

RomaMoMA A European Manifesto for Roma Cultural Inclusion

Where are the transnational spaces and institutional infrastructures for Roma cultural production? How will the Roma people and the Roma contributions become recognized in the (art-) history of Europe? Where are the institutions for whom diversity means true cultural inclusion of the largest minority in Europe?

The RomaMoMA Manifesto addresses the vicious circle that paralyzed Roma arts for over a millennium, prohibiting a truly diverse European cultural scene, and hindering the development of democratic societies.

Status quo

Roma are the largest and at the same time most vulnerable minority of Europe (10-12 million people). The social inclusion of Roma is impossible without cultural inclusion, yet the more than a millennium long cultural contribution of Roma to European societies, and national cultures is denied. Roma arts and culture have been misinterpreted and racialized as ethnic, naive and primitive. Roma cultural heritage is inaccessible and in -danger – stored in basements, archives and storages – without presentation and preservation strategies.

To this date, European majority institutions failed to include Roma arts and culture into their permanent programming. This cultural exclusion, and the missed opportunity of recognizing the vast contribution of Roma to European life and history has long lasting and devastating results: It relegates Roma people to the deprived – social, economic, political, and cultural periphery of Europe.

A change in cultural policy and practice is overdue. The transformation – as many times in history – must begin in the cultural field:

Alliance of Institutions for European Roma Cultural Inclusion

ERIAC is launching an Alliance of Institutions for European Roma Cultural Inclusion to conduct a policy change. We invite all public institutions in Europe working with arts and culture – museums, concert halls, academic institutions, cultural decision-makers, to reshape museum protocols and join the **Alliance of Institutions for European Roma Cultural Inclusion! Start the change within your own institution/ organization!** Join the alliance and commit to an institutional operation and programming that ensures the long-term cultural inclusion of Roma first into our culture and then into our societies. See the list of public institutions who ERIAC has already partnered with in the past for Roma cultural inclusion and contact ERIAC (eriac@eriac.org) with your institution`s Roma inclusion policy to receive the certification, the membership package and the expertise you need (if any). For more information visit www.eraic.org/romamoma.

Performing a Roma Modern and Contemporary Art Museum: RomaMoMA

RomaMoMA¹ is a transnational, collaborative and discursive art project of the European Roma Institute of Arts and Culture (ERIAC) and OFF-Biennale Budapest. It is a platform to envision and discuss the possible forms of a Roma museum of modern and contemporary art that will

¹ RomaMoma is not a new idea. We honour the many intellectuals and institutions since the beginning of Roma authorship - both Roma and non-Roma - who attempted to call for a similar initiative, before. The notion of the Roma Museum and its long, oppressed and invisible cultural history is the core and genealogy of this RomaMoma initiative.

spread in time and space through a series of exhibitions, discussions, and art projects. It will invite Roma and non-Roma artists, cultural experts, scholars and civil society. RomaMoMA is to perform an institution which, hopefully one day, materializes into a cutting-edge agent of the contemporary arts and culture scene. RomaMoMA is guided and supported by the think-tank, which is assembled of experts of various fields of art and the humanities, in order to exchange ideas on the necessity and possible roles of a transnational museum of Roma contemporary art, and to come up with a collective proposal for the institution of such a museum.

Members of the RomaMoMA Think-tank

André Jenő Raatzsch (artist, Documentation and Cultural Centre for German Sinti and Roma, Heidelberg/RomArchive project), Jana Horváthová (Director, Museum of Romani Culture-Brno) Delaine Le Bas (artist), Ethel Brooks (Professor at Rutgers University, Department of Women and Gender Studies), Ian Hancock (Professor at the University of Texas at Austin, Department of Linguistics), Achille Mbembe (Professor at University of Wits Witwatersrand, Institute for Social and Economic Research), Maria Lind (curator, writer, art critic, co-curator of the 2019 Biennial in Timisoara), Tímea Junghaus (art historian, curator, executive director of ERIAC), Rashida Bumbray (curator, director of Culture and Art Program of the Open Society Foundations), Emilia Rigova (artist, head of Roma arts and culture Department at University of Matej Bel, Slovakia, Banská Bystrica), Angela Kocze (Director of Romani Studies Program, Central European University), Julia Ferloni (curator, MUCEM, Marseille), Kader Attia (artist and scholar), Vera Marusic (curator, Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum in Köln) and Nanette Sneop (Director, Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum in Köln), Denisa Tomkova (art historian, scholar, curator)

ERIAC has already partnered with the following institutions for Roma cultural inclusion

Maxim Gorki Theater, Berlin
Volksbühne, Berlin
Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum, Köln
Villa Romana, Florence
Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm
MUCEM, Marseille

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