Cité internationale des arts



Press Kit

To Make Space for the World

Exhibition from October 8, 2026 to January 16, 2027

↘ Marais Site → Galerie → 18, rue de l'Hôtel de Ville, 75004 Paris

To Make Space for the World

Exhibition from October 8, 2026 to January 16, 2027
Opening : Wednesday, October 8, 2026, 6 – 9 pm

Taking Cité internationale des arts as the starting point, *To Make Space for the World* proposes a wider reflection on how contemporary artists address the promises, contradictions and afterlives of cultural internationalism, a form of exchange, action, and solidarity that extends beyond national frameworks.

Bringing together 16 artists from 15 different countries (in residence between 1992 and the present day), *To Make Space for the World* presents the relation to borders, known as the international, not as a settled value, but as something lived unevenly: a daily process of negotiation, translation, hospitality and forced displacement for many; a structure of opportunity, but also of dependence; a promise that could orient artists powerfully, while never entirely escaping the political and cultural asymmetries of the world around it.

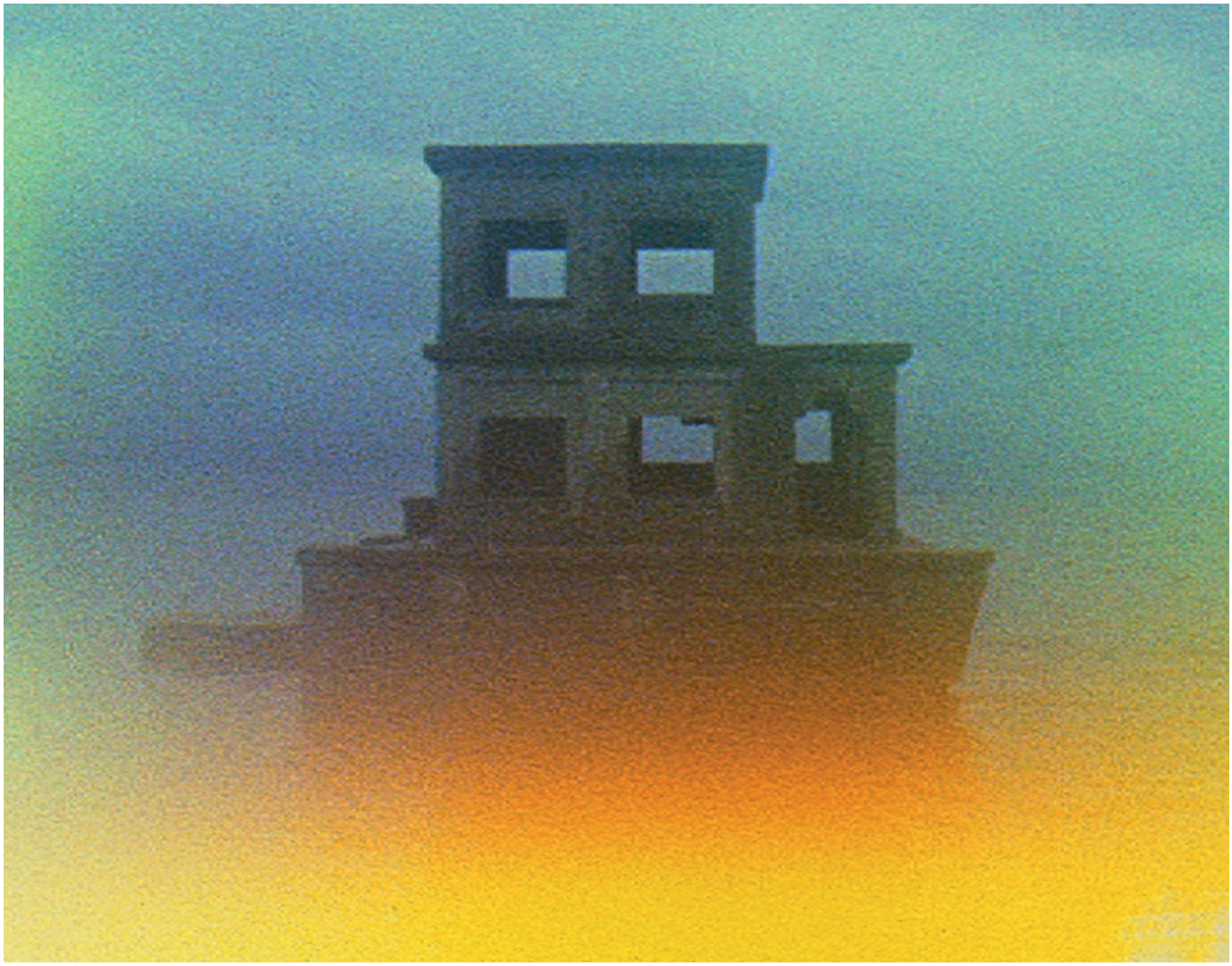
While the Cité internationale des arts was conceived during the interwar period and established after the Second World War, shaped by a Europe scarred with war and genocide, the founders proposed another horizon: one in which artistic exchange might produce forms of proximity and relation that nation states had failed to sustain in the decades before. In its name, Cité internationale des arts, the emphasis falls on the place itself as an international exception with its own codes, rhythms and temporary communities. Cité was imagined as a city within a city, a place that might suspend, if only partially, the hierarchies of the world of nation states beyond its walls. Yet Cité was also inseparable from a wider French cultural ambition. It has therefore always held two contrasting impulses: a commitment to be open to the world and a mission to put Paris at its centre. This tension inspired the exhibition title and many of the participating artists, raising questions of power relations and access to mobility.

Some artists propose horizontal forms of gathering: carnival and caravan as metaphors of exchange and safe harbor, song as the promise of return amidst annihilation, or matrilineality as an alternative social structure. Other projects remind us of art as a temporary refuge from grief and trauma, a suturing of wounds physical and symbolic, or a herald of hidden histories coming home to roost.

Curated
Chương-Đài Võ,
Charles Esche
& Federica Chiocchetti

Himat M. Ali
Zbyněk Baladrán
Taysir Batniji
Louidgi Beltrame
Emma Charrin
Gustavo Ciríaco &
João Gonçalo Lopes
Cristina Escobar
Olia Fedorova
Gluklya
Ola Hassanain
Thomas Henriksson
Kari Ikonen
Young Joo Lee
Hussein Nassereddine
Wendie Zahibo

To Make Space for the World



Louidgi Beltrame, *Katashima Torpedo Base*, 2010
Super 8 film transferred to HD video, silent, 3 mins 14 secs.
Courtesy of the artist.



Young Joo Lee, *The Congress*, 2025
Oil on canvas. Courtesy of the artist.



Ola Hassanain, *The Watcher*, 2024
Single channel 4k UHD video, 2-channel sound, (19:19 min, looped)
Courtesy of the artist.

To Make Space for the World

↘ During the exhibition

At the Cité

Saturday, October 17, 2026, 7pm

Ibrahim Mahama, artist-in-residence, in conversation with Kathryn Weir, art historian and curator (ENG)
→ Auditorium

Thursday, November 26, 2026, 6pm

- Introduction of the exhibition in the presence of the curators and artists
- Tour of Zbyněk Baladrán's installation
- Concert by Kari Ikonen & guest

→ Galerie & auditorium

→ Wednesday, December 9, 2026, 7pm

A conversation with Bouchra Ouizguen, artist-in-residence (FR)
→ Auditorium

→ Saturday, January 16, 2027

- Poetry reading by Hussein Nassereddine & Liên Hoàng-Xuân (AR/ENG)
- *Caravanserá* performance by Gustavo Ciríaco

→ Galerie

Cité internationale des arts x Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain

At the invitation of the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, which is presenting Ibrahim Mahama's exhibition *Le Temps des récoltes* from October 22, 2026 to February 28, 2027, the Cité is taking part in the *Parliament of Ghosts* project. This installation, which takes the form of a parliamentary chamber, embodies the artist's collective and dynamic practice and will be brought to life through a programme combining music, performances, talks and debates. Echoing the exhibition *To Make Space for the World*, the Cité is offering a series of talks led by the co-curators and the team at the Cité internationale des arts.

Tuesday, November 24, 2026, 5–6 pm

Charles Esche and Chương-Đài Võ, co-curators of the exhibition *To Make Space for the World*, in conversation with the artists Wendie Zahibo and Taysir Batniji (ENG)

Tuesday, December 8, 2026, 5–6 pm

Federica Chiocchetti, Arts and Culture Programme Manager, in conversation with Gustavo Ciríaco (ENG)

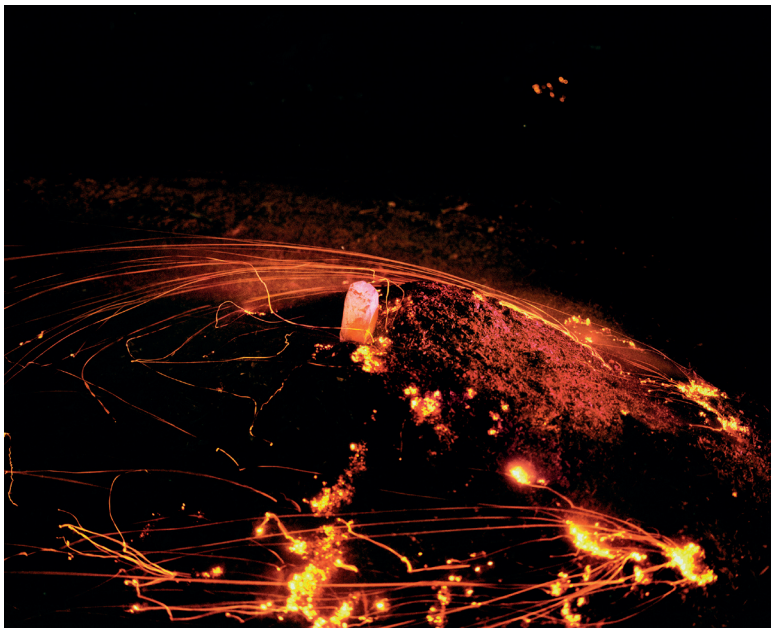
Tuesday, January 12, 2027, 5–6 pm

Bénédicte Alliot, General Director, in conversation with Zahia Rahmani, writer and art historian (FR)

Tuesday, February 2, 2027, 5–6 pm

Vincent Gonzalvez, Director of Residencies, Arts and Culture Programme and Communication, in conversation with artist-in-residence Carolle Sanchez (FR)

To Make Space for the World



Emma Charrin, *Visions Telluriques #07*, 2025-2026
Fine art print on Arches BFK Rives paper
146 x 180 cm
Courtesy of the artist.



Cristina Escobar, *Le village nègre*, 2023 Installation comprising a set of terracotta tiles created using the Raku technique, black ceramics.
Courtesy of the artist.



Hussein Nassereddine, *Even The Most Delicate Hands Could not Hold The River*, 2023
Hot-stamping on leather covers, dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist.

↘ The Curators

→ Chương-Đài Võ

Chương-Đài Võ is a guest curator at the Ygrec Art Centre – ENSAPC and a lecturer at ENSAPC. Among her recent projects, she served as artistic director of the Africa-Asia Festival in Dakar in 2025, and co-edited, with Charles Esche, the book The Museum is Multiple: Van Abbemuseum 2004–24. Her essays have been published by Afterall, the Albertinum Museum, the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-arts, the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, the Institut national d'histoire de l'art (INHA), the Muzeum Sztuki Nowoczesnej w Warszawie, the Moderna galerija and the Taipei Fine Arts Museum. She was in residence at the Cité internationale des arts in 2022–2023 as part of the 2-12 programme.

→ Charles Esche

Charles Esche is a writer and curator based in Amsterdam. He is a member of the L'Internationale association and is developing the Three Ashes Foundation on a site near Bucharest, Romania. He is a lecturer in contemporary art and curatorial practice at the University of the Arts London, an adviser to the Jan van Eyck Academie and a PhD candidate at the University of Amsterdam. He was director of the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven (2004–2024) and the Rooseum in Malmö (2000–2004).

→ Federica Chiocchetti, Arts and Culture Programme Manager

Federica Chiocchetti is the curator in charge of the artistic and cultural programming at the Cité internationale des arts, where she was in residency in 2019. Between 2022 and 2026, she directed the Musée des Beaux-Arts Le Locle (MBAL) in Switzerland. A nominator for the Bob Calle Artist's Book Prize, she also served on the jury for the Swiss Pavilion of Pro Helvetia at the Venice Biennale Arte 2026. She holds a PhD on the intersections between text and image from the University of Westminster and is the author of short stories and prose poems under the pseudonyme Candida Desideri.

To Make Space for the World

↘ Cité internationale des arts

Chairman: Maurice Gourdault-Montagne
Chief Executive: Bénédicte Alliot

The Cité internationale des arts, the world's largest artists' residence, has been bringing together more than 300 artists of all backgrounds and generations in the heart of Paris since 1965, enabling them to carry out creative or research projects across all disciplines (visual arts, music, literature, film, design and architecture, performing arts, exhibition curation, etc.).

For periods ranging from two months to a year, in the Marais or Montmartre, the Cité internationale des arts – a recognised public-interest foundation – offers them an environment conducive to creativity, open to encounters with professionals from the cultural sector and the public, and tailored support.

In collaboration with its numerous partners, it issues several calls for applications each year, based on specific themes and/or projects, and develops targeted residency programmes.

Throughout the year, it devises a multidisciplinary and diverse artistic and cultural programme (open workshops, exhibitions, concerts, performances, debates, etc.), highlighting in particular the work of artists who are or have been residents, and affirming the role of the residency as a space for dialogue and experimentation.



Anne-Laure Boyer's open studio, Wednesday, June 17, 2026, Marais Site, Cité internationale des arts
© Maurine Tric / ADAGP Paris, 2026

To Make Space for the World

Curated by: Chương-Đài Võ, Charles Esche and Federica Chiocchetti

Cité internationale des arts ↘ Marais Site
→ Galerie
18, rue de l'Hôtel de Ville
75004 Paris

From October 8, 2026 to January 16, 2027
Wednesday to Saturday, 2–7 pm
Late-night opening on Wednesdays until 9pm
Free admission

Opening: Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 6–9 pm
Full details at ↗ www.citeinternationaledesarts.fr

The exhibition is supported by:

NL Pays-Bas

Partners for the talks and events associated with the exhibition:

Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain

Festival d'Automne

The Cité is supported by:

Ministère de la Culture – Liberté Égalité Fraternité

PARIS

Académie des Beaux-Arts – Institut de France

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#citeinternationaledesarts
www.citeinternationaledesarts.fr

Cover: Gustavo Ciríaco & João Gonçalo Lopes, *Caravanserá*, 2025
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