

Archipelago Network ————— Press Release

Press release #06

April 24, 2024

Communities Between Islands Unveils Chapter #02: Woven By the Currents

The interdisciplinary arts-based research program **Communities Between Islands (CBI)** announces the launch of its second chapter, titled "Woven By the Currents." Following the warm reception of the first cycle curated by Archipelago Network, which took place in autumn 2023, this chapter continues the program's mission to encourage collaboration and interaction among international artists with the local communities of Corsica, Sardinia, and Syros through participatory workshops and public programs.

For Chapter #02: **Woven By the Currents**, [Providenza](#) has invited artists **Sarah-Anaïs Desbenoit** (1992, France), **Dania Shihab** (1982, Iraq), and **Amalia Vargas** (1994, Colombia) to explore the interconnectedness of landscapes, narratives, and traditions across these three Mediterranean islands, resulting in projects resonating with these island cultures, utilizing different expressive mediums: sound, video, and photography respectively.

From **May 7 to May 16, 2024**, the artists visit **Syros** for the first part of their research, during which they will host a series of workshops open to the public. If you are interested in participating, you may sign up until Friday, May 3 by completing the registration form [here](#). Registrations are confirmed on a first come, first served basis.

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WORKSHOP by Dania Shihab

Friday May 10, 5pm, Hermoupolis (location to be announced upon signup)

Participants: up to 15 persons

Duration: approx. 2 hours

Working language: English

Reserve your spot [here](#) by May 3

Shihab's workshop involves the creation of a collective sound piece through audio recording and looping technologies. For the first part of the workshop participants will participate in a listening session, followed by a sound walking tour in Ermoupolis and a group composition exercise.

About Dania Shihab's project, titled *Object – Land*

By drawing parallels between the bodily displacement of the migrant experience and the geographic displacement of island life, Dania Shihab examines how these realities inform the evolution of new melodic motifs and modes, and how they impact the preservation of traditional music. This process involves collecting field recordings and exploring the topographies of the three Mediterranean islands, focusing on how music practices in both native and immigrant communities are influenced by contemporary culture and the surrounding landscape. After compiling this information, Shihab will use her findings to create a long-form composition.

WORKSHOP by Amalia Vargas

Saturday May 11, 12pm, Hermoupolis (location to be announced upon signup)

Participants: up to 8 persons

Duration: approx. 2 hours

Working language: English

Reserve your spot [here](#) by May 3

Vargas proposes a photographic experience of capturing outdoors spaces in Syros with a pinhole camera. The workshop will be carried out in three stages: firstly, the construction of the camera, then the outdoor shots, and finally the development of the images. Vargas is interested in traditional and typical architecture that represents the island, with the aim of compiling a glossary of images that will inspire the sculptures she imagines to create during her residency.

About Amalia Vargas's project, titled *Ecume des flux*

For her residency project, Vargas delves into the interplay of ancient and modern influences across the islands of Syros, Sardinia, and Corsica. Each island's landscape serves as a source of inspiration for sculptural forms that emerge from objects found on their shores. During her voyage, she meticulously collects such found objects, drawing inspiration from architectural motifs such as caryatids and balusters. Through this process, her work aims to construct an archaeology, an archive of our time—a testament to the enduring dialogue between humanity and the natural environment, inviting the audience to reconsider their relationship with the landscapes and cultural heritage of the Mediterranean islands.

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WORKSHOP by Sarah-Anaïs Desbenoit

Tuesday May 14, 5pm, Hermoupolis (location to be announced upon signup)

Participants: up to 15 persons

Duration: approx. 2 hours

Working language: English

Reserve your spot [here](#) by May 3

For her workshop, Desbenoit proposes the creation of a collective work through DV captures and sound recordings. After a brief presentation of her research and recording methodologies, the group takes a walk in various locations, making use of video and sound equipment provided. The resulting DV cassettes are then digitized and edited into a collaborative artwork.

About Sarah-Anaïs Desbenoit's project, titled *Mermaid Melody*

During the residency, Desbenoit investigates local myths relating to women across the islands of Syros, Sardinia, and Corsica. Through a blend of video and sound elements, she explores the beliefs and narratives shaped by the landscapes of these Mediterranean islands. Symbolism embedded within the territories helps to unearth a rich tapestry of myths and legends passed down through generations. Employing a combination of documentary and fictional approaches, Desbenoit aims to stage these recollections, offering audiences a unique perspective on the relationship between humanity and nature in these island landscapes.

ARTISTS' BIOS

Dania Shihab

b. 1982 in Baghdad, Iraq

Lives and works in Barcelona, Spain

An architect of textured, neo-ambient soundscapes, [Dania Shihab](#) explores both sound and identity, focusing specifically on how the latter has fractured in a post-colonial world. Born in Baghdad, raised in Tasmania and now based in Barcelona, she moves between cultures and continents, her amorphous creative vision directly tied to her transient existence. The founder of experimental outpost Paralaxe Editions, Dania divides her time between Spain and the remote corners of Australia, where she works as an emergency doctor. Her musical practice, however, is preoccupied with harmonics and tonality, weaving together manipulated vocal fragments, processed field recordings and meditative atmospheres. Dania has released on labels such as Geographic North, Superpang and Ecstatic. She has performed at Mira, Sonar, Sonic Acts, Arts Santa Monica, Cafe Oto amongst others.

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Amalia Vargas

b. 1994 in Barranquilla, Colombia

Lives and works between Genoa, Italy and Erbalunga, France (Corsica)

By changing the use of objects, [Amalia Vargas](#) articulates an interest in their intrinsic values, which fluctuate between devaluation through abandonment and revaluation through reuse, modifying uses and perceptions. From actualisation to singularisation, she offers a second life to the objects she manipulates, as well as a metamorphosed future. Amalia Vargas graduated with honors in 2018 from the Ecole supérieure d'arts et médias of Caen/Cherbourg. In 2017, she founded the collectif OK together with three comrades, artists and friends, with the aim to counter the individualistic ideology of the art world and to propose their own conditions for exhibitions. Her work has been presented at Berlinskej Model in Prague in a solo exhibition, at 8. Salon in Hamburg, at the Centre culturel des Fosses d'Enfer in Saint-Remy-sur-Orne, at DOC! Paris, at the Galerie l'axolotl in Toulon and, more recently, at the Musée Fabre, the MO.CO La panacée in Montpellier, at La Ferme du Buisson in Noisiel and at the FRAC CORSICA in Corte.

Sarah-Anaïs Desbenoit

b. 1992 in Paris, France

Lives and works in Paris, France

Sarah-Anaïs Desbenoit graduated from the École nationale supérieure d'arts de Paris-Cergy in 2020 before joining Le Fresnoy - Studio national des arts contemporains in Tourcoing. Underpinned by long-term research—pursued in particular during a residency at the Tighmert Oasis in the Moroccan desert and an internship at Villa Kujoyama in Japan—, her work focuses on the mechanisms of appearance and disappearance of images and their impact on memory and cognition. Through the creation of miniatures, but also through the use of video, projection and sound, her practice develops around the question of illusion and sublimated disorder. Inducing a meditative slowing down, her visual and aural installations are conceived as liminal places where several layers of reality are superimposed. In 2022, she made *Phalene*, a short film shot in 16 mm, which plunges us into a tale composed of a succession of tableaux vivants in which twin sisters go through a mystical experience. Parallel to her artistic practice, Sarah-Anaïs is also an editor/grader/camera operator and assistant director. She also directs video clips for emerging musicians and assists various artists in audiovisual production for museums and for haute couture brands.

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"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 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.

Communities Between Islands is a [Creative Europe](#) project funded by the European Commission, and realized with the support of the [Goethe-Institut Athen](#) and the [J.F. Costopoulos Foundation](#).

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.

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