

Conference, panels, presentations, dialoguing & networking opportunities

The Artist as Citizen

Reimagining Europe's Future – Cultural Engagement for a Democratic Europe

Europäische Akademie Berlin (EAB)
in co-production with the European House for Culture (EHfC)

Supported by Felix Meritis Connecting Cultures (FMCC)

Berlin, Monday, 13 – Wednesday, 15 October 2025

From Budapest 1985 to today the dialogue continues.

When borders shift by force, voices of art must rise.

EHfC claims the role of artists as responsible citizens and active shapers of Europe, a forum of ideas to imagine Europe anew.



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
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SUNDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2025

	Arrival of the organisation team
12:00	Briefing team

MONDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2025

13:00 – 13:15	Welcome DR. CHRISTIAN JOHANN Director, European Academy Berlin
13:15 – 14:00	Introduction FOUR PARTNERS EAB The Artist as Citizen Reimagining Europe's future - Cultural Engagement for a Democratic Europe Presentation of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHfC PowerPoint • Manifest PowerPoint & Leaflet
14:00 – 15:45	Revitalising Cultural Engagement for a Democratic Europe The Artist as Citizen: Towards a cultural Pact for Europe Moderator: AKUDO KYOSHIA, McGEE Short Introduction: STEVE AUSTEN & JIRI SULZENKO (tbc) Revisiting the Budapest Cultural Forum 1985 as a tool for Political Change The geopolitical landscape has changed dramatically. Forty years after the 1985 Budapest Cultural Forum, which was pivotal in the Helsinki Process, the urgency to revisit its core discussions on human and cultural rights has returned. Then, artists and intellectuals created a space to challenge political constraints from the ground up - an approach that remains vital today. But tomorrow we must consider the legacy of the Helsinki Accords: The principles adopted in it are forgotten when war rages in Europe, against the principle that borders shall not be changed by force. We need a renewed, independent cultural forum - drawing inspiration from the 1985 Forum and the Gulliver initiative; to re-empower artists and thinkers in shaping Europe's future. Talk with ELIZA HOXHA, MIGUEL ÁNGEL MARTÍN RAMOS, MATTIJS MAUSSEN (tbc) HUGO DE GREEF, CAROLIN BEHR (tbc)
	Recommendations to follow
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	Panel Discussion: Borderless ANJA MEDVED, DR. KAJA ŠIROK (tbc), PAUL SPIES (tbc) Moderator: N.N.

18:00 – 19:30	Reception presided by Her Excellency DR. ANA POLAK PETRIČ, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia in Berlin
20:00 – 22:00	Film screening ANJA MEDVED & NADJA VELUSCEK– Forget me not (2025), 104 min.

TUESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2025

Until 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 – 11:00	<p>The (Re)definition of National Cultural Institutes: Changes in Cultural Diplomacy</p> <p>Moderator: HUGO DE GREEF</p> <p>Introduction: ANNELIES VAN RIJEN (tbc)</p> <p>In an increasingly polarized Europe, marked by ideological rifts, the resurgence of nationalism, and the erosion of democratic norms, the role of cultural institutions has become more urgent and more contested than ever. Cultural institutions - museums, biennials, cultural centers and foundations-play a dual role. On the one hand, they are spaces of participation, dialogue, and experimentation. On the other, they are embedded within funding structures and international policies that may reflect national interests.</p> <p>Talk with CORINA SUTEU, OLEKSANDR BUTSENKO, ANIKA REICHWALD, MARIO NEVE, WERONIKA CZYZEWSKA PONCYLJUSZ (tbc), ANNELIES VAN RIJEN (tbc), PAUL SPIES (tbc)</p> <p>Recommendations to consider</p>
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 13:15	<p>The Role of Artists and Presentation Agencies and Their Networks</p> <p>Moderator: FREEK VAN DUIJN</p> <p>Introduction Culture and the Artist must be acknowledged as essential pillars of the European project, standing alongside economic, political and social frameworks.</p> <p>Talk with ANJA MEDVED, MIGUEL ÁNGEL MARTÍN RAMOS, EMILY HERMES (tbc), ELIZA HOXHA, TATJANA REXROTH, LEONTIEN WIERING (tbc), VLADIMIR SHAMALOV (tbc)</p>

	Recommendations to follow Into the Open Tatjana https://youtu.be/zCIRO7zWflo?si=j592vwKXPRSUSDvH
13:15 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 14:30	The Artist as Citizen: Towards a Cultural Pact for Europe Moderator: CHRISTIAN JOHANN & LINDA BOUWS Report with AKUDO KYOSHIA McGEE, HUGO DE GREEF, FREEK VAN DUIJN, TATJANA REXROTH
14:30 – 15:30	Conclusions of the Meeting - Provisional Report
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	VISUALS: The Role of the Artist Artistic examples that reflect the role of the artist to foster active citizenship and civic dialogue
18:00	Dinner at EAB

WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2025

9:00 – 12:00	PART I Partners Meeting AGENDA AND ACTION PLAN PART II COOPERATIONS & APPLICATIONS : MARIO NEVE & OTHERS HORIZON by consortium with Mario Neve: The potential of intangible cultural heritage and advanced digital technologies to address energy challenges and strengthen societal resilience and active citizenship The proposal aims to transform prevailing paradigms in energy and resource management from a mindset of scarcity to a vision of abundance and intelligence. It draws on both advanced digital technologies and profound ancient wisdom: timeless, age-old principles in areas such as water management, agricultural systems or urbanism, embodied in intangible cultural heritage in historically overlooked regions. Strong focus is put on AI literacy and communication across cultures and generations.
14:00	Departure

MODERATION

DR. CHRISTIAN JOHANN
Director
European Academy Berlin

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THE EUROPEAN ACADEMY (EAB)

Understanding Europe. Shaping Europe. This maxim encapsulates the aim of the European Academy Berlin (EAB). Since 1963, the Academy as non-profit and non-party institution has been organizing seminars and conferences on European topics, bringing together visitors from Germany and abroad. The Academy is an acknowledged player in European civic education, a competent service provider as well as partner in the fields of international education, seminar and project management, and is a venue for learning, encounter and meeting with its own individual atmosphere.

DIRECTIONS



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