



ATELIER MONDIAL

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



ATELIERMONDIAL

THE CORONA YEAR 2020, OR: HOW DO WE STAY TOGETHER?

Our plans for 2020 were very promising: several new collaborations and two large group exhibitions featuring international artists at Basel's Walls and Hedges gallery. Then Atelier Mondial, like countless other cultural institutions, was blindsided by the pandemic in March: The artists living in the residential studios at Dreispitz and Fribourg – Martin Désilets from Canada, Andile Buka from South Africa, Gabino A. Castelan from New York and Sona Andriasyan from Yerevan – all had to leave the region in haste. All subsequent artist residencies in Basel had to be postponed indefinitely. The artists who were travelling with Atelier Mondial in New York (Matthias Liechti), Tokyo (Samuli Blatter), Oaxaca (Mafalda Trueb) and Buenos Aires (Martina Baldinger) were also forced to return to Switzerland. Subsequent stays abroad had to be cut short or could not take place at all. It was only the fellows in Berlin (Florine Leoni and Jannik Giger) and Paris (Katinka Theis, Ariane Koch) that were able to complete their residencies under the given local circumstances.

At first, Atelier Mondial's studios stood empty during the lockdown. Later on, they were temporarily rented out to local artists or regional projects, such as the Verein der Flaneure for the «Arcadia» project, the «Explorers Film Club» or the theater collective Recycled Illusions for the «Free Zone Dreispitz» project.

Many of the exhibitions held at Salon Mondial and those that had been booked were not able to take place during the year under review. A new project, however, initiated spontaneously by Atelier Mondial, did manage to create some momentum: shortly after the borders in TriRegio were closed, the Atelier Mondial team introduced nine artists from Alsace, Freiburg and the Basel region to one another. They used Zoom and social media to jointly reflect on how art can emerge in times of internal and external restrictions and what it can achieve. The lively exchange resulted in an inspired collaboration that incorporated and transformed all limitations - and asked society at large: «How do we stay together? How do we embrace the constraints of personal and global crisis?»

The nine artists of «Atelier Régional - 9 artists, 3 countries, 1 pandemic» provided initial insights into their respective artistic processes at the Oslo Night at Dreispitz in September 2020. On November 28, they presented the brilliant opening performance «Some Body*ies» at Salon Mondial as part of the exhibition Regionale. Atelier Mondial accompanied the collaboration between Elise Alloin, Axel Gouala and Anna Byskov from Alsace; with Apo Yasa, Hannah Kindler and Max Siebenhaar/Delphi Space from Freiburg as well as with Eva Borner, Stella Meris and Nika Timashkova from the Basel region throughout the year; the project has continued to evolve and part of the group will continue to work together beyond «Atelier Régional» and explore new forms of artistic collaboration. As such, the «Atelier Régional» project has been a unifying, creative and seminal project during this special period of constraints.

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 Rüdisühli-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 CMS, the cantons of Basel-Stadt and Basel-Landschaft, Solothurn as well as the city of Freiburg and the Alsace region. Five scholarships were made possible by the Agapanthus Foundation. Atelier Mondial would like to express its gratitude to the project partners, namely Pro Helvetia, for the good cooperation and to the private sponsors for their most 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.

Printing Project «Edition Basel» was our guest at Salon Mondial
© Edition Basel



«Meet & Eat», Friday Lunch at Cuisine Mondiale - shortly before the Pandemic arrived in Basel
© Atelier Mondial

PROGRAMME 2020

Atelier Mondial's jury has awarded a total of 15 scholarships for the year 2020 in the fields of visual arts, literature, dance, and fashion and textiles. However, like all other cultural institutions, the residency program was taken by surprise by the pandemic in March 2020; artists from the region were unable to travel abroad or suddenly had to return home from a partner destination. Consequently, the year proved to be volatile and unpredictable, in terms of both artist residencies and in-house events. In spite of everything, there were some brief moments of relief, when we were able to stage some smaller events; and after a few weeks of shock and disorientation, artists from the Schengen area were once again able to spend shorter periods of time at Atelier Mondial.

Atelier programme

11 selected artists, two writers, one performer and one textile artist from the Basel/South Baden/Alsace region and the canton of Solothurn had the opportunity to spend several months in the following destinations in 2020:

Berlin / Buenos Aires / Oaxaca / Paris / New York / Cape Town & Johannesburg / Tokyo / Yerevan.

In return, Atelier Mondial welcomed eight visiting artists, one textile artist and one writer to its seven studios in the Basel region (and one studio in Freiburg).

Literature grant

The two writers Ariane Koch and Matthias Wittmann each spent three months in Paris, whereas the second scholarship could not be taken up in April. In exchange, the Syrian-French writer Rana Zeid spent three months in Basel, where she worked on her new long poem.

Travel grant

A non-local free scholarship was awarded to Souad El-Maysour. The artistic duo Sibylle Hauert and Daniel Reichmuth received a travel scholarship to China.

Performing Arts Research grant

Performing Arts Research Scholarship Sound designer and performer Tobias Koch was awarded a three-month research scholarship to travel to Japan to study the Japanese concept of negative space, or «MA»; the trip had to be postponed, however, due to the pandemic.

Fashion & Textiles grant

Basel textile designer Mafalda Trueb wanted to pursue a project on the representation of animals in Mexican indigenous tradition during a six-month residency in Oaxaca; the residency could not take place as planned.

The awarding of the 2020 work residencies took place in August 2019. Four panels selected fellows* in four areas: visual 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
- Monika Kästli, art historian, member of the art commission of the Canton Basel-Land
- Simon Koenig, Culture Project Commissioner, Canton of Basel-Stadt Department of Culture

Literature

- Britta Baumann, Freiburg cultural office
- Marion Regenscheit, Culture Project Commissioner, Canton of Basel-Stadt 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
- Katharina Germon, dramatic advisor Theatre Roxy Basel
- Tabea Martin, dancer and choreographer, Basel

Fashion and textiles

- Sabine Lauber, owner of the label etmoietmoi and freelance lecturer in fashion design at the HGKN
- Anne Giffon-Selle, director Le 19 CRAC, Montbéliard
- Isabel Bürgin, textile designer

Alexandra Stäheli, Project Manager Atelier Mondial is present in all committees in an advisory capacity.

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

Li Tingwei
© Julian Salinas



Andile Buka
© Julian Salinas



Ilya Federov-Fedotov
© Julian Salinas

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS 2020

EVENTS WITH REGIONAL ARTISTS

Atelier Mondial assisted a regional artist in hosting an exhibition at the in-house Salon Mondial in 2020.

3 exhibitions: **Daily Exorcism**, 17.-20/9/2020 / **Atelier Régional at Oslo Night**, 26/9/20 / **Atelier Régional et le monde après at Regionale21**, 28/11/20 - 3/1/21 at Salon Mondial

Many art events could not take place in Basel in 2020 due to the pandemic, including ART Basel. A group of art institutions therefore spontaneously conceived the four-day group event «Kunsttage Basel» [Art Days] in September 2020. During the Kunsttage Basel, artist Samuli Blatter, who had spent three months in Tokyo with Atelier Mondial earlier in 2020, gave some insight into his daily work in Japan at Salon Mondial. «Daily Exorcism» thus continued the artist's search for the nature of drawing - between daily exorcism and recurring practice - in the heart of the Japanese capital.

With: Samuli Blatter



Anna Byskov, Performance «Some Body*ies» at the opening of Regionale 21
© Katrin Schulthess

Nine artists from Basel, Freiburg i. Br. and Mulhouse gathered at the Atelier Régional to share artistic works reflecting on their experiences during the pandemic. They jointly explored their relationship to boundaries and (im)mobility as well as the (im)possibility of artistic exchange anew, and examined how the border closures in the tri-border region changed their perspectives. The result of this unusual cooperation was exhibited at the Oslo Night in Salon Mondial.

With: Stella Meris, Nika Timashkova, Hannah Kindler, Delphi Space, Apo Yasa, Elise Alloin, Anna Byskov, Eva Borner

When our everyday objects tend to look back at us in an increasingly strange and surreal manner the longer

we look at them; when the broom in the corner bends and the rubber plant suddenly sprouts branches made of yellow cleaning gloves - this may very well be a trick of the mind in lockdown... Shortly after the lockdown and the closing of the borders in March 2020, Atelier Mondial invited nine artists from Alsace (Elise Alloin, Axel Gouala, Anna Byskov), from Freiburg (Apo Yasa, Hannah Kindler, Max Siebenhaar/Delphi Space) and from the Basel region (Stella Meris, Eva Borner, Nika Timashkova) all of whom had not known each other before. They shared their thoughts about their artistic work on Zoom and social media, and reflected on the question of how art can happen and what it can accomplish in times of such restrictions. What emerged was a dynamic process of exchange that incorporated and transformed all the limitations from the outside – while also asking society as a whole: «How do we stay together, how do we embrace the constraints of personal and global crisis?»

With: Elise Alloin, Eva Borner, Anna Byskov, Axel Gouala, Hannah Kindler, Stella Meris, Max Siebenhaar, Nika Timashkova, Apo Yasa Curation: Delphi Space and Atelier Mondial

Dance performance: El Sabinar, 23.02.2020 at Roxy

Dancer and choreographer Samuel Déniz Falcón was awarded a travel scholarship from Atelier Mondial in 2019, which took him back to the place of his childhood – the Canary Islands. Now assuming the role of observer and bodyworker, he researched the traditional dances of the islands -- the result was on display at the Roxy on Feb. 23 with the piece «El Sabinar,» in which Falcón searches for an embodiment of what he found between folklore and authenticity.

With: Samuel Déniz Falcón, Gabriela Gomez



Samuel Déniz Falcón: El Sabinar
© Samuel Déniz Falcón / Theater Roxy



Performance «Some Body*ies» at the opening of
Regionale 21
© Katrin Schulthess

EVENTS WITH

INTERNATIONAL GUEST ARTISTS

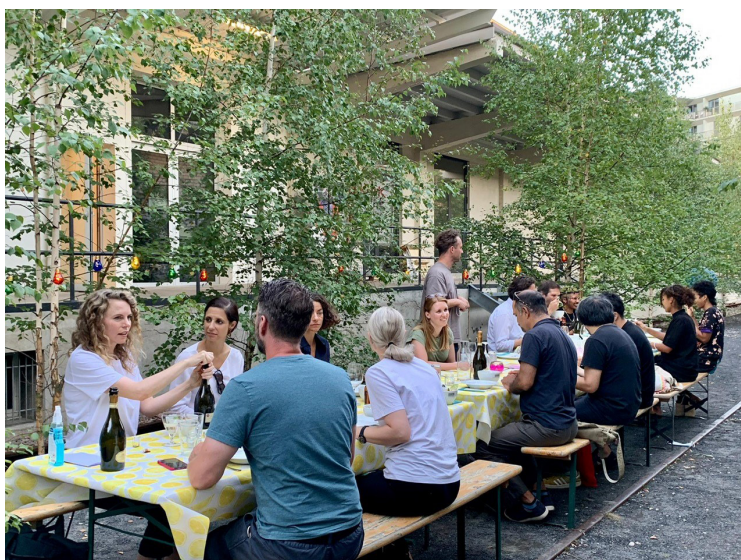
Workshop talk at the Literaturhaus (via Zoom).

Palestinian-Syrian author Rana Zeid (*1981) lived and worked as a writer in residence in Basel from October to December 2020. A Damascus native, Arabic linguist and literary scholar, she wrote for the international newspaper Al Hayat from 2009 to 2014, as well as for several Arabic newspapers and magazines. She has lived in France since 2014. She published her first book of poetry («Hesitant Angel») in 2012. Her second book, «The Psychosis of Girl X,» was published in Arabic and Danish in 2016 and explores traumatic experiences related to the Syrian revolution in 2011. Rana Zeid shared insights into her literary work in a workshop discussion with Joël László.

With: Rana Zeid, Joël László



Welcome Diner after the End of the first Lockdown
© Atelier Mondial



GUEST EVENTS

Audiowalk Free Zone Dreispitz and Explorer's Film Club

During the many months that our international exchange programme lay dormant (and was only tentatively resumed towards the end of 2020), Atelier Mondial hosted a number of local projects on its premises in 2020 – including the «Free Zone Dreispitz» project by the «Recycled Illusions» theatre group, led by director and actress Isabelle Stoffel. «Free Zone Dreispitz» was an audio-visual walk lasting about an hour that led from the HeK (House of Electronic Arts) across the Dreispitz area and took the visitors to entirely different, secret, undiscovered or mystifying spaces between art, industrial trade and everyday life. Equipped with headphones and a tablet, the visitors were sent on a tour and immersed in worlds of sound and stories telling of the past, present and future of the area.

With: direction, text & narration: Isabelle Stoffel; dramaturgy and play: Mona Petri; co-performers: Peter Adam, Verena Brigger, Markus Burkhalter, Franziska Diana, Maria Felix, Rebecca Geyer, Yvonne Jauslin, Valentina Merz, Lucia Pietrafesa, Harald Aesch, Luc Spühler

The Explorer's Film Club project, which just like the «Free Zone Dreispitz» is part of the «Discover Dreispitz» project sponsored by the Christoph Merian Foundation, was also invited to Atelier Mondial in 2020 along with three artists. The aim of the project, which is curated by Beni Wyss and Samuel Leuenberger, is to rediscover the Dreispitz area through the lens of a total of four artists and thus open up new perspectives for the city of Basel. The films made on site will be premiered at Dreispitz.

With: Puck Verkade, Deborah Joyce Holmann & Yara Dulac Gisler



Isabelle Stoffel und Mona Petri in «Freizone Dreispitz»
© Freizone Dreispitz

ARTISTS

IN RESIDENCE

2020

Outgoing

Berlin	Florine Leoni & Jannik Giger / Ruth Baettig
Buenos Aires	Leonardo Bürgi
Yerewan	Doris Lasch*
Cape Town / Johannesburg	Anderas Hagenbach
New York	Matthias Liechti
Paris	Katinka Theis / Axel Töpfer
Tokyo	Samuli Blatter
Travel Grant	Souad El Maysour*
Travel Grant China	Sibylle Hauert und Daniel Reichmuth*
Writer in Residence (Paris)	Ariane Koch / Matthias Wittmann*
Fashion & Textile Grant (Oaxaca)	Mafalda Trueb
Grant for dancers	Tobias Koch*

Incomings

Buenos Aires	Belén Romero Gunset & Jazmin Saidmann
Yerewan	Sona Andreasyan
New York	Gabino Abraham Castelan
Cape Town / Johannesburg	Andile Buka
Tokyo	Manami Hayasaki*
Fashion & Textile Grant	Alain Hernandez, Oaxaca*
Writer in Residence	Rana Zeid, Rouen / Damascus
Curator in Residence	Mariam Elnozahy, Cairo*

Special Guest Artists

In collaboration with Tinguely Museum Basel	Taro Izumi, Japan
In collaboration with Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec	Martin Désilets*, Montréal
In collaboration with Pro Helvetia Coincidencia	Cibelle Cavalli Bastos
In collaboration with Pro Helvetia Shanghai	Li Tingwei, Shanghai
In collaboration with Pro Helvetia Moscow	Ilya Fedotov-Fedorov, Moscow
In collaboration with HGK & Junge Akademie der Künste Berlin	Rim Mejdí & Cylixé
in collaboration with Explorer's Film Club	Puck Verkade, Yara Dulac Gisler & Deborah Joye Holman
Projekt «Freizone Dreispitz» von Isabelle Stoffel	
Projekt «Arkadien» vom Verein der Flaneure / Maja Bagat	
Tomoko Hashimoto, Tokyo / * These artists could not make their stay in 2020 or only in a shortened version.	

*These artists could not make their stay in 2020 or only in a shortened version.

BALANCE 2020

EXPENCES

Personnel Costs	145'700
Studio rents	69'000
Operating Costs	27'000

Artists

Outgoings	185'000
Incomings	21'200

Project Costs	30'100
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Events, Public Relations	24'000
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TOTAL	502'000
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CONTRIBUTIONS

Christoph Merian Foundation	150'000
Studios rents (Merian Foundation)	70'000
Canton Basel-Landschaft	40'000
Canton Basel-Stadt	99'000
Canton Solothurn	30'000
Freiburg i. Br.	25'000
Mulhouse	22'000
Rental income	16'000

Private Donations

FAPS Stiftung / FAPS Foundation	50'000
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TOTAL	502'000
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(In Swiss Francs)

We would like to thank our private patrons for their generous support.

PATRONS 2020

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

And with the friendly support from:

Pro Helvetia
Agapanthus Stiftung
FAPS Stiftung

TEAM 2020



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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 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 located 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 offer one studio to accommodate our guest artists.



© Christoph Kern



ARTIST STATEMENTS

Martina Baldinger, SKK-Atelier Buenos Aires

What then followed for us was more than two months of quarantine in the house. We could only go outside to go shopping, with a mask on and only to the nearest shop. The new situation brought us closer together. We started to cook together every evening and to put on small exhibitions or theatrical performances for one another. In addition to this, we began to draw, to sing, to play together; we talked a lot among ourselves and the conversations were really interesting. (...)

The uncertainty of the situation and the lack of interaction with the outside world has influenced my artistic work. My way of working has been less focused on the product or specific goals; instead, I have let myself drift a little more and followed my intuition. The group drawing sessions and the magic realism of the city have enriched my visual language, expanded it, changed it. It has become less transparent, less linear, more fantastical and colourful. The pictures no longer have a top or a bottom; a sort of chaos has revealed itself to me. Thinking about ways of producing and living during Covid has made it clear to me that I don't want to work alone in the studio back in Switzerland either. This gave rise to the idea of arranging regular drawing meet-ups, so I am currently in the process of organising this and networking with other artists.



© Samuli Blatter

Ruth Baettig, studio bursary, Berlin

In spite of Covid restrictions, we (Giuseppe Di Salvatore and I) found our residency from July 2020 to the end of December 2020 in Atelier Mondial on Wiesenstrasse in Berlin very enriching. The project mentioned in the application I, too, am in Berlin (Auch ich in Berlin) was successfully implemented. Alongside this arose many new works and project ideas, which were inspired by the large studio space. This included, among others, the intervention Eraser Goethe (Radierer Goethe), in which Tischbein's portrait of Goethe, painted on his Italian Journey, was etched into the dirt of the studio floor over several hours – a kind of art-in-architecture intervention. The piece was created using an eraser and the depiction of Goethe (souvenir), and a video and postcard set have also been produced. This eraser work can still be seen in the studio and will likely stay there until the entire floor is thoroughly cleaned.

Samuli Blatter, studio bursary, Tokyo

I ran, and ran, and ran. Throughout the duration of my residency, I ran some 700 km around the entire city. Mostly alone, occasionally with new friends. The moving, drawing, cooking and a nascent interest in studying the Japanese language kept me busy throughout March. Through my acquaintance with the Dutch artist couple Esther Brakenhoff and Maarten Schuurman, I got to know the Cave Ayumi Gallery. I decided one day, in a rather old-fashioned way, to drop by with the drawings I had created during my stay to promote my work. The owner of the gallery invited me to put together an exhibition over the coming year, and I gladly agreed. 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.