



SAFE HAVENS – FREEDOM TALKS



*Image: Naandeyé García Villegas*

**SAFE HAVENS CONFERENCE**  
**December 7-9, 2022**  
**Mexico City**

Safe Havens is the annual summit of the artistic freedoms sector, convened each December since 2013. It brings together artists, activists, lawyers, and policy-makers, for a creative international meeting at the intersection of the arts and human rights, fostering alliance-making, capacity-building, and developing innovative and artist-centered best-practice solutions to challenges faced by the sector. We seek to bridge the gap between the local and the global by providing a unique opportunity for artists and those who defend them to network and build collaborations across the entire world.

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, during the last two years the convening has been held online. In 2021, the Safe Havens Conferences sought to recenter discussions on the rights of artists in times of crisis as they faced the ongoing effects of the pandemic and creeping authoritarianism. This year, after two years of virtual convenings, the Safe Havens Conference is once again being held in-person for three days of artistic interventions, workshops, panel discussions, and network activations – grounded in Mexico City and focused on enhancing networks with and within Latin America. In order to ensure we are as globally inclusive as possible, some sessions will also be held digitally, opening up participation to those not able to travel to the physical meeting.

This year's summit finds inspiration in the polyphony of social movements and local actors moving forward debates on the environment, gender equality, minority rights, social and cultural rights, and restorative justice, seeking to chart the ways to **Resist, Reimagine, Restore**. At the heart of our engagements is a commitment to redress historic exclusions that make long-term change impossible, so that our conversations revolve around the voices of women, indigenous,



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racial and ethnic minorities, and the LGBTIQ+ community. Together we hope to facilitate spaces for grounding, reflection and innovation as we collectively imagine how to respond to the current challenges we have as a global community.

Mexico City is a unique place to challenge and inspire these conversations. It is the home of numerous community initiatives focused on memory and the fight for justice for disappeared people. Many of its cultural spaces are steeped in the history of colonization, while also bearing witness to the creative resistances of student, indigenous, and feminist movements. Our host country has a rich history of providing refuge for exiled writers – in stark contrast to the violent realities many artistic migrants face today. An audience-participative stage for social transformation through creativity, Mexico City today is a laboratory for art, literature, film, theatre, and journalism as means of cultural, social, and public policy change.

Our program has several key design components, each with its own objectives:

**Artistic Interventions:** Starting with a Keynote Performance instead of a speech, the conference will feature several artistic interventions with the aim of re-centering our focus on the artists themselves and the offerings art makes to the field of human rights.

**“Hive” Discussions:** Convened by key regional organizations in the arts rights justice field, the Hives are beehive-like audience-participative, solutions-oriented discussions on key thematic issues to foster cross-pollination between the arts and human rights sectors.

**Workshops:** Safe Havens is not only a showcase of the best the arts world has to offer, but a working conference at which we learn best practice in protecting artistic freedoms, so Workshops are designed to engage in a collaborative, collegiate manner, where experts can draw on audience experience to suggest the ideal ways to improve our lived environment.

**Panel Debates:** We draw on subject-matter expertise ranging from the overarching international level down to the granular, grassroots, and local to provide unique insights into the challenges facing - and innovative solutions produced by - our artistic freedoms sector.

**“Grounding” Field Visits:** A series of sessions held at local cultural venues in Mexico City that highlight important cultural and social processes and their relationship with current human rights struggles.

**Virtual Artist Circles:** In order to allow a wider Safe Havens embrace and ensure inclusion from around the world at more suitable regional times, we will be running two engagements led by and centred on selected artists and their groundbreaking work in the Middle East & North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa. To these will be added a set of Asia reports on the state of the arts in resisting censorship in Asia.



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**A note on language:** We will be translating all sessions for English and Spanish speakers. You will find the details about the types of translation available in each session below each session description. To be given a translation listening device, you will need to give an ID or business card which will be returned at the end of the day in exchange for the device.

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## PROGRAM

### **DAY 1 - Wednesday, December 7**

*Held at the Museum of Memory and Tolerance (MyT).*

#### **9:00-10:30: Check-in**

*MyT Lobby*

#### **10:30-11:00: Keynote Performance “Hyl i Hælen”**

*MyT Rooftop Terrace*

The production “Hyl i Hælen” (Scream in the Heel in English) is not just an encounter between Sámi and Mayan culture, the traditional and the urban. It is a quest for a common language without words, but based on memories, yearnings, traumas and prejudices, as well as strength and the spirit of struggle. “Hy i Hælen: is a stage performance and contemporary concert, full of dance and movement.

- *Performance by Carlos “Gato” Catun (Guatemala/Norway) and Sara Marielle Gaup Beaska (Sápmi/Norway) and Nicolai Lopez (Spain/Norway). This performance will be recorded.*

#### **11:15-11:30: Introduction to the Safe Havens Conference 2022 by conference hosts Alicia Quinones and Senija Vurzer**

*MyT Auditorium with Spanish- English simultaneous translation*

#### **11:30-13:00: Panel Debate - Mapping of artistic freedom of expression in Latin America and globally**

*MyT Auditorium with Spanish- English simultaneous translation. This panel will be recorded and livestreamed for virtual participants*

This panel debate opens the Safe Havens conference and seeks to give participants a sense of recent accomplishments in the field of artistic freedom of expression, positive initiatives and learnings, as well as tenacious obstacles and trends that must be faced. Speaking from a variety of experiences and regions of the world, panellists will reflect on the challenges and questions that will be explored in-depth during the rest of the program.

- *With moderation from Alicia Quinones (PEN International, Mexico) and participation from Frederic Vacheron (UNESCO, Mexico), Khalid Albaih (Sudan/Norway) and recorded reflections by Matjaz Gruden, Director of Democratic participation of the Council of Europe and Sverre Pedersen, Chair of Freemuse*



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**13:00-14:00: Break for lunch**

*MyT Rooftop Terrace*

**RESIST**

**14:00-14:30: Rap Performance - Resisting through lyrics**

*MyT Auditorium. This performance will be recorded.*

Freestyle rap performance composed of two rounds of improvisation. In the first round, each artist will improvise based on what the public suggests that “resist” means and represents. In the second round, the artist will improvise based on the themes of institutional violence, racism and persecution, women in rap, lyrics as a form of protest, and the criminalization of rap.

- *Curated by Centro para la Apertura y el Desarrollo de América Latina (CADAL) with performances by rap artists David D’Omni (Cuba), Justina (Iran), and Mare Advertencia Lirika (México).*

**14:30-16:00: Panel Debate - Art and social movements: Artistic freedom in the context of resistance**

*MYT Auditorium with Spanish-Portuguese--English simultaneous translation. This event will be recorded.*

The arts have been an important territory of political resistance in countries threatened by democratic crises and serious social problems. In different parts of the world, artists have used their freedom of expression to denounce authoritarianism, censorship and the dismantling of democratic institutions. However, beyond that, the arts have been an important tool of resistance as a language and as a field of articulation and mobilization. Artists have also lent their political capital and their works in favor of important causes, such as the environment, housing, racial and gender equality, education, health, prison system etc. It is fundamental to discuss the relationship between artists, militants and social movements nowadays and how freedom of artistic expression has been fuel for the most relevant social causes.

- *Curated by Artigo 19 Brasil with participation from Guilherme Varella (Brazil), Preta Ferreira (Brazil), Parvin Ardalan (Iran), and Carolina Ramirez (Colombia).*

**14:30-16:00: Hive - Memory as a tool for seeking justice**

*MyT Educational Center with Spanish-English simultaneous translation.*

The search for justice in countries like Mexico and Syria would seem a labor condemned to failure in front of a historical panorama in which impunity has become the rule, however, the persistence of victims’ families represent a break from what would seem a definite sentence. In this panel, activists, companions, family members of persons who have been murdered or disappeared, will discuss how memory has turned into a tool not only to conserve the memory of their family members, but also to search for justice.



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- *Curated by the Heinrich Boll Foundation with moderation from Elvia Gonzalez del Pliego (México) and the participation of Alfredo Casanova (México), Tania Ramirez Hernandez (México) and Sana Yazigi (Syria/France).*

**16:00-16:30: Coffee Break**

**16:30-18:00: Panel Debate - Artistic production in authoritarian and repressive contexts**

*MyT Auditorium with simultaneous English- Spanish translation.*

Authoritarian and repressive policies perpetrated by governments across the region profoundly affect freedom of expression and collective and individual creative practices. In this panel, artists and cultural professionals, who have experienced censorship, threats and harassment due to their work will discuss the nature of the repressive strategies by governments and highlight forms of resistances and resilience developed and practiced by the affected creative communities.

- *Led by Artists at Risk Connection (ARC) with moderation by Alessandro Zagato and participation from Vanesa Rivera (Guatemala), Carlos Anibal Alonso (Cuba), and Renacho Melgar (El Salvador)*

**16:30-18:00: Hive - Turning your audience into your advocate**

*MyT Education Center with simultaneous English-Spanish translation.*

One of the emerging challenges confronting artistic freedom is disinformation. State and non-state actors now sponsor and spread false information about works of art that challenge them. The intention is to mislead people to turn against the art or the artist involved. So, in this age of disinformation, artists and cultural activists can no longer defend artistic freedom alone without active involvement of their audiences. To win, you need to turn your audiences into your advocates. How are artists, cultural activists turning their audiences to advocates? This will be the focus of an interactive session where participants share experiences and best practices.

- *Led by Supriti Dhar (Women Chapter International, Bangladesh) and Paula Saucedo (Article 19, Mexico).*

**16:30-18:00: Optional time for reconnecting, networking and rest**

*MyT Rooftop Terrace*

**18:15-18:45: Closing musical performance by Brazilian singer Preta Ferreira**

*MyT Auditorium. This performance will be recorded.*

**19:00-21:00: Reception hosted by Norwegian Embassy in Mexico**

*MyT Rooftop Terrace*

*Opening remarks by Rafnhild Imerslung, Norwegian Ambassador to Mexico and Central America.*



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## **Day 2 - Thursday, December 8**

*Held at the Museum of Memory and Tolerance (MyT)*

### **9:30-10:00: Opening Artist Talk: Ani Plants Growing opening artistic presentation by sculptor Ani Svami (Ukraine)**

*MyT Auditorium with simultaneous English-Spanish translation. This presentation will be recorded and livestreamed for virtual participants.*

Artist talk by Ani Svami, an Ukrainian multidisciplinary artist and public space sculptor, that will show a way of conceptual development and essential meaning in her practice. Coming through a story of more than ten public sculptures, Ani will show her latest project erected in Prague after her evacuation from Prague as a result of the war.

- *Made possible with the support of the Artists at Risk Connection (ARC).*

## **REIMAGINE**

### **10:00-12:00: Panel and Workshop - Curation and archivism as forms of activism**

*MyT Auditorium with simultaneous English-Spanish translation. The panel portion of this session will be recorded and livestream for virtual participants.*

This session will explore what it means for archivism to be a form of activism, and about the ways in which traditional curatorship might be transformed so as to be a transformative tool. Speakers and participants will engage with a body of practice in which curators have dared to cede a measure of control in order to authentically co-create work, develop embodied methodologies, and work collaboratively. It includes visual, performative, and ephemeral work. As we consider gaps, absences and obliterations, we will think about what has been deemed significant enough to be retained in archives, and what has been excluded. Participants will be invited to actively participate in the workshop portion consisting of a dialogic process of strengthening scholarship and practices.

- *With moderation from Sofia Carillo (Mexico), Bonita Bennett (South Africa) and participation by Sana Yazigi (Syria/France), Kara Blackmore (United Kingdom) and Taniel Morales (Mexico) and the workshop facilitation of speakers, and Ali Aguilera Bustos (Mexico).*

### **10:00-12:00: Workshop - Journalists' safety lessons for other artists**

*MyT Education Center with simultaneous English-Spanish translation.*

Participative discussion on the lessons that can be drawn from the journalism sector for artists working in the field (researchers, journalists, documentary filmmakers, etc) or who are involved in live performances (thespians, dancers, spoken-word artists, etc), taking note of the different forms of assistance that exist and safety toolkits and other resources that are available.

- *Led by Paula Saucedo (Articulo 19, Mexico), Supriti Dhar (Women Chapter International, Bangladesh), Parvin Ardalan (Iran) and Alicia Quinones (Mexico).*

### **12:00-13:00: Lunch break**

*MyT Rooftop Terrace*

**RESTORE****13:00-13:30: Performance - Indigenous languages: Memory, poetry and music**

*MyT Auditorium. This performance will be recorded.*

Reading of poetry written in Zoque, Tzotzil, and Spanish accompanied by music composed and arranged by musicians from the Chiapanec culture, an extinct language but one that continues to manifest itself culturally in rituals and festive practices.

- *Curated by PEN Chiapas Plurinational with performances by the writers Angélica Altúzar Constantino and Enrique Pérez López and the musicians Cicerón Aguilar and Ernesto Aguilar.*

**13:30-15:00: Panel Debate - Linguistic politics and the routes of memory and history**

*MyT Auditorium with simultaneous English-Spanish translation. This panel will be recorded.*

Panel on the impact of the UN International Decade for Indigenous Languages for an effective implementation of government policies for the strengthening of Indigenous languages and their role to transmit history and memory. Discussion of their importance as generators of identity and belonging in a global world where communities that speak Indigenous languages seek to survive and flourish through strategies of literary creation.

- *With moderation from Angélica Altúzar Constantino and participation from Enrique Pérez López, Sara Marielle Gaup, and Maribel Bolom and recorded video from UN Special Rapporteur on cultural rights Ms. Alexandra Xanthaki.*

**13:30-15:00: Workshop - Wellbeing: A shift in perspective**

*MyT Education Centre with English-Spanish simultaneous interpretation.*

What does it mean to be well? And how does it feel? Can we be well in the most difficult circumstances? Or can we simply “be” as a starting point, without the expectation of “being well”? What happens then? In this session we will be talking about yourselves as the first safe haven. You will be invited to gently drop into your body, below the mind and into the present moment through simple exercises, breathing and movement. We will also be hearing three different stories and their experience of simply “being” in challenging situations.

- *Led by Dina Debbas with participation from Supriti Dhar and Alejandra Henríquez Cuervo (Fondo de Acción Urgente, Colombia)*

**15:00-15:30: Coffee break****15:30-17:00: Panel Debate - Protecting Indigenous Culture: Cultural Heritage, Art, and the Law**

*MyT Auditorium with simultaneous English-Spanish interpretation.*

This panel, organized by Artistic Freedom Initiative (AFI), will focus on several legal mechanisms to protect Indigenous Peoples' cultural heritage. Through case studies that focus on intellectual property and land rights, speakers will investigate different ways that Indigenous



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populations work to protect their tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Speakers will also investigate the obstacles that Indigenous groups face in protecting their cultural heritage through national and international law and speak about alternative strategies for heritage protection within Indigenous communities.

- *Led by the Artistic Freedom Initiative (AFI) with moderation from Sofia Monterroso (USA) participation from Dr. Julio Hoil Gutierrez (Mexico), an academic coordinator and professor at La Sede Tinum-Pisté de las Universidades para el Bienestar Benito Juárez García, and Dr. Trevor Reed (USA) Associate professor at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University (remote).*

## **15:30-17:00: In conversation - Artivism: Dialogue with Khalid Albaih Sudanese artist & political cartoonist**

*MyT Educational Center with English-Spanish simultaneous interpretation.*

*Khalid Albaih, an award winning artist and political cartoonist from Sudan will present a short video “Bahar - A video experience of Refugees at Sea” and some of his sartorial work, discuss his experiences as an artist at risk and reflect on the impact and provocations that his sartorial work signify. It will be followed by a conversation with Bonita Bennett, curator and researcher from South Africa.*

- *Conversation between Bonita Bennett (South Africa) and Khalid Albaih (Sudan)*

## **15:30-17:00: Optional time for reconnecting, networking and rest.**

*MyT Rooftop Terrace*

*Transportation will be waiting in front of the MyT to take us to Casa del Lago. Given that this is a very central location, the buses will be able to remain for a very short time, so we ask that everyone follow the guides to the transport as quickly as possible. The theater of Casa del Lago is outside so we recommend that you come with a jacket in case of cold temperatures.*

## **18:00-19:30: Theater performance “Antigonas: Tribunal of Women” by Corporación Colombiana de Teatro**

A collective creation by Tramaluna Theater integrated by professional actors and women who were victims during four events where human rights were violated in Colombia. On the stage, this group of women transform their pain and memory into poetry by singing, dancing and through projections, readings and personal objects of their family members. As in Antigone from Greek mythology, these characters are disobedient. Despite all the difficulties and challenges that surround them, they seek to provide a dignified burial to their disappeared family members, demand justice, and resist the neglect of the State and impunity of perpetrators.

- *Made possible by the support of Universidad Iberoamericana, Swedish Embassy in Mexico and Casa del Lago.*





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*There will be transportation from Casa del Lago to Sevilla metro stop for the local participants who wish to finish their participation in the program at this point and then to IBIS Hotel for all those joining the taquiza dinner.*

**20:30-22:30: Taquiza dinner**

*IBIS Hotel*

**Day 3 - Friday, December 9**

*Participants will be able to choose from four cultural spaces to visit for the morning program and will all meet for the final sessions and closing of the program in Casa Refugio Citlaltépetl.*

*We ask that everybody is ready to leave for the different venues by 9 am in the hotel lobby. Transportation will be waiting in front of the hotel.*

**10:00-12:30: Route of Memory - Guided walk of the Anti-Monuments**

*Walk takes place in Reforma Avenue and will be held entirely in Spanish. There is a limit to 18 people who can participate and we recommend that those joining wear comfortable shoes, a hat and bring water with them. Presenters ask that photos or videos are not taken of them.*

*A guided walk through the path of anti-monuments in Reforma Avenue led by the Heinrich Böll Foundation.*

**10:00-12:30: Workshop - Censorship, gender and creativity**

*Casa Refugio Citlaltépetl with Spanish and English consecutive translation*

*A creative workshop of a cross spectrum of participants in which we use embodied practice and creativity to: identify forms of coercion and control (including acts of physical violence against women); reflect on how they impact and contribute/compound/create forms of censorship which particularly impact marginalized groups; and discuss how these acts and resulting censorship impacts creative expression.*

*• Led by Paminder Parbha (PEN International, UK) and with participation from Dina Debbas (Lebanon), Angelica Altuzar (Mexico), Justina (Iran), Carolina Ramirez (Colombia) and workshop activation from Alicia Quinones (Mexico), Karin Elfving (Sweden), Parvin Ardalan (Iran), and Sofia Monterroso (USA)*

**10:00-12:30: Guided visit - Resistances from Tlatelolco: Collective constructions of memory**

*Centro Cultural Universitario Tlatelolco with English and Spanish consecutive translations.*

*The Centro Cultural Universitario Tlatelolco is a pluralist space where there is dialogue with its community from a place of empathy, memories and critical thinking using the arts and history as spaces of convergence. To know and recognize ourselves in our diversity is an essential part of the artistic, curatorial and pedagogic practices of this cultural center. We invite you to learn M68-Citizenships in movement, the temporary exhibit programs and mediation practices that*

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this space offers in order to break hegemonic discourses of history and pluralize our understanding of the complexity of voices and history that make up this land.

- *Visit led by Ander Azpiri, Sofía Carrillo, Fabián Hernández, Liz Gutiérrez and the mediation team of CCUT.*

## **10:00-12:30: Documentary screening, dance and talk- Stories about (not) coming home**

*Teatro Casa de la Paz (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana). The documentary is in Spanish with English subtitles, the discussion will have English-Spanish consecutive translation.*

Through a documentary screening of “Bboy for Life”, dance and a discussion, we learn about the artist “Gato” and his experiences as a break-dancer in Guatemala. In contrast with his win of the Premio Hedda and Critic’s Award in Norway, he is faced with death threats in his home country from some of the most dangerous gangs in the world. As a talented dancer, they see him as a threat, capable of recruiting children as “future soldiers” through dance and moving them away from the gang environment. Made possible by Lopez Art & Production.

- *Documentary screening on the story of persecution of Guatemalan break-dancer Carlos “Gato” Catun followed by a dance performance and discussion by “Gato,” Piero Issa (Colombia/Norway), and Nicolai Lopez (Spain/Norway) moderated by Philippe Olle Laprunne (Mexico/France)*

## **13:00-14:30: Lunch and gathering of all participants**

*Patio of Casa Refugio Citlaltépetl*

## **14:30-16:00: Hive - Artists’ protection in times of crises | Collective responses and forms of resistance**

*Main room Lázaro Cárdenas Room of Casa Refugio Citlaltépetl with English-Spanish consecutive translation*

How do we respond to crises, individually and collectively? In this session, we will think through responses that take place ahead of, during, and following moments of crisis that threaten artistic freedom, such as rising authoritarianism, humanitarian crises, and war. What strategies have artists, journalists, activists and organizations adopted to respond to crisis moments? How can we better support artists who are experiencing a crisis? The session will include dialogue between invited speakers, themed breakout discussions, and reflection to determine outcomes.

- *Led by Artists at Risk Connection (ARC) and Artistic Freedom Initiative (AFI), with the activation from Ashley Tucker (AFI), Julie Trébault (ARC), Alessandro Zagato (ARC), and Sofía Monterroso (AFI), and participation from artists and experts Laurel Miranda (independent journalist), Ani Svami (Ukrainian visual artist), Omaid Sharifi (Afghan curator) (remote) and Parvin Ardalan (Iranian writer).*

## **14:30-16:00: Open space for other proposed debates or talks**

*Memorial room Javier Valdez Memorial Hall of Casa Refugio Citlaltépetl*



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**16:00-16:30: Closing reflections and looking forward to Safe Havens 2023**

*Patio Casa Refugio Citlaltépetl with English-Spanish consecutive interpretation*

**16:30-17:00: Closing artist statement - KaribeArte Polyphonic Mural**

*Patio of Casa Refugio Citlaltépetl with English-Spanish consecutive interpretation*

Four Latin American visual artists will work during the conference on a polyphonic mural centered on the theme of the state of freedom of expression in their countries. The final work will be exposed in the closing session at Casa Refugio.

- *Curated by Cecilia Noce and Diana Arévalo (CADAL), with the participation of the artist Renacho Melgar (El Salvador).*

**Transportation will be provided for participants back to Ibis Hotel at 18:00.**

**WEEKEND PROGRAM (open to the public)**

**Friday 9 December 20:00-22:00: Theater performance “Antigonas: Tribunal of Women” by Corporación Colombiana de Teatro**

*Teatro Casa de la Paz*

A collective creation by Tramaluna Theater integrated by professional actors and women who were victims during four events where human rights were violated in Colombia. On the stage, this group of women transform their pain and memory into poetry by singing, dancing and through projections, readings and personal objects of their family members. As in Antigone from Greek mythology, these characters are disobedient. Despite all the difficulties and challenges that surround them, they seek to provide a dignified burial to their disappeared family members, demand justice, and resist the neglect of the State and impunity of perpetrators.

- *Made possible by the support of Universidad Iberoamericana and Teatro Casa de la Paz (UAM).*

**Saturday 10 December 17:00-19:00: Screening of the Brazilian documentary “Who is Afraid?”**

*Auditorium of Biblioteca Vasconcelos*

Screening of the Brazilian documentary "Who is afraid?" (Quem tem medo? In Portuguese) that exposes the censorship practices by the Brazilian government against many Brazilian artists and seeks to reflect and sensitize the public about the consequences that this official censorship has on artistic freedom of expression. It will be followed by a moderated discussion and a time for questions from the audience.

- *Discussion following the screening will be moderated by Laura Kauer Garcia (Argentina/UK) with participation from researcher for MOBILE project, Guilherme Varela (Brazil), and one of the film's directors Henrique Zanoni (Brazil).*



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## DIGITAL PROGRAM

The first morning sessions of Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 will be virtually streamed so that participants who register in advance can join and listen. In order to ensure that participants from all over the world can participate even if they are not able to travel to Mexico in person, we will hold three fully digital sessions focused on **Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), and the Middle East & North Africa (MENA) regions:**

### **Wednesday 7 December at 7:30-9:00 UTC: Asia Reports - The state of the fight against arts censorship in Asia**

Presentation of a report on artistic freedoms by Freedom Film Network researcher Maha Balakrishnan (Malaysia), followed by a report by Aicha Grade Rebecca, cultural public policy researcher at Koalisi Seni: the Indonesian Arts Coalition (Indonesia), then a Q&A session with the audience. Moderated by Kathy Rowland, co-founder & managing editor, ArtsEquator (Singapore).

- *Organised by ArtsEquator (Singapore) and Hammerl Arts Rights Transfer (South Africa).*

### **Thursday 8 December at 8:00-9:30 UTC: Middle East & North Africa (MENA) Artists Circle - Loss of innocence after the Spring**

In Arabic (with simultaneous translation into English)

An audience-participative artist-to-artist session moderated by playwright & Ettijahat cultural manager Abdullah Al-Kafri (Lebanon), with the participation of musician Badi'aa "Neysatu" Bouhrizi (Tunisia) and film-maker Lina Sinjab (Syria).

- *Curated by Al-Mawred Al-Thaqafy (Tunisia & Lebanon), Mahmoud Othman, artistic rights lawyer (Egypt) and Hammerl Arts Rights Transfer (South Africa).*

### **Friday 9 December at 8:30-10:00 UTC: Sub-Saharan African (SSA) Artists Circle- Why is art so dangerous? Targeting artists as truthsayers & knowledge-transmitters**

An audience-participative artist-to-artist session moderated by SH|FT curator, Malmö Fristadsprogram manager, author & LGBTIQ\* activist Jude Dibia (Nigeria/Sweden), with the participation of interdisciplinary installation artist & curator Syowia Kyambi (Kenya) and rapper & radio personality Saifullah "Dr Pure" Ibrahim (Nigeria).

- *Curated by Unchained Vibes Africa (Nigeria), Arterial Network (Mozambique/Africa), the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa (UK/Uganda), and Hammerl Arts Rights Transfer (South Africa).*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Safe Havens conferences started in 2013 and are organised by Safe Havens Freedom Talks (SH|FT) – an independent NGO dedicated to facilitating opportunities for artists and organisations in the Arts Rights Justice field to meet and share knowledge. The preparations for each year's meeting are largely done by dedicated pro-bono efforts. It is our aim to be able to

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offer an inclusive and safe gathering, where we are all equals, and each voice carries the same weight. To this end SH|FT's efforts go each year to raise funding to invite a wide range of speakers, workshop leaders and artists and to offer a creative work-meeting free of charge for all participants. We prioritise a multitude of voices with as vast a geographical and thematic range as we can master.

The Safe Havens conferences come together through many conversations over the year with knowledgeable artists, NGOs and other experts in the network. The conference would not be possible without the dedication of a number of friends and partners, such as Safemuse, PEN International (special thanks to Alicia Quiñones), Artistic Freedom Initiative (AFI), Artists at Risk Connection (ARC), Centro para la Apertura y el Desarrollo de América Latina (CADAL), Article 19 Mexico and Brazil, Fondo de Accion Urgente LAC, Heinrich Böll Foundation, International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN), Corporación Colombiana de Teatro (CCT), UNESCO Mexico, the Norwegian and Swedish Embassies in Mexico.

This year on top of hosting the first in-person gathering in three years, we also organise virtual sessions to ensure the conference is accessible to those who could not travel. We are grateful to the following for their support and participation in these sessions: ArtsEquator, Hammerl Arts Rights Transfer, Al-Mawred Al-Thaqafy, Mahmoud Othman, Unchained Vibes Africa, Arterial Network, and the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa.

We are humbled by the amazing venues that have opened their doors to our conference in Mexico City: Museo de Memoria y Tolerancia, Casa Refugio Cítlaltépetl, Teatro Casa de la Paz of UAM, Centro Cultural Universitario Tlatelolco, Casa del Lago and Biblioteca Vasconcelos.

We are deeply indebted to the funding organisations that trust and support SH|FT and our different initiatives over time: The Swedish Arts Council/SIDA, The Swedish Institute and the Swedish Postcode Foundation.

## SH|FT funders

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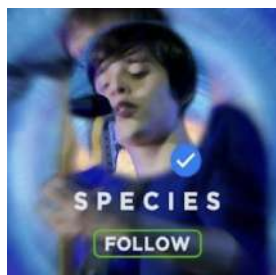
## SAFE HAVENS CONFERENCE December 7-9, 2022 Mexico City

### BIOGRAPHIES

*(A note that some speakers, artists and participants have requested to not have their names and photos included for reasons of security.)*



**Cicerón Aguilar** (he) is a musician, composer, visual communicator, and cultural manager. He has produced seven compositions. He has composed music for theatre and documentary films. He coordinated the collection “100 años de la música en Chiapas” (100 years of music in Chiapas) in celebration of the bicentenary of Mexico and Chiapas. His latest composition project is “La casa de los pájaros” (The house of the birds), which is built from the perspective of the culture of the sugar cane growers of Chiapas. He has collaborated in several magazines on the music of the native peoples of Chiapas. He is a member of the ethnomusicology network NAPINIACA and founder of PEN Chiapas Plurinational.



**Ernesto Aguilar** (he) was born on April 22, 1992, in Tuxtla Gutierrez Chiapas. He is 30 years old. He has played guitar and piano since he was 12. At 15 he learned to record music, and from then on he has dedicated himself to music production for artists from his state and other parts of Mexico.





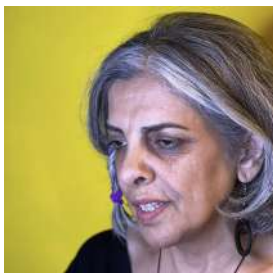
**Khalid Albaih** (he) is a Romanian-born, Qatari-raised, Oslo-based Sudanese creative, political cartoonist, and cultural producer. He is known for his cartoons that went viral worldwide since 2011. In 2018, he was named one of the top five cartoonists in the world by The Independent. In addition to two books in print – “Khartoon!” (2018) and “Sudan Retold” (2019) – Khalid’s cartoons have been published widely in international publications, including The New York Times, The Atlantic, PRI, NPR, and the BBC. Albaih’s works have been part of numerous solo exhibitions and biennales, the last being widely acclaimed hidden sound installation in “documenta fifteen.”



**Abdullah AlKafri** (he) is an award-winning playwright and theatre director. In 2014, AlKafri, a founding member of Ettijahat – Independent Culture, became the Executive Director of the non-governmental organisation. Ettijahat is dedicated to supporting Syrian artists and cultural practitioners and their peers across the Arab region and Europe, providing capacity-building and educational opportunities to artists, cultural practitioners, and academics, as well as financial and legal support. Mr AlKafri also teaches MA Theatre at l’Université Saint-Joseph, Beirut, where he held his PhD in performing art sector. **(Virtual participant)**



**Carlos Anibal Alonso** (he) is an editor and researcher. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Literature from the University of Havana and a master’s degree in Literary Studies & Teaching from the Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro. He directed the Havana art and literature magazine Upsalon. He was a professor of literature and literary theories at the University of Havana. He published the volume “Virgilio Piñera al borde de la ficción”, for which he was awarded the National Prize for Literary Criticism 2015 in Cuba. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Literature at UNAM. He is the founder and director of Rialta, a media organization based in Mexico since 2017.



**Parvin Ardalan** (she) is a freelance journalist, feminist activist and writer from Iran live in exile. She is a board member of Swedish PEN.



**Ander Azpiri** (he) is a visual artist, lives and works in Mexico City, and has been a member of the National System of Art Creators. Currently deputy director at University Cultural Center Tlatelolco.



**Maha Balakrishnan** (she) trained as a barrister and practised civil, commercial, and public administrative law at the Malaysian Bar for 12 years. During her legal career, Maha contributed to public advocacy work, and co-produced policy papers on legal and institutional reform. Upon shifting her focus to political science, Maha obtained a Masters in Democracy and Comparative Politics under a Chevening scholarship and has consulted for INGOs, NGOs and think-tanks. Maha is a researcher, content producer, trainer and speaker on democratic development and institutional design, legislative studies and rights-based policy making. She is currently a Research Fellow at the Asia office of the United Nations Sustainable Development Network (SDSN-Asia). **(Virtual participant)**



**Aura Bastidas Salazar** (she) is an actress and integral artist with more than 30 years communicating through scenic language. She has had the privilege of belonging to several theater groups, growing as an actress and costume designer. She is currently part of the group Tramaluna Teatro of the Colombian theater corporation and part of the cast of the play "Antigonas tribunal de mujeres", as well as other productions of this collective.



**Bonita Bennett** (she) is a research associate and trustee of the District Six Museum in Cape Town, South Africa ([www.districtsix.co.za](http://www.districtsix.co.za)). She is also one of the curators of the World Art and Memory Museum (<https://wammuseum.org/the-team/>). She is a human rights defender and peace builder, dating back to her days as an anti-apartheid activist. She now works as an independent memory studies scholar, educator and museologist.



**Luz Marina Bernal**, (she) is a social leader, peace activist, human rights defender and actress. She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2016. She has denounced State Crimes at an international level, touring multiple countries such as Ireland, Denmark, Belgium, Norway, Holland, Argentina, Germany, Mexico, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, France, Canada, USA, Spain and Cuba. In 2014 she was chosen to participate in the 1st Delegation of Victims in the Roundtable Talks in Havana for the territorial work she had been doing with family members of victims and victims. In 2018 she began her career in politics, running for the Senate elections.

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SAFE HAVENS – FREEDOM TALKS



**Dr Kara Blackmore** (she) is an anthropologist and curator who specialises in community-driven exhibition making. In 2022 she curated the exhibition *Safety and Storytelling* at the University of Juba, South Sudan. Throughout her career she has realised innovative collaborations between educational institutions, government agencies, NGOs, and cultural organisations. Kara is currently a Policy Fellow at the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa at the LSE and a Curator of the Urban Room at UCL. She is also the co-founder of the socially engaged art gallery *Borderlands Art Ltd.*



**Maribel Bolom** (she) of Mayan Tsotsil roots from Huixtán, Chiapas, is a psychologist and master in Cultural Promotion and Development. She worked at the State Center for Indigenous Languages, Art and Literature (CELALI), in the management of the Mayan and Zoque Intangible Cultural Heritage of Chiapas. She worked at the General Directorate of Intercultural Universities of the Ministry of Public Education of Mexico City. She is a member and co-founder of the Network of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Women of Chiapas. Currently, she is responsible for the University Cultural and Natural Heritage Management Program at UNICACH (Chiapas State University). She is an external consultant for UNESCO in Mexico as Focal Point in Chiapas.



**Badiia "Neysatu" Bouhrizi** (she) is, emerging from the Tunisian musical underground, a powerful-voiced singer and songwriter who has it all. She incorporates her socially committed lyrics into her music, which is inspired by the neo-soul wave. She has developed her own style by skillfully combining jazz, soul, reggae and electronic elements with her sensitive, socially conscious and politically engaged lyrics. **(Virtual participant)**



**Ali Aguilera Bustos** (she) is a visual anthropologist at the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO Ecuador). She is currently pursuing a doctorate in Feminist Studies and Intervention at the Centro de Estudios Superiores de México y Centro América. She is a member of the collective *Vivas y Grabando*, a laboratory dedicated to audiovisual training from the coordinates of feminist community cinema. As a facilitator, she has taught courses on feminist audiovisual ethnography, and has accompanied self-recording processes with Tének midwives and embroiderers in Mexico. She has produced audiovisual materials for human rights organizations working with youth, human mobility, and women's reproductive health.

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SAFE HAVENS – FREEDOM TALKS



**Sofia Carillo** (she) has a degree in Art (Claustro de Sor Juana), is a specialist in Cultural Management and Cultural Policies (UAM Iztapalapa/OEI) and holds a master's degree in Art History in the area of Curatorship from UNAM. She is the Coordinator of Visual Arts at the Centro Cultural Universitario Tlatelolco, an area that manages exhibitions of critical review of history from contemporary art and organizes the study group *En Plural* with a decolonial approach. She is dedicated to the analysis of archival practices and contemporary art, particularly studying the complexity of registration in specific community proposals.



**Lucero Carmona** (she) was born in Manizales, Caldas, on May 26, 1959. She is the fourth of five sisters. She is a victim of state crimes of the wrongly called false positives. She has participated in various projects and discussions on human rights and has performed in the artistic field as a singer. She is also a member of Tramaluna Teatro and its plays, including ANTIGONAS TRIBUNAL DE MUJERES.



**Alfredo López Casanova** (he) has been an activist in social organizations since the 80's. He studied Sculpture and received a master's degree in Urban Art at the San Carlos Academy, UNAM. Several of his sculptures are in Guadalajara, Mexico City, and Havana, Cuba. Some of his sculptures are: *Rockdrigo* in Balderas subway station; *don Gilberto Bosques* in Casa Refugio Citlaltépetl; the sculpture of Commander Genaro Vázquez Rojas in San Luis Acatlán; and Guerrero and Fray Antonio Alcalde in Guadalajara. He is a member of the *Huellas de la Memoria* collective and has been accompanying family members of disappeared people since May 8 in the occupation of the so-called *Glorieta de las y los Desaparecidos* (Roundabout of the Disappeared), formerly *Glorieta de la Palma*. *Photo credit: F. Valdès Andino*



**Carlos "Gato" Catún** (he) is a choreographer and dancer who started dancing since 2006. To date he has participated in international and world class national events. He currently lives in Norway and works with art, theater, and dance.



**Francesco Corbelleta** (he) is part of AV Y PERFORMANCE | Creación Audiovisual | He works in theater production and technique. In video production, theater and photography he has found languages capable of building possible universes, communicating and creating connections between communities, collectives and different parts of society that would not otherwise come together or have the dialogue that they manage to build through these languages. He sees art as the main tool for the construction of a culture of peace.



**David Escalona Carrillo** (David D'Omni) (he) was born in Havana, in the district of El Vedado, in the Ramón González Coro hospital, at one o'clock in the morning on March 3, 1984. His mother, Esperanza Soilet Carrillo Cardoso, and father, Norberto Escalona Rodríguez, taught him universal art, making David a child avid for general culture. After completing his basic education in 2000, he decided to join the multidisciplinary artistic collective Omni Zona Franca, thus developing as a musician, painter, and workshop artist. He lives in Cuba. Together with his family, he is persecuted by the dictatorship for making independent art. He works in his own recording studio.



**Angélica Altúzar Constantino** (she) is from Chiapas, holds a degree in Hispanic American Literature and a master's degree in 20th Century Mexican Literature. She is a writer and a literary researcher. She is also an essayist and promoter of reading. She is a co-author of the PEN-VIDA-UNESCO Count: participation of women writers in Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua, entitled "Mujeres en poder de la palabra" (Women Seizing the Word). She is the vice-president of PEN Chiapas Plurinational.



**Alejandra Henríquez Cuervo** (she) is a Colombian feminist and designer. A passionate about art, the defense of human rights and ancestral forms of care, she likes to travel and learn about different cultures, in order to share her knowledge with others and, at the same time, learn in order to generate change. Since she was a child she has felt identified and connected with the land and her ancestors, Wayuu Indians from La Guajira in northern Colombia, who have taught her respect for life and its diversity. She is well-organized, cheerful, creative and curious. She likes to dance, laugh, and travel.



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SAFE HAVENS – FREEDOM TALKS



**Dina Debbas** (she) is from Beirut and based in Beirut. She has worn many hats in her adventures as a citizen of this beautiful heart-breaking and hopeful city, including photographer, event organizer, social activist for inclusion, Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapist and a founder of her own healing modality called Hello Body.



**Mary Ann DeVlieg** (she) is an independent consultant, and currently a PhD candidate critiquing the gap between policy and practice in arts and migration policies, linked to the rights of artists impacted by displacement. A case worker for persecuted artists from 2009 through 2019, she co-founded of IARA (International Arts Rights Advisors), founded the EU working group, Arts-Rights-Justice; was Co-Director at freeDimensional (2013-2015); has advised the Safe Havens conferences since 2013, and is a co-founder of the Arts-Rights-Justice Academy, University of Hildesheim. **(Virtual participant)**



**Supriti Dhar** (she) worked as a journalist for over 21 years at various media houses, including BBC radio. A dedicated human rights activist, especially for women, refugees, religious minorities, and indigenous communities. Created Women Chapter, the first online writing platform for women in Bangladesh. Now living in exile in Sweden. Registered Women Chapter International is a non-profit organization striving to make a difference in 'marginalized' women's lives in Bangladesh and other developing countries. Interested areas are gender and politics, social perspective, religion and women, freedom of expression and the impact of climate change on women's lives.



**Karin Elfving** (she) is an ethnologist and a journalist by training. She is working as a freelance journalist and beside her own work, she edits and translates articles by African, Asian and Latin American journalists for Swedish media. Since 2018 Karin has been a thematic mentor on gender and media ethics within a Sida-funded training program on self-regulation directed towards five Latin American countries. She is also the deputy chairperson of Reporters Without Borders Sweden and as such she frequently lectures on press freedom in high schools and journalist schools in Sweden.

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SAFE HAVENS – FREEDOM TALKS



**Janice Ferreira** (she) is better known as Preta Ferreira, is a Brazilian human rights defender, housing activist, multi-artist, and writer. She was imprisoned in 2019 for more than 100 days for actively participating in the Downtown Homeless Movement and the Housing Struggle Front in the city of São Paulo, Brazil. She became a symbol of the criminalization of social movements and human rights defenders in Brazil. Her arrest brought Angela Davis and Pope Francis to her public defense. She received the Dandara Award from the Legislative

Assembly of the State of Rio de Janeiro (2019) and an acting award at the Gramado Film Festival.



**Ayodele Ganiu** (he) is the founder of Unchained Vibes Africa and executive producer of Freedom Vibes, a series of shows geared towards promoting artistic freedom and the use of music for civic engagements. He was previously the program director of Intro Afrika and managed the organization's talking drum performing collective as artistic director. Ayodele has dedicated his career to defending artistic freedom in Africa, demanding freedom for artists persecuted for criticizing the government, coordinating emergency assistance for

artists at risk, and exerting pressure on the government to reform legislations hindering artistic freedom. **(Virtual participant)**



**Sara Marielle Gaup** (she) is a yoiker/Sámi singer, artist and activist. She has been a central profile on the music scene during the past 20 years, most known for her music groups Adjágas and Arvvas. Sara also collaborates with artists, musicians and filmmakers in short-term projects and does workshops and traditional yoik-concerts. She has an art and music project together with her sister Risten Anine Gaup (OZAS). Sara's longstanding project is to preserve and revitalize traditional yoik and to learn as much as she can from the elders and

holders of Sámi cultural knowledge in order to pass it on to the coming generations.



**Diana Paola Arévalo Giraldo** (she) is a Professional in Government and IR (Universidad Externado, Colombia). She is studying a master's degree in International Studies (Universidad del CEMA, Argentina) and has a postgraduate degree in Cultural Management and Communication (FLACSO, Argentina). She holds a Diploma in Human Rights, Pedagogy of Memory, and Cultural Policies (Henry Dunant Foundation, Santiago de Chile). Between 2019 and 2020 she was Coordinator and Director of cultural projects at CADAL Foundation,

Argentina. Since 2020 she has served as Campaigner for Latin America at Freemuse. Up until March 2022 she was the Campaigns and Advocacy Officer of that organization. She is a consultant on freedom of artistic expression for Latin America at CADAL Foundation.



**Elvia Gonzalez del Pliego** (she) holds a PhD in Gender Studies. She is the winner of the VII Research and Gender Award 2020 at the Universidad Jaume I in Spain. She is the Coordinator of the Gender and Inclusion Program at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. She is the founder of the Gender and Youth Observatory. She is also co-author of CaDi, the first online translator of inclusive language in Spanish. González implemented the opening of all-gender toilets; she drafted the institutional policy on gender equality and promoted the development of the protocol for the prevention and attention to gender violence. She also carries out social advocacy projects with diverse populations.



**Matjaž Gruden** (he) is Director of Democratic Participation at the Council of Europe, which includes Council of Europe activities and programs in the area of education, including education for democratic citizenship, youth cooperation, culture and cultural heritage, landscape, and biodiversity. The Directorate also includes the Platform to promote the Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists, the Eurimages film fund and the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe. **(Virtual participant)**



**Dr. Julio Cesar Hoil Gutierrez** (he) is a Yucatecan Mayan, and a Yucatecan Mayan speaker. He is originally from the Mayan village of Xcalakoop, Yucatan, Mexico. His research area deals with the territorial heritage of the Yucatecan Mayas, local history, and agrarian processes in the second half of the 19th century, as well as the socio-cultural relations between the state of Yucatan and the United States of America in the second half of the 19th century.



**Farima Habashizadehasl** (she), also known as Justina, is an Iranian artist who was born and grew up in Tehran. She started her music career when she was 18 years old in Iran. Singing is illegal for females in Iran, but like thousands of other Iranian women have done, she did it as she knew that this was not a crime. 5 years after that, security forces arrested Justina for her music, then she had to leave her country to be able to continue her music career.





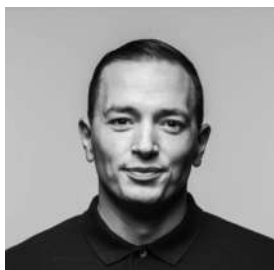
**Tania Ramírez Hernández** (she) holds a degree in Hispanic Literature from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, UNAM, a master's degree in Editorial Projects from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and in Historical Materialism and Critical Theory from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid; she also holds a doctorate in Linguistics and Literary Theory from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. She is currently Executive Director of the Network for Children's Rights in Mexico, REDIM. Previously, she worked at El Colegio de México as a research assistant; at the Human Rights Commission of Mexico City; at the National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination, CONAPRED, and was founding director of the "Human Rights and Peace Management" program at the Universidad del Claustro de Sor Juana.



**Saifullah Ibrahim** (he), better known by his stage name, Dr Pure, is a Hip Hop performing artist who was raised in east London, and returned to Kano, Nigeria in 2001, where he created Vibe Zone, a project that promotes urban music on radio and TV, and mentors young people by organizing competitions and events in order to raise awareness and give youth opportunities. **(Virtual participant)**



**Rafnhild Imerslung** (she) is the Norwegian Ambassador to Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Ambassador-designate to Belize, Honduras, and Costa Rica. In 1995 she started as a journalist at the Norwegian public radio (NRK radio) and at the newspaper Dagsavisen in Oslo. She worked as an advisor to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. She worked at the Nordic office of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). In 2009 she joined the diplomatic corps of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since August 2021, she has been accredited as Norwegian Ambassador to Mexico and Ambassador-designate for Central American countries.



**Piero Issa** (he) started breakdancing in 1999. He started combining breakdancing and physical theater in 2009. He has produced and participated as a dancer in several dance/theater productions in Norway. He has worked closely with the Norwegian National Theater. He has also traveled multiple times to Kabul (Afghanistan), where he conducted a project to run a workshop as well as his performance Burnt Wishes at the Kabul National Theatre in 2013 featuring local actors. Dance has always been an open door for him. He is currently working on the project Stories About (NOT) Going Home.

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SAFE HAVENS – FREEDOM TALKS



**Syowia Kyambi** (she) is an interdisciplinary artist and curator who works across photography, video, drawing, sound, sculpture, and performance installation. She holds an MFA from Transart Institute, accredited by the University of Plymouth (2020), and a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2002). In Kyambi's artistic practice history collapses into the contemporary through the interventions of mischievous and disruptive interlocutory agents who interrogate the legacy of hurt inflicted by colonial projects that still frame the wider political conjuncture of our contemporary times. *Photo credit: Kibe Wangunyu 2021 (Virtual participant)*

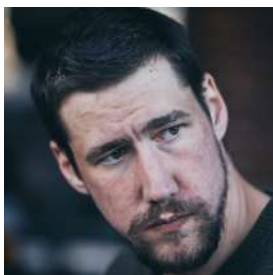
**Philippe Olle Laprune** (he) is an essayist, editor, and cultural agent active in Mexico and France. He has been in charge of Casa Refugio since its inception for 17 years and is part of ICORN in Mexico City.



**Mare Advertencia Lirika** (she) is a Mexican rap singer, social activist, and feminist of Zapotec origin. Through rap and other musical rhythms she engages in social protest. Her verses speak about gender issues, the rights of indigenous peoples, as well as the political and social situation in Mexico.



**Maira López Severiche**. (she) is a cultural manager, singer and piper of folkloric music of the Colombian Caribbean coast. She has learned empirically and has an experience of more than 20 years with practices in the management of strategies for the teaching of the musical folkloric tradition. She is also an empirically trained actress with more than 10 years of experience in theater and performance productions. She is currently an actress of the group Tramaluna Teatro and a member of the group of Gaita Tierra Colorá.



**Nicolai Lopez** (he) is a former hip hop dancer, now a creative producer, curator, artistic director, residency coordinator and project manager in Norway and Spain. He is presenting two pieces at the Safe Havens Conference: The opening, "Hyl i Hælen" (A Howl at the Heel) and "Historias sobre (NO) volver a casa" (Stories about (NOT) coming home).

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SAFE HAVENS – FREEDOM TALKS



**Enrique Pérez López** (he) is originally from Chenalhó, Chiapas, Mexico. He speaks and writes Tsotsil. He is President of PEN Chiapas Plurinational. He is a cultural promoter, author of several books and articles on indigenous languages and cultures. He is also an expert in Intangible Cultural Heritage. Currently, he is the Director of University Extension of the University of Sciences and Arts of Chiapas.



**Sarra El Maali** (she) has worked with various cultural institutions in Tunis, Beirut, and Dubai. She has been the artistic director and the market director of Animate Dubai (2014 – 2015). She was administrator then programmer at the Metropolis Association from 2007 to 2011. She has directed the 3 first editions of Beirut Animated (2009, 2011, and 2013) and was a founding member of ATAC (Association Tunisienne d'Action pour le Cinema) in 2011. Sarra is a reader for different film festivals. Since 2017, Sarra Maali works for Culture Resource (Al Mawred Al Thaqafy) and is in charge of Mawred's artists at risk program, Stand for Art.



**Taniel Morales Martinez** (he) studied music, mathematics, and visual arts. His quality for self-teaching has linked him to community projects of theater, radio, video, dance, sound art, visual arts, music, and critical pedagogies. His creative space focuses on non-alienated human bonds (social plastics), and on signaling naturalized ideological spaces, transforming our fragile idea of the world (low intensity revolution). He has blurred the boundary between pedagogy and practice, considering the relationships in a workshop to be deeper than in participatory art. For Taniel, free art nourishes pedagogy, allowing to explore personal, group and community urgencies with autonomy of thinking, feeling, and doing.



**Renacho Melgar** (he) is a draftsman and painter. He loves used books and beer. His work has been exhibited in several countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe. He considers that his best work is on the streets of his city.

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SAFE HAVENS – FREEDOM TALKS



**Orceny Montañez Muñoz** (she) is a daughter, a sister, the mother of Salomé, a feminist, an actress for love and rebellion, and a political activist. She is a lawyer, a human rights defender, a survivor of the genocide committed against the political party Unión Patriótica —a movement that was formed as a product of the Peace Treaties signed between the government of Colombian President Belisario Betancourt and the insurgent group Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, FARC-EP, which was born on May 28, 1985, for the dead and their memory. Truth, Justice and a Commitment of non-repetition (José Alfredo Ávila López, detained, disappeared and assassinated June 27, 1987).



**Sofía Monterroso** (she) serves as AFI's Senior Officer of Programs and Operations, providing legal and resettlement support for artists-at-risk and assisting with the implementation of programs, operations, and events. Sofía has dedicated herself to developing multicultural, multilingual, and social justice-oriented programming for international and domestic audiences. Her public affairs and project management experience include five years of contributions to U.S. Department of State and USAID programs in Lusophone and Francophone Africa, and three years of sexual violence prevention and reproductive justice organizing with Civil Liberties and Public Policy of Amherst, Massachusetts.



**Cecilia Noce** (she) has a degree in Latin American Literature and a master's degree in Sociology of Culture. She currently works as Project Coordinator for the Defense of Artistic Freedom of Expression project, where she engages in research and advocacy actions. She is a UNESCO expert for Latin America. She specializes in freedom of artistic expression and the defense of human rights.



**Fanny Palacios Romero** (she) was born on April 10, 1968, in Fusagasugá Cundinamarca, and has 4 children. She is a survivor of the genocide against the Unión Patriótica political party, a human rights defender and a member of Antígonas Tribunal de Mujeres.



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SAFE HAVENS – FREEDOM TALKS



**Paminder Parbha** (she) is a human rights worker, artist, and a keen advocate of culture as a driver for social change and cohesion. Her key focus during her 25 years plus career has been on addressing systemic forms of discrimination and violations targeted at individuals and groups based on gender, race, caste etc., as well as advocating for women's rights. She has also been a management committee member for a South Asian women's group based in the UK. She joined PEN Secretariat in November 2020 and is leading on mainstreaming gender and diversity throughout PEN International and managing the strategic direction for its international programs.



**Sverre Pedersen** (he) has been a filmmaker since 1985, mainly directing and producing documentaries. He was the president of Norwegian Film Makers Association from 2005 to 2020 and a member of the board of FERA from 2015 to 2022. He worked as campaign and advocacy manager in Freemuse for 2 years from September 2019. Now he is head of production in Fuuse – Deeyah Khan's production company and chair of the Freemuse Executive Committee. He has been an activist in human rights, solidarity work, anti-racism, environmental protection, and he has worked with refugees since his early teenage years. (virtual participant)



**Alicia Quiñones** (she) is a Mexican writer, journalist and editor. For the past fifteen years, she has contributed to leading newspapers, magazines, and television programmes throughout Latin America. She joined PEN International as the Latin American Consultant in 2018, and as a Regional Coordinator for the Americas in 2020. She volunteered in the organisation for six years beforehand where she researched and advocated for cases in Mexico. Alicia studied literature and journalism, which focused on the Laws to do with access to Information. She is the author of three books.



**Carolina Ramirez** (she) is a sociologist and cultural manager with more than 18 years of experience in the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of projects and research in the artistic, cultural and heritage areas. She is a board member of the Colombian Theater Corporation, producer, and general coordinator of the Women's Festival for Peace and the Alternative Theater Festival FESTA.



**Aicha Grade Rebecca** (she) is a young public policy researcher, with a law background (majoring in International Law) from Gadjah Mada University. She has several research experiences ranging from State Administrative Law, International Law and Digital Technology Law. Currently, she's working as researcher in Koalisi Seni where she explores the intersection between culture and policy in Indonesia. **(Virtual participant)**



**Dr. Trevor Reed** (he) is an Associate Professor of Law at Arizona State University's College of Law, where he teaches courses in Property, Intellectual Property, and Federal Indian Law. Dr. Reed's research explores the impacts of intellectual property law on individuals and societies, currently focusing on the relationships between creative production and Native American sovereignty. Reed is advancing community-partnered projects to assist Indigenous peoples in reclaiming their cultural expressions and traditional knowledges while also supporting their local modes of creation and innovation. Reed received his J.D., Ph.D. (Ethnomusicology), and M.A. (Arts Administration) from Columbia University; and BM (Music Composition) from Brigham Young University. **(Virtual participant)**



**Vanesa Rivera** (she) is a Guatemalan living in Mexico; she is a performing artist, dance teacher, choreographer, cultural manager, cultural rights advocate, a mestizo Quiché woman who has dedicated her life to contribute to human development through the practice and dissemination of dance. Her work has been presented in Central America, Mexico, Cuba, United States, Uruguay, Switzerland, and Italy. She has received several awards for her artistic work, for her work in favor of the de-centralization of the study and practice of the arts in Guatemala and for strengthening ties of friendship between different countries through the arts.



**Kathy Rowland** (she) is the Managing Editor of [ArtsEquator.com](https://www.arts-equator.com), a registered charity that she co-founded with Jenny Daneels in 2016. The site is dedicated to supporting and promoting arts criticism with a regional perspective in Southeast Asia. Kathy has worked in the arts for over 25 years, working in the areas of critical writing and arts advocacy, with a special interest in media platforms for the arts. She has written extensively on censorship of arts and culture in Malaysia. She is the Project Lead for ArtsEquator's Southeast Asian Arts and Culture Censorship Documentation Project, launched in 2021. **(Virtual participant)**

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SAFE HAVENS – FREEDOM TALKS



**Carlos Satizábal** (he) is a poet, writer, playwright, actor, theater director. He's the director of Tramaluna Teatro, and curator at the Colombian Theater Corporation (*Alternativo* and *Mujeres en Escena por la Paz* Festivals). He is an associate professor at the National University of Colombia, he is the dean of the MA in Creative Writing and director of the Center of Thought and Action for the Arts. He was awarded the following prizes: National Unpublished Poetry Award for *La Llama Inclínada*; Bogotá Dramaturgy Award for *Ellas y La Muerte*; Iberoamerican Prize for Dramatic Texts CELCIT for *Ensayo del eterno retorno femenino*; Iberoamerican Prize: Pensar A Contracorriente for his essay *Fragilidad y Lejanía*; Poetry Prize of the city of Bogotá for *Soñar de Ella*. He is also a lecturer, professor, director who has been invited to universities and festivals.



**Omaid Sharifi** (he) is a Curator, Artist, President of ArtLords, Wartists, and Fellow at Harvard University. Mr. Sharifi is a Board Member of CIVICUS, Board Member of Atlantic Council's Millennium Leadership Fellowship Alumni and a fellow of Atlantic Council, Asia Society and CAMCA-Rumsfeld fellowship. Mr. Sharifi is A laureate of Global Pluralism Award and recognized by the Senate of Canada. **(Virtual participant)**



**Lina Sinjab** (she) is a director, independent producer, and freelance BBC Middle East correspondent in Beirut. As a reporter, she covered the popular uprisings in Syria, Yemen, and Libya. In 2012, she directed the film "Voices from Homs," which she consigned to the sewer at a detention facility lest her captors see its contents. In 2013, she directed "Suryyat," a film examining women's roles in the Syrian uprising that was nominated for a One Media Award (BBC). In 2019, she directed and produced a film about the siege of Aleppo: "Madness in Aleppo," winner of the Best Documentary award at the Buenos Aires International Film Festival. **(Virtual participant)**



**Ani Svami** (she) is a multidisciplinary artist, sculptor from Ukraine, Kyiv. The small- and large-scale objects she creates are all based on nature plastics and philosophy of Plants. Ani is an established artist known for her work, participating in numerous exhibitions and projects over the world through the last 17 years. After a horrible war came to her country, she moved to Prague and managed to do massive public sculpture there with support of Czech Centre by personal initiative as her own prayer for children protection and faster victory.





**Lina Marcela Támara Valdés** (she) is a theatre actress and audio-visual producer. She is a staff actress at Tramaluna Teatro and an associate actress at Teatro La Candelaria. She is currently a community film workshop leader. She makes art and participates in issues related to the defense of human rights, broadening the horizons of art for life and freedom.



**Julie Trébault** (she) is the director of the Artists at Risk Connection (ARC), a project of PEN America that aims to safeguard the right to artistic freedom by connecting threatened artists to direct assistance, building a global network of partner organizations supporting artists at risk, and forging ties between art and human rights organizations. She has nearly two decades of experience in international arts programming and network-building, including at the Museum of the City of New York, the Center for Architecture in New York, the National Museum of Ethnology in The Netherlands, and the Musée du quai Branly in Paris.



**Ángela Triana Gallego** (she) has a master's degree in Creative Writing from the National University of Colombia (2021). She has a bachelor's degree in Performing Arts from the National Pedagogical University (2007); she also has postgraduate studies in Cultural Management at the National University of Cordoba, Argentina (2013). She won the Margaret McNamara Education Grants, Latin America. Empowering women, 2020. She is an actress and creator with more than 20 years of theater experience. She is a member of the group Tramaluna Teatro de la Corporación Colombiana de Teatro; Teacher at the Film and TV School of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia; and teacher of theater and artistic training for girls, boys, young people, women and vulnerable population of the country, combining theatrical work with pedagogical practice.



**Ashley Tucker** (she) serves as AFI's Co-Executive Director, leading the planning and implementation of its programs, operations, and legal services for at-risk artists. Previously, Ms. Tucker has worked for the United Nations Human Rights Committee and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights. She has worked on strategic litigation before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and conducted research and human rights trainings in Haiti. Ms. Tucker holds certificates in Art & Cultural Heritage Law from Georgetown University and Executive Nonprofit Management from Tufts University. Ms. Tucker is admitted to practice law in New York.



**Frédéric Vacheron** (el) He has been serving as Representative in Mexico since 2018. In this area, his office works with the three levels of government - federal, state, and municipal - and has also developed a strong partnership with the private sector and civil society.



**Guilherme Varella** (he) is a Brazilian lawyer, cultural manager, researcher, and musician. Consultant of Integrated Brazilian Movement for Artistic Freedom (MOBILE) and Article 19. PhD in Law from University of São Paulo (USP), with studies on cultural rights and public policies of culture. Author of the book "'Plano Nacional de Cultura': cultural rights and policies in Brazil" (Azougue, 2014). Served as Secretary of Cultural Policies at the Ministry of Culture of Brazil (2015-2016).



**Alexandra Xanthaki** (she) was appointed UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights in October 2021. Ms. Xanthaki is Greek and lives in the United Kingdom where she works as a Professor of Laws at Brunel University London, United Kingdom. Throughout her academic career, Ms. Xanthaki has published over 50 publications relating to the cultural rights of minorities and indigenous peoples, cultural diversity, cultural heritage, balancing cultural rights with other rights and interests, and multiculturalism and integration in international human rights law. She has worked with NGOs, civil society and has consulted States on such issues. **(Virtual participant)**



**Sana Yazigi** (she) Graphic designer, graduated from the faculty of fine arts at- Damascus University, 1993. Founder and editor in chief of the archiving project Creative Memory of the Syrian Revolution. Founder of the initiative: "ALWAN" therapy; for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. 2013 to present. Founder and editor in chief of the Syria's first monthly cultural agenda, The Cultural Diary that covered the cultural and artistic activates in Damascus and the other cities of Syria.



**Alessandro Zagato** (he) is the Latin America regional representative for the Artists at Risk Connection - PEN America. He holds a PhD in Sociology from Maynooth University, Ireland and is the author of "After the Pink Tide. Corporate State Formation and New Egalitarianisms in Latin America" (Berghahn Books 2020) and "The Event of Charlie Hebdo: Imaginaries of Freedom and Control" (Berghahn Books 2015), among several other publications. He lives in San Cristóbal de Las Casas (Chiapas, Mexico).



**Henrique Zandoni** (he) is a director, actor, writer, producer and teacher. He is an associate of the producer Bela Filmes which has produced more than 20 films, among them fiction and documentaries that have won the main prizes of Brazilian cinema. His films have participated in important national and international festivals. His last documentary "Who is Afraid?" was selected for the festivals "É Tudo Verdade", "DocLisboa", "DocsMx", "Festival Internacional del Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano de Havana", among others. He is currently directing the fiction film "It may seem strange." He is the author of five theater pieces and is pursuing a Masters in Culture and Society in Universidad Federal de Bahía.

## CONFERENCE TEAM



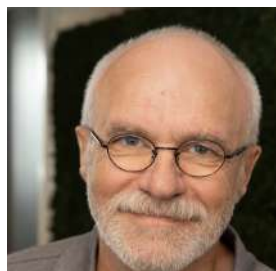
**Meltem Dramer** (she) is a Coordination and Communication Manager at Safe Havens Freedom Talks (SH|FT). Previously, Meltem held Account Executive role at Flint and worked across a range of clients including Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV), Odunpazari Modern Museum (OMM), Anna Laudel, Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), Performistanbul, Mamut Art Project and Beykoz Kundura. Prior to Flint, she worked at art galleries such as REM Art Space and Mixer where she assisted with the exhibitions and administration operations. Meltem holds a master's degree in Applied Cultural Analysis from Lund University and a bachelor's degree in Arts and Cultural Management from Istanbul Bilgi University.



**Fredrik Elg** (he), previously a filmmaker, is now a strategic developer in the field of arts and culture. He specializes in issues concerning democracy, inclusion, and freedom of speech, at the crossroad of arts and human rights. He has managed independent art organizations, worked for the Swedish Arts Council, Malmö City and partnered with several global organizations working with democracy and freedom of speech, as well as conceptualized and launched the Safe Havens Conference for creative professionals under threat. Elg has developed initiatives for inclusion, democracy, and free speech for more than 15 years. He is one of the founders and a general manager of the non-profit organization SH|FT.

# SHIFT

SAFE HAVENS – FREEDOM TALKS



**Jan Lothe Eriksen** (he), a former musician and cellist of the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, vice president of the Norwegian Musicians' Union (now Creo - Norwegian Union for Arts and Culture), administrative director of the Norwegian Traditional Music and Dance Association (NFD) & Norwegian Traditional Music Agency, and initiator and first director of Riksscenen (National Venue for Traditional Music and Dance, Norway). Jan initiated and was the General Manager of Safemuse - Safe havens for Artists from the start in 2013 up till November this year. He serves today as Senior Adviser of Safemuse and vice chair of SH|FT - Safe Havens Freedom Talks.



**Laura Kauer Garcia** (she) is the Process Manager for SH|FT responsible for leading the organization of the 2022 Safe Havens Conference in Mexico and coordinating its touch points with other projects of SH|FT. In addition to her current role at SH|FT, she works as a Project Manager for the area of Protest Rights and Policing for the International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations (INCLO). Previously, Laura was a consultant for the International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN), and worked at the Artists at Risk Connection (ARC) of PEN America and Human Rights Watch. She is fluent in French and Spanish and is originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina.



**Víctor Rodríguez Oquel** (he) is a Local Coordinator at SH|FT. Former director of the Pablo Antonio Cuadra Cultural Centre in Managua, Nicaragua to 2015, when he was invited by the writer Sergio Ramírez to take over as Head of Cultural Projects and Fundraising of his Luisa Mercado Foundation, where he also went to collaborate in the logistics of the 2016 and 2017 editions of its Literary Festival Centroamérica Cuenta. Member of the Nicaragua PEN Centre until August 2018, when he settled in Uruguay, where he joined the Uruguay PEN Centre. Between 2006 and 2012, he was a librarian at the Institute of History of Nicaragua and Central America.



**Michael Schmidt** (he) is a veteran African participatory democracy, artistic freedoms and human rights activist, researcher, investigative journalist, media consultant, and the bestselling author of six non-fiction books. He has worked in the field in 47 countries across six continents. He is the strategic relations and research director of human rights non-profit HART, a founding organization of the Amani: Africa Creative Defense Network and is the executive director of media consultancy Winterslust.

# SH|FT

SAFE HAVENS – FREEDOM TALKS



**Senija Vurzer** (she) is an executive secretary in the museum section of the city of Malmö. Senija was also a member of the coordinating team of the Safe Havens conferences of 2014 and 2015. Furthermore, an advocate for the protection and preservation of human testament, archeological findings, cultural heritage, and historical architecture.

*Photo credit: Fredrik Elg*

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