

Exiled Lives on the Stage: Practices of Self-Fashioning, Archiving and Decolonization

Curated by Pieter Verstraete (Freie Universität Berlin & Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

@Hotel Continental, <https://www.artspaceinexile.org/>

Workshops, Roundtables, Network Event

21 February | 18:00 – 21:00 Theatre Workshop | Sound Installation Exhibit

22 February | 18:00 – 21:00 Theatre Workshop | Sound Installation Exhibit

23 February | 16:00 – 22:00 16:00 Opening | 16:30 Workshop | 19:00 Panel | 21:00 Concert

24 February | 12:30 – 22:00 12:30 Workshop | 16:30 Network Event | 19:00 Panel

What strategies do artists in self-exile and/or at risk develop and acquire to enter the German cultural industry, including the theatre stages? Is self-fashioning an exilic artist identity emancipating or restricting? How do we archive the affective stories, works of art, and exiled lives of artists who have come to Germany? What strategies of archiving the lives of exiled artists exist today, inside and outside the institutions? How do the works of art impact institutions and the public debate, and how can they help others?

With

Mîrza Metîn, Barış Seyitvan, Diren Demir, Vasilisa Palianina, Shirin Ashkari, Mariia Kulchytzkaya, Leman Sevda Daricioğlu, babelfis, Ece Pazarbaşı, Neslihan Arol, Şirin Fulya Erensoy, Özge Çelikaslan, Philip Rizk, Ilgaz Yalçinoğlu, Wilma Renfordt, Belén Marinato, Christin Eckart, Pieter Verstraete, and others

Schedule of Events

20 & 21 February 2023, 18:00 – 21:00: Free Actor's Workshop, "Dîwan" with Mîrza Metîn
Based on Kurdish rituals and physical-vocal history of Kurdish culture and Mîrza Metîn's dramaturgy of fire, we will explore decolonized practices with our voices and bodies. This is open for everybody but limited. We recommend wearing comfortable clothes. We will work barefoot. Please register for free before 19 February: pieter_verstraete@hotmail.com.

20–25 February 2023, 14:00 – 18:00: installation "Story of an Envelope" by Diren Demir

23 February 2023

16:00-16:30: Opening Speeches

With: Pieter Verstraete, Belén Marinato and Christin Eckart (Performing Arts Program Berlin)

16:30-18:30: Public Actor's Workshop "Dîwan"

with Mîrza Metîn, including discussion
Based on Kurdish rituals, a physical-vocal history of Kurdish culture and Mîrza Metîn's dramaturgy of fire, we will explore decolonized practices of performance through intense vocal and physical training. Communication may be partly in Kurdish/Kurmanji with English translation.

18:30-19:00: Reception

19:00-21:00: Roundtable: “Berlin’s Cultural Production in Exile and at Risk: Strategies of Self-Fashioning”

With: Barış Seyitvan, Diren Demir, Vasilisa Palianina, Shirin Ashkari, Mariia Kulchytskaya, and Leman Sevda Daricioğlu, moderated by Pieter Verstraete

This roundtable explores with artists, who are ‘at risk’ or in ‘self-exile’ from different disciplines and backgrounds (Turkey, Kurdistan, Iraq, Iran, Belarus, Ukraine), the artistic strategies and solutions to situations of cultural adaptation and precarity in the new temporary home, Berlin.

21:00-22:00: Concert by babelfis: Acoustic

An acoustic performance by babelfis featuring Serkan Emre Çiftçi on trumpet.

babelfis is an indie/pop duo formed by musicians Sevda Hamzacebi and Cem Dinler.

Founded in Istanbul – now based in Berlin, the band pursues all kinds of stories that they have grown up listening to. See for more info: www.babelfisband.com.

During the concert, we will raise money (on *Spende*-basis) for the victims of the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. The returns will go to Lubunya Deprem Dayanışması initiative in support of the queers and sex workers in the earthquake region.

24 February 2023

12:30-15:30: Workshop: “Opportunities in Exile: Fundings and Cooperations to Get Started” with Ece Pazarbaşı (in cooperation with the information center of the Performing Arts Program Berlin)

Getting started in the independent performing arts scene is always a difficult enterprise. However, getting started as an exile artist without speaking the bureaucratic language carries infinite further difficulties in our research and application for funding opportunities. What opportunities are there, how do I approach them? How do we proceed our project development facing foreign systems? What is there to know and where do we find support? This workshop aims to give participants first tools when getting started in Berlin and aiming for funding opportunities. **Please register for free by February 22 at beratung@pap-berlin.de.**

15:30-16:30: Coffea/Tea Break

16:30-18:30: Network Event: “Getting Started or: How to Cope with the Challenges of a New Start in a New System?” with Neslihan Arol (in cooperation with the information center of the Performing Arts Program Berlin)

How do you get started as an artist in self-exile and/or at risk, being challenged by new procedures and inquiries? How do you cope with the emotional load that this big change unquestionably brings with itself? How do you use and channel your creative potential despite the challenges that you face artistically in a new country? The Host Neslihan Arol will share her experiences as an artist with a Turkish background and encourage the participants to ask and exchange about theirs, to share knowledge and encourage artistic

connections and community building. Please register for free by February 22 at beratung@pap-berlin.de.

18:30-19:00: Reception

19:00-20:00: Keynote Speech: “Exiled Lives on the Stage: Geographies of Migrant Experience and Aesthetic Self-Fashioning”

With: Pieter Verstraete

This presentation of the ExiLives project results will speak to the need for a more pluralistic perspective on German theatre history and its archives because of the newly arriving artists at risk and/or in self-exile. It will focus on the slow process of institutions and the decentralization of the architecture of the archives, as well as the support mechanisms, in order to respond to more local developments. In recent years, structures and networks for exilic artists have been developing out of a global need. The presentation will give a mapping of those mechanism, networks, artistic practices and current reasons for leaving the home country, with a focus on Turkey.

20:00-22:00: Roundtable: “Navigating Institutional Challenges: How and What to Archive? What’s Next? Points of Actions”

With: Şirin Fulya Erensoy, Özge Çelikaslan, Philip Rizk, Ilgaz Yalçinoğlu and Wilma Renfordt, moderated by Pieter Verstraete

This roundtable explores the need for more action and memory keeping with regard to artists at risk and in exile within Berlin’s decentralized institutions. It looks at the challenges of archives in the making, though scattered through private and independent initiatives, in search for existing institutional structures or an overarching institution. The usefulness of current programs will also be explored.

Accessibility

This event will take place in English spoken language. If needed, personal simultaneous interpretation can be provided for individual formats. We are at your disposal if you have any questions about accessibility and ask you to please let us know about your desires and needs so that we are able to orient ourselves more strongly to the needs of the participants. You can reach us via e-mail: fachtag-distribution@pap-berlin.de or via telephone: +49 30 20 45 979 13.

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Recommendations – Going forward:

27 & 28 February 2023 | 10:00 - 18:00

online

Entrepreneurial Practices and Strategies for Community Building

with Nora Amin (choreographer, dancer, author, scholar)

Two-day workshop, February 27 and 28, 2023, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

This workshop is intended for newcomers and professionals with intercultural backgrounds that feel as though they are new in Berlin and are searching for ways to establish themselves in the city with their creative projects. Various approaches to founding an enterprise will be presented and entrepreneurial practices will be discussed. The participants will develop strategies for how they can make sustainable contacts to communities with similar visions and challenges and use existing cooperations without having to give up the diversity of their artistic identities.

This event will take place in English spoken language, questions and answers are also possible in Arabic.

This event is hosted by the information center of Performing Arts Program Berlin. Please register for free by February 24 at beratung@pap-berlin.de.