I-CARE. Inter-Culture Against Racism in Europe. International Workshop

Florence _ ExFila Connessioni Metropolitane _ September 5-18, 2016

From September 5 to 18, 2016, Centro di Creazione e Cultura welcomes 21 young German, Lithuanian and Italian artists, for a workshop realised in Florence at ExFila Connessioni Metropolitane in collaboration with Arci Firenze: a two-weeks-long intensive laboratory of creative training, every day from 10 am to 6 pm. The workshop’s closure will be a public restitution, on Saturday 17 at 5 pm: a cross-disciplinary site specific performance that will involve the audience (invited and passersby) in a nomadic and interactive voyage.

I-CARE. Inter-Culture Against Racism in Europe is a project developing over three years, with intensive workshops in three countries (Germany, October 2015; Italy, September 2016; Lithuania, September 2017): three steps of an artistic and educational path aimed at developing sensitivity for the value of diversity, comprehension of social complexity, and good practices to combat racism and discrimination.

I-CARE considers art and creativity as fundamental tools to foster an aware, respectful and active citizenship. Contemporary society is like a multiform coloured drawing where different people, stories and cultures, live, move and work together. In such a multicultural world difference must be considered a value, a factor of personal enrichment and collective growth.

The participants in the workshop will focus on anti-racism, anti-discrimination, and on contrasting stereotypes; they will create a pathway of words, music, images and actions, because artistic creation is the best expression to show the beauty of diversity in the sign of cohabitation.

The workshop is based on the general theme of the town as big home where everybody and everything needs a place. Participants will be invited to move in and out of the categories of personal/collective, singular/plural, authenticity/multiplicity, they will start from the discovery of personal stories to find points of intersection, affinity, common languages, and new words and issues. On this base, a new concept of public space will be defined: the common place made by many different, personal spots.

The workshop, more process- than product-oriented, is based on a cross-disciplinary approach reflecting the continuity of any human expression. The participants, guided and accompanied by professional artistic-pedagogical facilitators with a horizontal, peer-to-peer approach, will be both authors and audience, always involved in their own and the others’ creation. Alone or in groups, they will experience body practices, the physical space, the importance of mutual listening. The main subject of research will be improvisation as a process of cooperation, attentive to opportunities and choices. Observing and listening, the gaze and the soundscape, will be the common platform to integrate dance, music, visual art, sharing a pathway of live creation as a translation of multiple identities.

The entire process will be documented in real time through the collective shooting and editing of short video clips that will be uploaded on the Internet, to share a live witness of I-CARE’s work in progress.

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