project Farfara 2031.

**Emily Sarsam (Tunisia)**

Emily Sarsam is an interdisciplinary artist and cultural programmer, whose work revolves around the mediums of independent publishing, food, sound, poetry, as well as embodied and relational pedagogic methods. She co-founded and runs two independent publications, *Journal de la Medina* and *Broudou Magazine*. She currently works as a researcher and consultant on the commons in Tunisia with Heinrich Böll Foundation. She is a practising artist mentor and leading on a mentoring and feedback program at Mouhit Space, an experimental artist residency in Tunis. Having spent three years managing the cultural program of Goethe-Institut Tunis, she has built skills and expertise in project management, artist coaching, and curatorial work, especially with a focus on the Mediterranean and SWANA region.

**Kholoud Yaseen (Egypt)**

Kholoud Yaseen has been working in the performing arts since 2004 as an independent artist. She worked in theatrical and cinematic acting and contemporary dance with some independent theatre groups in Egypt and North Africa, and was trained by trainers from Egypt, Europe and the Arab world.

She has also worked with Al-Madina Arts Foundation since 2010 until now as a performer, then as an assistant trainer, and finally as a trainer. She led training courses with many international institutions, including Racine in Morocco, Action for Hope in Lebanon, Jordan, Ramallah Municipality (during the Ramallah Summer Festival).

In 2019, she founded the (Hababak) initiative to support refugees in Alexandria through the arts. The initiative contributed to training several groups on music, theatre, documentaries and crafting musical instruments. She has been directing artistic work since 2012 and participated in about 38 street theatre performances in Egypt and the Arab world. She also participated in many workshops and international residencies in Marseille, Poland, Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia and Jordan. Finally, Kholoud is a Member of the African Social Theatre Forum.