

A brown stuffed animal, possibly a bear or dog, is shown from the chest up. It is holding a thick, braided brown rope with its front paws. The animal has a striped pattern on its chest and arms.

ATELIER MONDIAL

ANNUAL REPORT

2018



ATELIERMONDIAL

ATELIER MONDIAL IN 2018:

A YEAR OF RECORDS

Atelier Mondial is an international grant program that offers multi-month residencies in eleven current partner countries to artists in various disciplines (visual arts, literature, fashion & textiles, dance) from the cantons of Basel and Solothurn as well as the South Baden and Alsace region. In turn, Atelier Mondial receives around fifteen guest artists from the partner countries each year at its nine studios (seven in the Dreispitz area, one in Freiburg im Breisgau and one in Mulhouse). Atelier Mondial's goal is to provide artists with time to work, to facilitate encounters among the various cultures and artists and to stimulate the artists' careers through making connections in the international art world.

"Anyone who sees with their own eyes", notes the Solothurn artist Dimitra Charamandas on her journey through Greece in view of the refugee camps, "will understand that the picture from a distance is a reduced one". That is not surprising, because our overburdened memories, according to the artist, are grateful "for the simplicity of things". To see with one's own eyes what one initially only saw in the grinder of a constantly milling machine; to make (your own) pictures of scenes that appear on the spot differently than in the evening news or in the Dumont art guide: this is what the international exchange programme "Atelier Mondial" wants to make possible for artists from various disciplines with its ten partner institutions worldwide. At the same time, it also endeavours to familiarise artists from Armenia, Egypt, China, Japan, North, Central and South America, Russia and South Africa with our latitudes, with the local culture and the local art scene..

The 2018 programme was particularly successful in this respect, thanks in particular to two initiatives: Alys Williams, the director of the VITRINE Gallery based in London and Basel, launched the Studio Visits project in which she visits guest artists currently present in her studios at Freilagerplatz/Dreispitz every three months for technical discussions and, at a subsequent dinner, networks with invited representatives of the local art scene. At the same time, some active residents of the open-air campsite have also begun to involve the guest artists in Basel's everyday life by inviting them for raclette or to carnival. It was by no means monotonous at Areal, as the "Atelier Mondial" guest studios were extremely busy in 2018: 31 guest artists each spent a month or more in one of the seven studios on the Dreispitz (and one each in Freiburg and Mulhouse). Of these, ten were artists in the regular exchange programme. The others – mostly through agreements with various partner institutions – had booked a stay in Basel..

These partners include Pro Helvetia, the Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst (HGK), the Davidoff Art Initiative, the Haus für elektronische Künste (HeK), Art Source Fremantle and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec. Finally, the in-house exhibition space "Salon Mondial" didn't experience much in the way of empty moments: with a total of nine shows by local artists and guest artists in the salon, "Atelier Mondial" has hosted more homemade events this year than ever before. One last high in the record year 2018: with 202 applications from artists from the region, applications for the international residency stipends – announced in May each year – increased by 9% in comparison with the previous year. These exchanges have momentum, and the demand shows that it is perhaps this peak time for visual communication that makes artists feel a greater need to experience places, scenes and landscapes in their (sometimes demanding) abundance..

Geschichtliches

Atelier Mondial is an international exchange program offering visual artists from the Basel, Solothurn, South Baden and Alsace region the opportunity to spend a number of months working abroad in the program's partner countries. In 1986 the founding of the program by the Christoph Merian Foundation was celebrated – then under the name of iaab – with the opening of a new building housing studios in the St. Alban-Tal quarter in the heart of Basel. Over the years the exchange program has continually grown and changed in terms of contents, management and funding. In November 2014 the change was made visible by a new name (Atelier Mondial), new logo and the new studio building designed by the architects Rüdüsühli-Ibach. Atelier Mondial is supported by the Christoph Merian Foundation (Project management), the Cantons of Basel-Stadt, Basel-Landschaft and Solothurn, as well as the city of Freiburg i.Br., Germany and the Region of Alsace, France.

Mission

In general the *raison d'être* of international exchange programs is to provide artists with the opportunity to take time out to completely concentrate on their own artistic work and establish contacts within art business sectors and art scenes beyond familiar contexts. In 1986 when Atelier Mondial was one of the first national exchange programs being established, the idea of exchange – paradigmatic for this period of the youth movement and emergence of a new sense of political self-determination – was still subsumed under the search for new locations and free, unencumbered spaces, which the partner institutions mutually provided as contribution to the artistic biography. Since then project priorities are always shifting, whereby today the main emphasis increasingly concerns dealing with mobility and the seemingly unlimited possibilities of the Global Village. Therefore in these times of Easy Jet, globalized conditions of production and cultural 'quick transfers' a significant secondary objective of Atelier Mondial also entails offering an island of de-acceleration that allows enough time for real encounters between different cultures or also merely between characteristics of individual works and artists: the intercultural dialog, which is also anchored in new regulations for supporting culture in Basel-Stadt, is part of the program of Atelier Mondial, a goal which may be manifested in a variety of ways. In achieving this aim Atelier Mondial also maintains specific contacts to countries whose understanding of art is not shaped by Western culture.

Oslo Night
© Daniel Spehr



Alexandre Kyungu
©Alexandre Kyungu

2018 PROGRAM

In 2018, Atelier Mondial awarded stipends for visual art, literature and dance, as well as for fashion and textiles.

Studio program

In 2018, 14 selected artists, two writers, a dancer and a textile artist all from the Basel /South Baden / Alsace region and the Canton of Solothurn were awarded multi-month residencies in the following locations: **Berlin/Buenos Aires/Genoa/Oaxaca/Paris/New York/Cape Town/Tokyo/Yerevan**
In exchange, Atelier Mondial received six guest artists, a guest curator, a textile artist and a writer in its seven studios in and around Basel (and its one studio in Freiburg).

Curatorial Stipend

In collaboration with the cultural foundation Pro Helvetia and the exhibition space Klingental, the highly active curator Ivan Isaev from Moscow was resident in Basel for six months, putting together two exhibitions (in the Salon Mondial and in the exhibition space Klingental) and a whole host of smaller projects.

Literature grant

The writers Felix Schiller and Anaïs Meier each spent three months in Paris. In return, the Georgian writer Lasha Bugadze came to Basel for three months, where he commenced with his new novel.

Travel grant

Mathieu Boisadan and Cécile Hummel each received an unrestricted stipend, not linked to any one location; while Boisadan pursued the traces of (post-)Soviet propaganda art in Russia, Cécile Hummel took to the Silk Road, which she travelled in individual stages between Venice and China for three to four years. The focus and start in 2018 was Persia, after a short transit through Turkey and Armenia.

Dance grant

The Basel dancer Johanna Heusser spent three months in Imphal in the Indian state of Manipur, coming into contact with Kathak, traditional Manipur dance forms and contemporary South-Asian dance with the Indian dancer Surjit Nongmeikapam.

Fashion & Textiles grant

The second-ever stipend awarded by Atelier Mondial went to Basel-based textile designer Wassilissa Bock, who was thus able to spend six months in Oaxaca, Mexico.

The 2018 residencies were awarded in August 2017. For the opening of the exchange programmes for dance, literature and fashion & textiles, the four committees were as follows for 2017:

Fine Arts

Norbert Eggenschwiler, fine artist, lives in Balsthal, Solothurn
Nathalie Unternährer, Head of the Cultural Department at the Christoph Merian Foundation Basel
Barbara van der Meulen, Programme lead for culture in the Dornach monastery
Katrin Grögel, Culture Project Commissioner, Canton of Basel-City Department of Culture

Literature

Britta Baumann, Freiburg cultural office
Dominika Hens, Culture Project Commissioner, Canton of Basel-City Department of Culture
Christoph Meneghetti, Project Manager for culture in the Christoph Merian Foundation

Dance

Christoph Gaiser, Culture Project Commissioner, Canton of Basel-City Department of Culture
Susan Hengartner, dancer and choreographer, co-founder of the PAK collective
Margarita Kennedy, dancer and choreographer, co-founder of the Buffo Makmal dance collective

Fashion and textiles

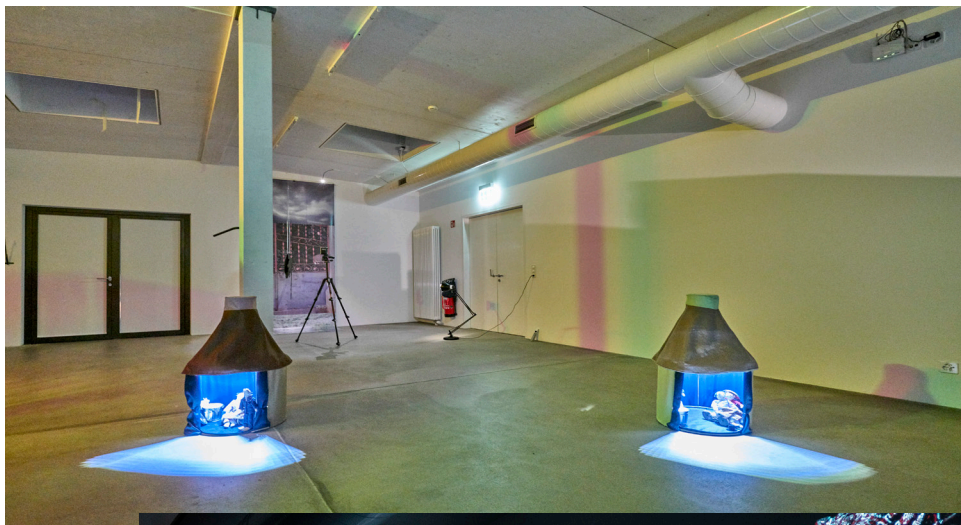
Sabine Lauber, owner of the It's Lauber label and freelance fashion-design lecturer at the HGK
Nathalia Moutinho, designer and lecturer in the field of design at HEAR in Strasbourg
Fabia Zindel, textile designer and founder of the MATRIX label

Alexandra Stäheli, project manager at Atelier Mondial, is present in all juries in an advisory role

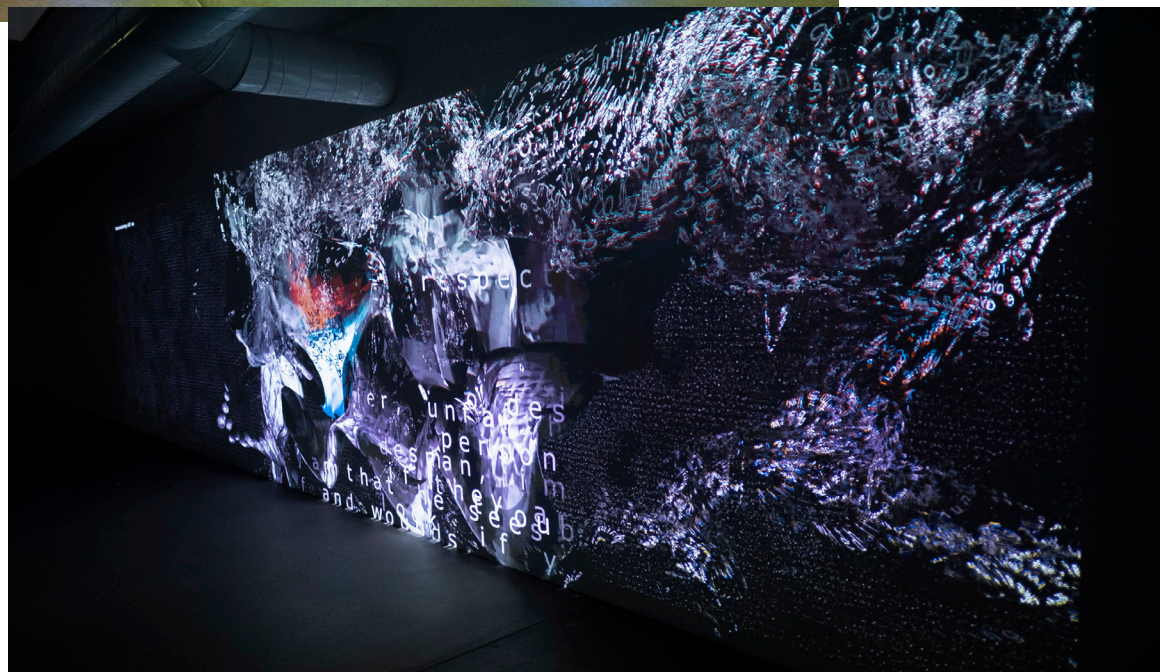
Those eligible to participate are artists who can demonstrate that they reside or work in the region of Basel, Southern Baden, Alsace or the canton of Solothurn, irrespective of their age or nationality.

More details about the application process can be found at:

www.ateliermondial.com / info@ateliermondial.com



Oslo Night
© Daniel Spehr



Imperfect Simulations
© Anaa Titovets

EXHIBITIONS, RECEPTIONS, EVENTS 2018

EVENTS WITH LOCAL ARTISTS

In 2018, Atelier Mondial supported two regional artists in setting up exhibitions in the in-house Salon Mondial.

2 Exhibitions: 09-17 June and 26 October – 11 November 2018 at the Salon Mondial

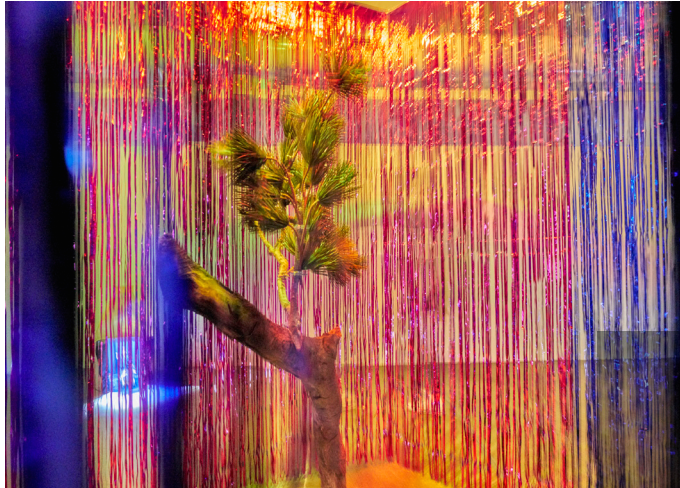
Repetitive Movements: Sascha Brosamer, Lisa Schlenker and Graham Durham moving across the Dreispitz, between mobile phones, gramophone records and a DJ podium.

With: Sascha Brosamer (Freiburg), Lisa Schlenker (Freiburg) and Graham Dunning



At the Edge: When are the natural limits of your own power reached? The artist Dimitra Charamandas asked herself this question on her journey through Greece. During this walk, her focus was on nature and (human) intervention in nature, which placed at the centre of her exhibition An der Kante (At the Edge) in the Salon Mondial. Supported among others by the Greek artist collective A-1 Publishers, Charamandas explored the city of Athens as an artistic hub and intersection of the perceptions of landscape.

With: Dimitra Charamandas (Solothurn)



EVENTS WITH INTERNATIONAL GUEST ARTISTS

1 Open Studio: 5 and 6 May, Workshops

Atelier Mondial also opened the doors of its studios and exhibition space as part of the two-day Open House - Architektur für alle (Architecture for All) event, which took place for the first time in Basel and for which over 60 buildings in the city of Basel were open to the public. Under the title The International Session, guest artists from Canada, Egypt, Mexico, Congo, USA, Japan and Vienna presented their latest works.

With: Guillaume Brisson-Darveau (Montreal), Yasmine El-Meleegy (Cairo), Alma Hernández Bennetts (Oaxaca), Alexandre Kyungu (South Africa), Jennifer Rosenblit (New York), Asae Soya (Tokyo) and Theresa Schütz (Berlin).

1 Be My Guest: 16 March at Druckwerk

The traditional welcoming aperitif with which Atelier Mondial welcomes its new guests from all over the world at changing locations in the city took place this time at Druckwerk in Warteck PP. The artists had the opportunity to give a presentation of their works.

With: Guillaume Brisson-Darveau (Montreal), Marianne Fahmy (Cairo), Alma Hernández Bennetts (Oaxaca), Artur Hakobyan (Yerevan), Jennifer Rosenblit (New York), Theresa Schütz (Berlin)

1 Traces from Atelier Mondial – Licht Formen/Standing In, 29 March to 3 May 2018 at the Dock Archive, Art and Discourse Space

In Licht Formen (Light Forms), two different artistic positions met: the Basel artist Sara Gassmann, who worked alongside Atelier Mondial in New York in 2017, and the performance artist Jen Rosenblit from Brooklyn, who lived in Basel for half a year. Through monochrome interventions with colour foils, Sara Gassmann created a distinct spatial atmosphere at Dock, with Jen Rosenblit then performatively exploring this with Standing In.

With: Sara Gassmann (Basel) and Jen Rosenblit (New York). Curated by Yota Tsotra (Basel).

4 Solo Shows: Broken Rainbow: 21 – 30 June/Gargoyles and Grotesques: 19 – 26 August/Imperfect Simulations: 13 – 15 September/Connecting South: 14 – 16 December, Salon Mondial

Broken Rainbow: The artist Asae Soya from Tokyo is interested in the interplay of light, colour and physical perception in her paintings, installations and films. At the centre of her work are the human organs of perception and their entire modes of functioning. Soya's scenes often arise from her own synaesthetic perception, via which she hears sound in colours. In her solo show Broken Rainbow, Asae Soya showed works in oil, a series of drawings and pastels, a film installation and her latest silhouettes inspired by the light and lighting in Basel. Broken Rainbow has created a space full of light and colour that has floods and awakens all our senses.

With: Asae Soya (Tokyo)



Open Studio
© Atelier Mondial

Gargoyles and Grotesques: In *Gargoyles and Grotesques*, the Mexican textile artist Alma Hernández Bennetts and the classical guitarist Francisco Méndez were inspired by the waterspouts, the grotesque creatures of the cathedrals in Basel and Strasbourg. With felt sculptures and sounds reminiscent of the Gothic figures of the cathedrals, the show offered a sensuous experience. The unique felt figures were both enchanting and unsettling.

With: Alma Hernández Bennetts (Oaxaca) und Francisco Méndez (Basel)

Imperfect Simulations: Within evolutionary biology, Threat Simulation Theory (TST), holds that dream consciousness is a simulation of our perceptual world, serving to accustom us to threatening situations. What, however, are the threatening situations we encounter in the digital age, in an environment of ubiquitous TV news and social media? When it comes to decoding our dreams, are computers more useful than our old dream books? In her short pop-up solo show, the Russian artist Anna Titovets (Intektra) interrogates via video sculpture and interactive installations the cultural, philosophical and scientific context of sleeping/dreaming in the digital age, interweaving her show with the theme of conscious and unconscious perception of time.

With: Anna Titovets Intektra (Moskau)

Connecting South: In 2010, Giscard Bouchotte, guest curator from Haiti, launched *Connecting South* alongside artists and friends. The aim of the project is to strengthen networks between the countries of the southern hemisphere. The project is based on the idea that contemporary artistic expressions are universal and can connect people with one another. For the exhibition at the Salon Mondial, Giscard Bouchotte opened his archives, focusing on showing video works by two artists he has worked with many times: Maksaens Denis (Haiti Kingdom of this World) and Michelange Quay (The Ancestor). For the compilation *Conspicuous Invisibility*, twelve artists made short works exploring unspoken facts which, while they may have long since been (forcibly) forgotten, currently determine contemporary life in Haiti.

With: Maksaens Denis (Port-au-Prince) und Michelange Quay (Port-au-Prince). Kuratiert von Giscard Bouchotte (Port-au-Prince)

Oslo Night: Transenvironmental Exercises: 20 – 23 September, Salon Mondial

With *Transenvironmental Exercises*, the Russian guest curator Ivan Isaev has composed a group exhibition dealing with the changes in our environment and society; with melting glaciers and dangerous Facebook pages. *Transenvironmental Exercises* was the sixth collaboration between Atelier Mondial and HGK Basel's Institut Kunst during the Oslo Night Festival on the Dreispitzareal.

With: Ana Andra (Institut Kunst), Caspar Fairhall (Fremantle), Rina Franz (Fremantle), Anka Helfertova (Basel), Katrin Niedermeier (Institut Kunst), Mia Sanchez (Institut Kunst), Andreas Schneider (Basel), Anna Titovets (Moscow). Curated by Ivan Isaev (Moscow)

1 Group Project: Salon of Idleness: 24 November to 10 December, Salon Mondial

In collaboration with the Klingental exhibition space in Exile/RANK, guest curator Ivan Isaev organized the blind_spot Platform project, an institutional experiment that tested the model of a short-term, non-located institution. blind_spot avoided being tied to a classic venue. Instead, the project took on the vulnerable position of a floating, homeless community, scattering the ideas and values of an institution. This community moved through the city in different forms. Its first station was at the Off-Space Salon Mondial in the form of a Salon of Idleness, where everyone was invited to visit haphazardly and unintentionally and pass their time with dates and green tea.

Curated by Ivan Isaev (Moscow).

Imperfect Simulations
© Ana Titovets



ARTISTS

IN RESIDENCE

2018

Outgoing

Berlin	Franziska Baumgartner/ Barbara Nägelin
Buenos Aires	Andrea Saemann
Genoa	Anna Schütten
Hangzhou	Stefanie Gerhardt
Yerewan	Lea Fröhlicher
New York	Clare Kenny
Paris	Gina Folly / Florian Thate
Tokyo	Anuk Jovovic
Reisestipendium	Mathieu Boisadan / Cécile Hummel
Fashion & Textile Grant (Oaxaca)	Wassilissa Bock
Grant for dancers (South Africa)	Johanna Heusser
Writer-in-Residence (Paris)	Anaïs Meier/ Felix Schiller

Incoming

Buenos Aires	Emilia Alvarez
Hangzhou	Fan Li
Yerewan	Arthur Hakobyan
New York	Jennifer Rosenbilt
Tokyo	Asae Soya
Cape Town / Johannesburg	Alexandre Kyungu / Wallen Mapondera

Fashion & Textile Grant	Alma Hernandez Bennetts, Oaxaca
Curator in Residence	Ivan Isaev, Moscow
Gastautor	Lasha Bugadze, Georgia

Special Guest Artists

In collaboration with HGK & Davidoff Art Initiative	Giscard Bouchotte, Haiti
In collaboration with Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec	Guillaume Brisson-Darveau, Montréal
In collaboration with Pro Helvetia Südafrika	Dana Whabira, Cape Town
In collaboration with Pro Helvetia Moskau	Anna Titovets, Moskau
In collaboration with Pro Helvetia Cairo	Marianne Fahmy/Yasmine El-Meleegy
In collaboration with Art Source Fremantle	Caspar Fairhall
In collaboration with HGK & Akademie der Künste Berlin	Theresa Schütz/Elena Zieser

BALANCE 2018

EXPENCES

Personnel Costs	154'000
Studio Rents	80'000
Operating Costs	54'000

Artists

Outgoings	197'000
Incomings	50'000

Project Costs	60'000
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Events, Public Relations	23'000
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TOTAL	618'000
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CONTRIBUTIONS

Christoph Merian Foundation	140'000
Studios rents (Merian Foundation)	80'000
Canton Basel-Landschaft	40'000
Canton Basel-Stadt	99'000
Canton Solothurn	30'000
Freiburg i. Br.	25'000
Mulhouse	23'000
Mieterträge	35'000

Private Donations

Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia(Incomings)	20'000
Foundation Agapanthus	50'000
Zaeslin-Bustany-Scholarship: Exchange New York	46'000
Art EDU Foundation(Buenos Aires)	8'000
Foundation for Kunst und Handwerk (Exchange Mexiko)	22'000

TOTAL	618'000
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(In Swiss Fancs)

We cordially thank our private sponsors for their generous support.

PATRONS 2018

Christoph Merian Foundation
Canton Basel-Stadt
Canton Basel-Landschaft
Canton Solothurn
City of Freiburg i.Br.
City of Mulhouse

And with friendly support from:

Pro Helvetia
Zaeslin-Bustany Scholarship
Foundation Agapanthus
Art EDU Foundation
Foundation for Kunst und Handwerk

TEAM 2018



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DIE STUDIOS

Since 2014 Atelier Mondial's studio facilities have been located in the newly constructed building complex at Freilager-Platz in the Dreispitz area, an emerging art zone just behind the Swiss railway station. In addition to the House of Electronic Arts Basel (HeK) with its new exhibition space on the ground floor, the new building houses the studio and exhibition facilities of the Atelier Mondial International Arts Exchange Program. The entire complex is directly opposite the recently completed highrise of the Academy of Art and Design (HGK) and situated in close proximity to various galleries, a project by the architects Herzog & de Meuron and to so-called 'offspaces', independent, non-commercial exhibition spaces. At this exciting location we have seven fully equipped live-in studios with kitchen and bath – five larger studios (85m²) and two smaller "studionettes" (45m²) – available for our guest artists from around the world. These studios are grouped together around a new experimentation, exhibition and project space: The 135m² Salon Mondial is right next to the communal kitchen Cuisine Mondiale (82m²), which can also be used for exhibitions – but mainly is intended to remain open as a place of intercultural and interdisciplinary encounter for persons working in the immediate vicinity, regional artists and international guest artists. In addition each of our project trustees in Freiburg im Breisgau and in Mulhouse offers one studio to accommodate our guest artists.



ARTIST STATEMENTS

Mathieu Boisadan, Travel Stipend to Russia

“My Russian experiences were extremely rich and intense. I feel a sadness that this moment, which was able to realise my dreams, is now suspended. My self-immersion in Russian works, Russia’s architecture and its difficulties, still remains with me today. A residency is always too short to allow you to work on your practice, your painting. There is never enough time. In any case, that was not the issue. I wanted to nourish myself as much as possible on this territory, abandon myself in it, and I succeeded. Saint-Petersbourg, Irkoutsk, Lac Baïkal, Vladivostok... in Russia, I was seeking to abandon contemplation. A slow and deep perambulation towards understanding this country, which fascinates me in its adversities. I answered many of my questions and benefited from every moment. Having done several residencies abroad, the one I undertook in Russia with “Ateliers Mondial” was the most nourishing. I return with a deep desire to relive these moments and travel further on the paths taken”.



Russland
© Mathieu Boisadan

Felix Schiller, Paris

The international flair (of the Cité Internationale des Arts de Paris) led in each case to a deepening of my core interest in the global; and once again, the stories and anecdotes heard from the various countries of origin can be said to have contributed to my political education: there was, for example, a new friendship with a journalist from Bahrain who is currently working in Paris on a book about her torture during the Arab Spring. I improved both my English, through my conversations with the other stipend holders, and my French, through the wonderful and really affordable courses at the Cité. (...) I am very grateful for the opportunity to spend these intensive months in Paris, and I recommend all my contacts in the EUCOR region to apply for this stipend.

Andrea Saemann, Buenos Aires

This second visit to Buenos Aires under the aegis of URRRA (2010/2018) was for me like a delicious meal. The renewed connection to existing contacts and the direct approach to performers and getting to know them – with my own context-related performance work *Baila en 9 pasos* and with the two events *Piernas sin Piernas* and *Doce en Diciembre* – strengthened me enormously as an artist and organiser. These simultaneous actions enabled me to establish networks and to understand those I was working with.