



ATELIER MONDIAL

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



ATELIERMONDIAL

ATELIER MONDIAL IN 2019:

A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN DIRECTION

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 & performing arts) 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.

«At the end of the year I am still inspired and emboldened by my stay in Paris,» enthuses the Freiburg author Bille Haag, reporting on her literature residency in the Cité Internationale des Art de Paris. «The experience of being alone without feeling lonely, was and is wonderful for me and will really help me while I am working on my project. First and foremost, experiencing the juxtaposition of brutality, hopelessness and the astounding beauty and vibrancy of the city have really put me on the right track. Why does one of my protagonists leave the big city? Now I know. As does he, who loved living in this city.»

A residency abroad lasting several months can result in the characters of a novel suddenly becoming conscious of their own actions and motivations. And their creators likewise, as with the change in context, both on a personal and artistic level, they undergo a sometimes unexpectedly deep process – as shown by the numerous statements given by artists returning from abroad in 2019 (see also the last page of this years report).

Even the Atelier Mondial residency programme itself, metaphorically speaking, is constantly undergoing a change of location. In 2019, while the course for the future has not been completely overhauled, there has nonetheless been a significant adjustment. Consequently, the long-standing cluster of destinations abroad will experience small shifts in future, meaning that the programme's project partners are considering new forms of grants and would also like to experiment with new locations. In addition, networking events such as the Studio Visits, which Alys Williams, director of the London and Basel-based VITRINE Gallery, organised with real enthusiasm for our guest artists from around the world, bring new life to the white walls of spaces used by the Atelier Mondial. And new project partnerships such as with the art space Walls & Hedges, operated by Isabel Balzer, with which Atelier Mondial is hosting two new shows each year, facilitate experimentation with (qualitatively speaking also) new exhibition formats with artists from the region and abroad.

For the small Atelier Mondial team, if nothing else the year 2019 represented an important turning point on a personal level: in May 2019 after 21 years involvement with the programme they bade farewell to Ruth Walther, Artists' and Atelier Coach, giving her a lively send-off into well-earned retirement. Her successor, Kenneth Steiner, assumed his new position in September and is now supporting guest artists from all over the world with their exploration of their new surroundings.

History

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.

Atelier Mondial is supported by the CMS, the cantons Basel-Stadt, Basel-Landschaft and Solothurn, as well as the city of Freiburg and the Alsace region. Five grants have been made possible by the Agapanthus-Stiftung (Agapanthus Foundation).

Atelier Mondial thanks its project partners, namely Pro Helvetia, for their productive cooperation and the private sponsors for their generous support.

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.



Tanya Akhmetgalieva
© Daniel Spehr



Daniel Villela
©Daniel Spehr

2019 PROGRAMME

In 2019, Atelier Mondial awarded scholars for visual art, literature and dance, as well as for fashion and textiles.

Studio programme

In 2019, 13 artists, two writers, a dancer and a textile artist all from the Basel/South Baden/Alsace regions and the Canton of Solothurn were awarded residencies lasting several months in the following locations: **Berlin / Buenos Aires / Oaxaca / Paris / New York / Cape Town & Johannesburg / Tokyo / Yerevan** In exchange, Atelier Mondial welcomed eight guest artists, a textile artist and a writer into its regular programme across its seven studios in and around Basel (and its one studio in Freiburg).

Literature grant

The writers Bille Haag and Michelle Steinbeck each spent three months in Paris. In exchange, the Iraqi-French writer Inaam Kachachi came to Basel for three months, where she finished her new book.

Travel grant

Grants not tied to a particular location were awarded to Rosanna Monteleone and Eva Borner. While Monteleone pursued the traces of her family in Mexico, which were concentrated in a house which is now up for sale, in Greece Eva Borner experienced three entirely distinct forms of artistry in Athens, Samos and Thessaloniki.

Dance grant

The Basel-based dancer Samuel Deniz Falcón returned to the Canary Islands, the place of his childhood and early youth, where he studied the dancing traditions of the Islands, with a fresh perspective from the outside, in search of a choreographic approach combining folklore and authenticity.

Fashion & Textiles grant

The Basel textile designer Stefanie Salzmänn explored various ways of working with wool. In Oaxaca, Mexico, where she spent six months, she was able to familiarise herself with new techniques for working with wool and textiles in numerous workshops with partners of Atelier Mondial.

The 2019 residencies were awarded in August 2018. Four committees chose recipients for the grants in the four areas of fine arts, dance, literature, and fashion & textiles:

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
Renate Wagner, Curator for the Kunsthalle Basel

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
Tabea Martin, dancer and choreographer, Basel

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



Lost in Control
© Andreas Schneider



Oslo Night
© Daniel Spehr

EXHIBITIONS, RECEPTIONS, EVENTS 2019

EVENTS WITH LOCAL ARTISTS

In 2019, Atelier Mondial supported a regional artist in setting up an exhibition in the in-house Salon Mondial.

1 Exhibition: 17 May – 30 June 2019, Salon Mondial

Lost in Control: The Basel artist Andreas Schneider, who spent six months in Paris with Atelier Mondial, hosted a reflection on the modern architecture of Eileen Gray and Le Corbusier. The event focused on artistic freedom and the loss of control, tying into the fact that both the artists relinquished control over their work.

With: Andreas Schneider (Basel), Estelle Bertholet (Lausanne) and an intervention from Nici Jost (Zurich), curated by Irène Unholz (Fribourg), organised by Simone Würsten (Basel).



Lost in Control © Andreas Schneider

2 Open Studio: 18 – 19 May and 22 – 23 November 2019 in the studio

With: Aya Imamura (Tokyo), Taro Izumi (Nara), Inaam Kachachi (Baghdad/Paris) Pascaline Knight (Montréal), Georgia Munnik (South Africa), Shayok Mukhopadhyay (New York) and Daniel Villela (Oaxaca).

With: Theo Koning (Fremantle), Daniel Basso (Buenos Aires), Yiran Zhao (Berlin), Tomoko Hashimoto (Chiba).



Oslo Night
© Daniel Spehr



Open Studio / Theo Koning
© Atelier Mondial

2 Be My Guest : 12 April and 29 August 2019

The traditional reception with which Atelier Mondial welcomes its new guests from all over the world, each time at a different location in the city, took place this time in Galerie Hebel 121 and in the Cartoon Museum. The artists were able to introduce their work in a presentation.

With: Aya Imamura (Tokyo), Taro Izumi (Nara), Inaam Kachachi (Baghdad/Paris) Pascaline Knight (Montréal), Georgia Munnik (South Africa), Shayok Mukhopadhyay (New York) and Daniel Villela (Oaxaca).

With: Tanya Akhmetgalieva (St. Petersburg), Zhuyun Jiang (Hangzhou), Mushaandja Nashilongweshipwe (Windhoek), Daniel Villela (Oaxaca) – and with Viktoria Lomasko (Moscow) and her current exhibition in the Cartoon Museum: Other Russias.

Traces from Atelier Mondial – Calcutta Corner: 27 March – 5 May 2019, Dock archive, art and discourse space

Currently living in New York, the Calcutta born Shayok Mukhopadhyay covered the windows and walls of the Dock archive, art and discourse space with photographic film depicting scenes from his native Calcutta. The pharmacy on Kandererstrasse was also reflected in the work, as was the tram which passes by it along Klybeckstrasse, as Calcutta is home to the last tramway in India.

With: Shayok Mukhopadhyay (New York). Organised by Ken Steiner (Basel). Speed speech by Martina Siegwolf (Basel).

3 Solo Shows: Shungu Madanha: 25 – 27 January / Swiss Honeymoan: 27 – 30 March The Contemplation of the Observation: 22 – 26 August 2019, Salon Mondial

Shungu Madanha: The pieces from the South African-Zimbabwean artist Wallen Mapondera are a mixture of tapestry and sculpture and are an expressive witness to the artists foray into the unknown: for this work, Mapondera used a packaging box for groceries, which he bought in Basel, without knowing what the contents were and how they would taste. In this way, the box became a sort of travel diary documenting foreign tastes, which often evoked the longing for native flavours (this desire is also embodied in the title of the piece «Shungu Madanha», rendered in the Shona language).

With: Wallen Mapondera (Johannesburg).

Swiss Honeymoan: During his time in the Atelier Mondial, Mohsin Shafi searched for romance in his project «Swiss Honeymoan», in which he delves into his youthful memories of the naive and cliché impressions of love, which he cherished and experienced through Bollywood as a child in the 1980s. Shafis work encompasses questions of sexual identity, the transgression and glorification of masculinity and the articulation of the territorial struggle of sexual modality within religious and spiritual subcultures.

With: Mohsin Shafi (Pakistan).



Wallen Mapondera
© Atelier Mondial

The Contemplation of the Observation: “Everything is designed using patterns. Patterns generate a synthesis between everything and nothing. Patterns create a reality. What we see and what surrounds us; the everlasting – everything is a pattern. Patterns are an abstraction. Abstraction is the primary function of the human spirit.»

With: Daniel Villela (Oaxaca).

1 Performance: Dance of the Rubber Tree: 6 September 2019, Salon Mondial

Ondaanisa yo Pomudhime (odalate naiteke opo kegonga kuye oshigongoti)

The Namibian guest artist Mushaandja demonstrates an intimate and immersive queer dance, the inspiration for which he draws from a rubber tree, but performs in a concrete space, the Salon Mondial. He plays a sonic repertoire of songs from southern Africa, drawing on tranquillity, noise, love and struggle, to oppose the systemic exclusion of knowledge on the fringes of society and in the cracks within nationalist-colonial archives. Omudhime (rubber trees) are used indigenously for cleaning and for remembering the border crossing.

With: Mushaandja Nashilongweshipwe (Windhoek).

1 Oslo Night: The Only Thing That Survived is an Accumulation of Things, 19 – 29 September 2019, Salon Mondial

For the seventh time, Masters students at the Academy of Art and Design (HGK) and guest artists from Atelier Mondial organised a group exhibition, curated this time by Kaspar Ludwig. «We address the significance of collecting materials, objects or experiences. Does collecting have an important meaning for human behaviour? How quickly can this activity lose meaning and simply become a compulsive habit?»

With: Tanya Akhmetgalieva (Moscow), Zhuyun Jiang (Hangzhou), Manuel Justo (HGK) and Lisa Maria Lurati (HGK). Curated by Kaspar Ludwig (Basel).

Tanya Akhmetgalieva
© Daniel Spehr



ARTISTS

IN RESIDENCE

2019

Outgoing

Berlin	Sara & Natascha / Rafaella Chiara
Buenos Aires	Lorenz Diaz
Hangzhou	Ambra Viviani
Yerewan	Brice Ammar-Khodja
Cape Town / Johannesburg	Stefan Karrer
New York	Emanuel Rossetti
Paris	Deirdre O'Leary / Chen Fei
Tokyo	Susanna Hertrich
Travelgrant	Rosanna Monteleone / Eva Borner
Fashion & Textile Grant (Oaxaca)	Stefanie Salzmänn
Grant for dancers (South Africa)	Samuel Deniz Falcon
Writer-in-Residence (Paris)	Bille Haag / Michelle Steinbeck

Incoming

Buenos Aires	Daniel Basso
Hangzhou	Jiang Zhuyun
Yerewan	Azat Petrosyan
New York	Shayok Mukhopadhyay
Tokyo	Aya Imamura
Cape Town / Johannesburg	Georgia Munnik/ Wallen Mapondera

Fashion & Textile Grant	Daniel Villela, Oaxaca
Writer in Residence	Inaam Kachachi, Paris/Bagdad

Special Guest Artists

In collaboration with Tinguely Museum Basel	Taro Izumi, Japan
In collaboration with Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec	Pascaline Knight , Montréal
In collaboration with Pro Helvetia Shanghai	Xan Xing, Shanghai
In collaboration with Pro Helvetia Moskau	Tatyana Akhmetgalieva, Russia
In collaboration with Pro Helvetia New Dehli	Mohsin Shafi, Lahore
In collaboration with Center for African Studies	Mushaandja Nashilongweshipwe
In collaboration with HGK & Akademie der Künste Berlin	Harsha Menon/Yiran Zhao
In collaboration with Festival Culturescapes	Diana Lelonek, Poland
In collaboration with with Cartoonmuseum Basel	Victoria Lomasko, Moskau

BALANCE 2019

EXPENCES

Personnel Costs	135'000
Studio Rents	76'000
Operating Costs	50'000

Artists

Outgoings	185'000
Incomings	42'000

Project Costs	58'000
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Events, Public Relations	22'000
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TOTAL	568'000
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CONTRIBUTIONS

Christoph Merian Foundation	150'000
Studios rents (Merian Foundation)	76'000
Canton Basel-Landschaft	40'000
Canton Basel-Stadt	99'000
Canton Solothurn	30'000
Freiburg i. Br.	25'000
Mulhouse	22'000
Mieterträge	35'000

Private Donations

Foundation Agapanthus	40'000
Zaeslin-Bustany-Scholarship: Exchange New York	46'000
Art EDU Foundation(Buenos Aires)	5'000

TOTAL	568'000
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(In Swiss Fancs)

We cordially thank our private sponsors for their generous support.

PATRONS 2019

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

TEAM 2019



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THE 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 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

Samuel Deniz Falcon, Travelgrant

As introduction to this report on my artistic residency on the Canary Islands I'd like to start answering the question why did I choose this destination? Nostalgia... pursuing my career as professional dancer forced me to leave behind not only my family and the place I was born, but also all the elements that until that moment had been part of my identity and the traditions I grew up with. Eighteen years have passed since I left the island, and although sometimes I went back for special family events, I always had the feeling that I was missing something. At this point of my life I felt the need to rediscover and reconnect with my roots. To find new inspiration for my life and work by experiencing, as a spectator this time, the traditions and the folklore of the islands where I come from. (...) To conclude this memory: I have got a great benefit from this experience by talking with the local people of this island, get inspired by the volcanic earth and sea, and not only by seeing it but also by experiencing this elements with my body and all my senses, the unique landscape and the colours of the earth.



© Stefanie Salzmann

Stefanie Salzmann, Textilgrant Oaxaca

In Oaxaca, art is very participatory and so I also developed a workshop towards the end of my residency to share my knowledge. The 3-day workshop on easily accessible natural colors and upcycling at CASA aroused interest among the participants, who were a colorful mixture of weavers, designers, young people, artists and people interested in handicrafts. It was a great experience and has given me the impetus to involve others in the creative process. Looking back I can say that my project «cloud-sofunknowing» has developed strongly during these 6 months and I am very grateful for the residency.

Deirdre O'Leary, Ateliergrant Paris

The last months have been intense and formative. Rich in encounters and in impulses, both for the development of my work and for my personal development. During the stay in Paris my being fanned out anew. Groundbreaking encounters and conversations repeatedly reminded me to re-create the present. I made friendships that nourished me and invited me to locate myself anew in the present and in the future. I gained insights into the past of artistic creation, which invited me to anchor my work even more deeply in cultural history and society. Above all, however, the fellowship gave me the space and time to delve deeper into the relationship between physicality and form. I am very grateful for this.