



SAFE HAVENS - FREEDOM TALKS

Safe Havens - Freedom Talk #19

Freedom Talk@Archives and Resistance

Following a series of conversations focusing on the situation of artistic freedom in various countries this year, **Safe Havens Freedom Talks** (SH|FT) presents a panel titled “How archives and archival interventions can challenge power?”. This event offers a discussion, including visual presentations of speaker artists between three creatives, and will be streamed on **Friday, 18 November** at **2.30 pm CET** on

<https://howlround.com/series/safe-havens-freedom-talks>

<https://sh-ft.org/freedom-talks/>

Moderated by an archivist and an arts curator **Yvette Ramirez** (USA/Bolivia), this Freedom Talk features artists and archivists **Lesia Pcholka** (Belarus) and **Lia Dostlieva** (Ukraine). While typically thought of at the national and institutional level, archives can also be personal, hyperlocal and ephemeral sites of memory created and experienced through our day-to-day existence. This event will engage in conversations of how archival interventions, by choice or necessity, can offer pathways for reflection, the preservation of local histories as well as a space for subversive resistance to the official record.

About Freedom Talks

The Freedom Talks series is focused on issues regarding threats towards artistic freedom, free press and intangible heritage. It is closely connected to the annual global Safe Havens conference. Guests in the Freedom Talks series are highly knowledgeable and prolific actors in the global Arts Rights Justice sector – fighting for artistic freedom. The Freedom Talks aim to share space and broaden the narrative of who can take centre stage by lending the brand to different organisations within the sector. The talks are presented in – or translated to – English. The talks can be watched through our [website](#) and our partner [Howlround](#), where also previous events are archived.

The Participants @Archives and Resistance



Lesia Pcholka is an artist, archivist and activist (<https://cargocollective.com/lesiapcholka>). Her work explores everyday life, memory and is research-based as well as para-disciplinary. She earned her degree in Social Psychology from the Minsk Innovation University and attended international educational programs, including ArtPlatform, The East-European School of Political Studies, Sputnik Photos and others. In 2017, she founded a VEHA archive (<http://veha.by>)

— a self-organized initiative that unites participants to study and preserve cultural heritage, archival photography and visual history of Belarus. From 2018 to 2020 Lesia was a member of the Belarusian Association of Photographers. In 2020-2021, Lesia taught an author's course at the European College for Liberal Arts in Belarus. Following the 2020 popular protests in Belarus, Lesia was prosecuted on political grounds and imprisoned, and, subsequently, was forced to flee from Belarus.



Lia Dostlieva is an artist, cultural anthropologist, and essayist. Primary areas of Lia's research include the issues of collective trauma, postmemory, commemorative practices, and agency and visibility of vulnerable groups. As an artist, Lia works across a wide range of media including photography, installations, textile sculptures, etc. since 2012.



Yvette Ramirez is an archivist, researcher and arts administrator based in Detroit, Michigan. She is inspired by the power of community-centered archives to further explore the complexities of information transmission and memory within diasporic Andean and Indigenous - Latinx communities. As an independent archivist, Yvette has collaborated with The Tishman Environment and Design Center at the New School,

Myriad, DanceATL, the Digital Preservation Unit at The University of Michigan Library and Greenthumb NYC. Currently, Yvette is a Ph.D. student at The University of Michigan's School of Information where she also received her Master's in Information Science. She is also a Publications Board member at the Society of American Archivists as well as co-founding member of the collective Archivistas en Español.

SH|FT

SAFE HAVENS – FREEDOM TALKS

**The event is organised by the independent international NGO Safe Havens Freedom Talks (SH|FT) through collaborations within the global Arts Rights Justice sector, and with Safemuse graciously supporting as its mentoring organisation in the start-up period. SH|FT is supported by The Swedish Arts Council under the Programme for Artistic Freedom, funded by Sida, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and The Freedom Talks are sponsored by the Swedish Institute. The exhibition and platform project is funded by the Swedish Postcode Foundation.*

SWEDISH
ARTSCOUNCIL

SI. Swedish
Institute



SAFE
MUSE