Summarise your idea, including context, concept and motivation, in maximum 80 words. *

Describe your idea: how will it engage people in the re-definition and shaping of public space. What issue would you like to tackle with your idea?

The path of Albrecht Dürer / a Table of Meetings

Albrecht Dürer [1471-1528], artist, mathematician & theorist, traveled systematically through Europe, visiting both North and South on various journeys. We are inspired by the nomadic trajectories of him and other figures, finding each other over international borders via common interest and ideas, creating networks of solidarity and affinity, working and creating in places they visited, meeting with / living together with the people they met.

Within this framework we intend to redefine art in public places via a travelling project with personal communication and human dialogue as creative instruments.

Departing from a "Table of Meetings", a transportable table for multidisciplinary events, to pass on, adjustable to any number of people. The surface of the table is marked with a large fingerprint referring to identity, respect for it and sharing it. A "table of meetings" invites to open yourself for the other and others,. Through the table we redesign the concept "public space", as space of people, recreated with a travelling and moving table through the city, an instrument of sharing, passing on by people.It invites to an intimate debate, to write on it, becoming a surface that passes on as a letter to others. As well a table creating space(s) for strangers. A table of hospitality, a human and social statement. A meeting place in an utopic field, a world table, where cultures come together and a place against loneliness. For example, to eat together, with people bringing typical food, to be tasted and discussed in the group or bringing an article from a newspaper from their original country to be read, an article that moved them. Videos, texts and soundscapes are created during the processes as media that travel with the table and are shared during the table meetings.



Describe the context of your idea (local, regional, digital etc.). What is your motivation for this idea? What makes your idea urgent, innovative or ground-breaking?

The 'Path of Dürer' is an artistic trajectory, to create collaborative and participative art works on places that needs attention and care, considering the city as a living being made out of its inhabitants. Traveling is a laboratory for exchange with movement through the city as catalyst for urban change, with minimal interventions. As 'artists-nomads' moving in a field of art, ecology, and politics, fed by utopic ideas and concepts we want organize international exchange in an European trajectory of various participative street actions with the Table as departing point. Our focus will be how to mobilize people into new alliances starting from the idea "What if art would be the platform to give shape to society, working with a politics as a poetic, creative and human instrument". Collaboration among different groups with their specific cultures brings with its complexities. Our topics also revolves around strategies for overcoming these complexities. Concepts as "solidarity", "connection" and "togetherness" are a source of artistic inspiration within our group of artists - experts from various domains and disciplines including science, alternative health therapies, literature, art history, sound art and music, architecture, technology and philosophy. As an independent art platform we distinguish ourselves by working on unconventional, collaborative ways and by establishing unexpected and nomadic debates on art and on public space. The Table will be accompanied by works of arts, videos, texts and soundscapes, the latter to give importance to the acoustic space, often ignored in the construction of a public space. We intend explicitly to integrate an interdisciplinary approach in the experience and (re)creation of public space, because the idea we have of ourselves, our personal awareness and the relationships we build in the external world, are inextricably linked to a space. We all exist somewhere. And personal identity also relates to this.

Describe the involved target groups that will be most impacted by and engaged in the realisation of this idea.

We work on location with local teams, together with residents, youngsters, senior citizens, immigrants in processes intending small but significant changes in public spaces through art and creativity, inclining towards a philosophy of peaceful resistance with almost contemplative actions and statements, without much noise, hoping to stimulate the consciousness of people living in cities, with small gestures, working on changing the future and engaging people in the future development of their environment and to excite them about their cities. Other main goal is to connect people from different cities and countries, through our Table of Meetings as moving meeting point.

Describe your (potential) partners. Which sectors/professional fields do they represent?

We built a network through personal contacts in many European countries with a variety of private persons engaging themselves in society or in culture with a strong social dimension, with groups of such individuals and with cities, art festivals, institutions, universities and museums who have interest in such a social approach, among others Festival Encontros de Imagem Braga (Portugal), Foundation José Saramago Lisbon (Portugal), Escoitar.org Vigo (Spain), SMAK City Museum of Contemporary Art Ghent (Belgium), Manifesta9 (Belgium), Goethe Institut South East Europe, atenistas.org (Greece), Athens School of Fine Arts (Greece), Folkwang University of Arts Essen (Germany), Atelier Latent Leipzig (Germany)...

Which skills and/or experience that you already have are relevant for the realisation of this idea? (if applicable, name examples of projects/partnerships you or your organisation have been involved in)

The Milena principle organized a variety of artistic and cultural events connecting people throughout Europe in the last decade. We built a network of international partners in more then 15 countries, including private persons, cultural institutions, universities and museums, all established through personal contacts. The majority of activities were realized on basis of voluntary work of our team and international partners, with no or little money nor governmental help. Our target public varied from children to senior citizens, often connecting them internationally.

Some of our projects:

http://www.themilena.com/projects.html

Examples of interactions with residents and in public space: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvXi8PgO5mM & https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzBKhVpaE9E

Which skills/resources/partners etc. do you think are needed for the realisation of your project and what would you like to gain from participation in the Idea Camp?

Our cooperations were established on a personal level, with in most of the cases only personal financial or material support, this idea camp will give us the opportunity to extend our activities and network through meetings with persons, groups and organisations with the same interests and experiences making us able to learn to manage, materialize, concretizise and realize this idea and our many other ideas for the future to come in an European dimension.