

Archipelago Network ————— Press Release

Press release #04

September 11, 2023

An Invitation to Communities Between Islands

In this time of climate emergency, the Archipelago Network invites you to explore contemporary environmental concerns within diverse island communities, through an artistic lens. "Communities Between Islands" is a collaborative initiative involving [Providenza](#) in Corsica, France; [Cherimus](#) in Sardinia, Italy; and [Archipelago Network](#) in Syros, Greece. From September 2023 to the end of 2024, these three Mediterranean organizations host nine international artists who will collaborate with local communities through residencies and workshops, creating novel artistic commissions inspired by local thematics and concerns. The participating artists will present the outcome of the residencies in collaboration with local art institutions (FRAC Corsica, Museo Nivola in Sardinia, and the Syros International Film Festival) and the municipalities of Bastia, Perdaxius, and Syros-Ermoupolis on each respective island.

Chapter #01: "Untraced Passages" Residency Program & Public Presentations in Syros, September 2023

For the first chapter of the residency, the Archipelago Network has invited the artists [Marianne Fahmy](#) (1992, Egypt), Latent Community (Sotiris Tsiganos, 1992, and Ionian Bisai, 1992, Greece), and [Elke Marhöfer](#) (1967, Cuba) to investigate the contemporary environmental crisis and local realities through time-based media. The residency program and public presentations are implemented in collaboration with curator [Eva Vaslamatzi](#).

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RESEARCH PROJECTS

"Laws of the Ruins" by Marianne Fahmy

During the residency, Marianne Fahmy expands her research on marginalized narratives related to sea and water. Coming from Alexandria, a city that has drowned numerous times throughout history, the artist seeks to address the criticality of the city's current situation due to climate change. By investigating various water structures both ancient and modern on all the three islands that reflect political and social changes, she aims to question and bring to light different approaches and knowledge systems in order to secure a sustainable future for the islands, while raising historical consciousness about their past existence.

"Resonant Rehearsals" by Latent Community

On all three islands Latent Community engage in extensive fieldwork and collaboration with local communities, environmental activists, and scientists focusing on how pollution and activities of the tourist, military and maritime industries affect social and ecological equilibriums in unpredictable ways. By listening to diverse voices and rendering images of damaged environments, they aim to map

the polyphony of the liquid connections between Corsica, Sardinia and Syros. Their approach lies in repurposing military-developed sonic and image capturing technologies from extractivist surveillance devices into artistic tools for active stewardship and protection of endangered ecosystems and communities.

"Exploring Resilience: Revisiting Practices of Wilderness" by Elke Marhöfer

Rather than triggering dystopian feelings of shrinkage and fear in the face of a world without fossil fuels, Elke Marhöfer aims to explore potentials of space for other-than-fossil-fuel perspectives. During her residency, the artist looks into a not-so-distant past, seeking to rediscover moments of indigenous and/or traditional ecological knowledge in consensus with the environments, such as chestnut culture in Corsica, the foraging of mushrooms and other edibles in Sardinia, and dry-wall farming in Syros. Working with local foragers, farmers, biologists and activists, the project aims to visit distinct vegetation zones on the islands with their variously disturbed environments, explore their current state of resilience and create awareness for the vulnerability of fragile environments.

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PUBLIC PROGRAM

The participating artists will visit Syros this September, where they will host a series of public workshops and works-in-progress presentations between September 23-28, 2023, in collaboration with the [Syros International Film Festival \(SIFF\)](#). A screening dedicated to the participating artists' previous work will take place in Ermoupolis on September 30.

WORKSHOPS

Held in collaboration with the [Koinsep Apano Meria](#)
September 23-28
Various locations in Syros island
Reserve your spot [here](#) until September 20

Marianne Fahmy

Saturday, September 23, 12:00
Archaeological Museum of Syros
Participants: 10 persons
Duration: approx. 2 hours
Workshop will be conducted in English

The workshop invites participants to explore storytelling through visual art inspired by the artifacts of the Archaeological Museum of Syros. Using and experimenting with the medium of their choice, such as drawing, collage, photography, or writing, the participants will engage in storytelling exercises, reflecting on significant personal moments and community experiences. They will note key events and emotions, and even share personal or family archival photos. Each person will select a museum artifact to interpret it in unique ways and incorporate it creatively into their work; it might inspire text, photos, drawings, or other applications. This process helps the participants to uncover connections and contradictions within their narratives. Throughout the workshop, Marianne Fahmy will offer guidance on various art techniques, composition, and storytelling elements like symbols, colors, and texts.

Latent Community

Monday, September 25, 17:00
Various locations in Ermoupoli
Participants: 10 persons
Duration: approx. 2 hours
Workshop will be conducted both in English and Greek

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The workshop is offered by Latent Community as a critical reflection on their research experience of sonic explorations in the Mediterranean. The workshop will focus on the ecological aspect of sound and how we could use sound devices as tools to re-explore ways of co-existing with non-human ecosystems. Using different types of microphones, the artists will show the workshop participants how we can understand the ecological crisis through sound. The aim of the workshop is to inform participants about how sound can become a system for caring and understanding non-human ecosystems.

Elke Marhöfer

Thursday, September 28, 18:00

Ktima Pomogna, Ano Meria

Participants: 15 persons

Duration: approx. 2 hours

Workshop will be conducted in English

Elke Marhöfer's workshop initiates with a gathering to ponder artistic resilience amid environmental and mental crises. She draws inspiration from Félix Guattari's ecological perspectives, distinguishing between natural, social, and mental ecologies. Through a film screening and open discussion with

participants in the unique environment of the Pomogna farm, Marhöfer raises questions about how artists and art spaces can adapt to changing environmental and mental conditions, in order to reshape our relationship with landscapes.

SCREENING

Saturday, September 30, 20:00

[Hermoupolis Heritage](#)

16, Iroon Politechniou St.

The screening, co-organized by Hermoupolis Heritage, includes a discussion and Q&A, and will be followed by a reception.

Films are subtitled in both Greek and English.

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Elke Marhöfer

Becoming Extinct (Wild Grass)

Russia, 2017, 23'

The film and research project is an exploration of ecologies of extinction and collaborative survival in the Southern Russian steppes, close to the current Russian-Ukrainian war zone and the exploded Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The two concepts of extinction and becoming are difficult to think about together; both are more than just a metaphor and none of them offers an easy way out. The film speculates about more-than-human relationalities, attempting to stimulate an environmentally attuned mode of acting in a damaged world.

Marianne Fahmy

Magic Carpet Land

Egypt, 2020, 11'

A film inspired by the diaries of an Egyptian oceanographer in the 1930 torn between his fascination with the West and his pride in his oriental background, who was part of a British scientific expedition that took place on the first scientific research vessel in Egypt. Throughout the oceanographer's journey he recalls historical events and memories that reflect social and political struggles of that time, raising questions of

nationalism and identity, while envisioning the dream of a nomadic land that the vessel resembles.

Latent Community

Otranto

Greece/Italy, 2019, 24'

Four female voices interweave a polyphonic narration of the story of Katër i Radës, the first boat that sank in a naval blockade against migration flows. The film follows the relatives of the victims performing a voyage by crossing the Mediterranean Sea following the same route, to ask questions ignored by the media and the court.

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ARTISTS' BIOS

[Marianne Fahmy](#) lives in Alexandria, Egypt, and works primarily with installation and film. She deploys past and current narratives into potential futures that oscillate between fiction and reality. Through her video, photography, sculpture, and mixed media works, she takes on the role of a new historicist, using parafiction to deconstruct the social and political issues of the present. Her work has been presented at Sharjah Biennale 2023, 7th Yokohama Triennial (2020), Manifesta 13 (2020), Towner International (2020), Mediterranea 19 Young Artists Biennale (2020), Havana Biennale (2019), and Dakar Biennale (2018), "Alexandria" group show at MUCEM and Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels (2022).

[Latent Community](#) is the interdisciplinary artist duo by visual artists and filmmakers Sotiris Tsiganos and Ionian Bisai. They work with the moving image in research-based projects as a tool to explore issues of social, political and ecological justice. Their interdisciplinary practice integrates extensive fieldwork with relational strategies and performative sequences as means to render forgotten memories, to amplify unheard voices and to explore overlooked ecosystems. Their work has been presented in various forums, including the Athens

Biennale (2017), Documenta 14 - Public Programs (2017), Thessaloniki Documentary Festival (2020), Mediterranea 19 (2021), 23rd Sydney Biennale (2022).

[Elke Marhöfer](#) studied Fine Art at SAIC Chicago and ISP Whitney Museum of American Art. Her work investigates ecological practices for human and nonhuman communities. She was awarded a PhD and Postdoc at Kyoto University, Japan. Her films were screened at the Flaherty NYC, Jeu de Paume Paris, Courtisane Ghent, Cinematek Brussels, Stockholm, Toronto & Tokyo, transmediale Berlin, BFI London, Berlinale Berlin, IFFR Rotterdam, Images Festival Toronto, Berlinische Galerie, Showroom London, Kyiv Biennale, Kaohsiung Taipei, Badischer Kunstverein, FCAC Shanghai, MFA Houston.

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"Communities Between Islands" is a Creative Europe project funded by the European Commission, and realized with the support of the Goethe-Institut Athen.

Cherimus is an association aiming to contribute to the development of the social and cultural patrimony – past and present – of the Sulcis-Iglesiente region (South-west Sardinia, Italy) through art.

Providenza is an agri-cultural project and studio space in the mountains of Corsica, located in the area originally called the Ghjuncheto. It is designed to inspire and produce new works at the intersection of arts and sciences.

To stay updated with the latest news from the field and upcoming events, follow the social networks of the Archipelago Network or visit archipelagonetwork.org.

Social Media:

Instagram: [@archipelago_net](https://www.instagram.com/archipelago_net)

Facebook: [@archipelagonet](https://www.facebook.com/archipelagonet)

LinkedIn: [Archipelago Network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Archipelago-Network)

Vimeo: [@archipelagonetwork](https://vimeo.com/archipelagonetwork)

Mixcloud: [@archipelagonetwork](https://www.mixcloud.com/archipelagonetwork)

For all media inquiries, please contact Archipelago Network at comms@archipelagonetwork.org.