



EUROPEAN CULTURAL CENTRE PROFILE & ACTIVITIES



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WHO WE ARE

The European Cultural Centre [ECC] is a cultural organisation founded by the Dutch artist Rene Rietmeyer and originating back to 2002. Today we are an ever-expanding group of diverse people who like to make a positive difference, because we care.

We care about humanity and about the overall state and direction of our world. Doing nothing is not an option.

We have created a dynamic organisation which establishes cultural centres worldwide and is devoted to cultural exchange, international art and architecture exhibitions, symposia and a wide range of cultural projects. Not only for Europeans but with people from all around the world.

Our goal is to create awareness, to strengthen our cultural commons, to cherish our uniqueness and to learn about the qualities within our differences.

We believe that progress is best made by creating a deeper awareness about the serious challenges we all face today. We try to bring people from very different cultures together in the hope that we will all learn from each other.

Naturally we have our own opinions and we do like to promote our own values, values in which we strongly believe. We are a non-political and non-religious organisation, open to all people, to all points of view, in the hope that everybody learns to respect the freedom, the dignity and rights of every single living being.

The ECC provides the conditions to invite and promote artistic and creative practices, a direct interaction with a multitude of intellectual and cultural art forms [visual arts, dance, performance, theatre, music, literature, architecture, etc.].



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The ECC is a non-profit organisation headquartered in the Netherlands. It is an international network of legal entities, ECC-Satellites, all with a non-profit objective. The ECC continues to expand its network of Satellites, associations and partners.

The global sharing of resources, knowledge and contacts has to result in an increased international interaction and the creation of new joined projects. It also enables people to participate worldwide in cultural activities such as exhibitions, education and creative projects as well as to exchange ideas and knowledge.

To achieve our goals, we continue to expand our international network of inspired, creative, and dedicated individuals. Our people care and are determined to further develop these independent ECC-Satellites where intellectual and cultural exchange is a reality.



The Project "Facing Gaia" by Daniel Libeskind
at the European Cultural Centre.

WHAT WE DO

To date, we have organised and hosted over 50 contemporary art, design and architecture exhibitions worldwide - as well as hundreds of meetings, workshops, symposiums and other cultural events.

In addition, we publish books, catalogues, documentary videos and offer, with our ECC-Academy, comprehensive educational programs for all those who are sincerely interested in cultural exchange.

We create Art Projects and Art Editions in close cooperation with each selected artist. Each project centralises the artist and emphasises their work. The Projects and Editions are published by the ECC. The artworks which are created in the process often become part of the ECC-Collection.

Moreover, as part of the ECC-Italy exhibitions, the ECC awards a participating artist, designer, architect or institution for their achievements every year.



WHO WE HAVE WORKED WITH

Marina Abramovic, SRB
Nobuyoshi Araki, JPN
Emre Arolat, TUR
Auckland University, NZL
Arthena Foundation, DEU
Asia Art Center, TWN
Tatiana Bilbao, MEX
Ricardo Bofill, ESP
Andrey Bokov, RUS
Denise Scott Brown, USA
Caldic Collection, NLD
Odile Decq, FRA
TU Delft University, NLD
Balkrishna Doshi, IND
Peter Eisenman, USA
Toshikatsu Endo, JPN
ETH Zurich, CHE
ECC-Academy, NLD
VALIE EXPORT, AUT
Fang Lijun, CHN
Curt Fentress, USA
Konrad Fischer Gallery, DEU
Fondazione Morra, ITA
GMP, DEU
Goodman Gallery, ZAF
The Governments of:
Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Mongolia,
Philippines, Mozambique,
Pakistan, Kiribati, Seychelles.
Gotthard Graubner, DEU
Guangdong Museum of Art, CHN
Hubei Museum of Art, CHN

Arata Isozaki, JPN
IUAV University, ITA
Marcio Kogan, BRA
Joseph Kosuth, USA
Kengo Kuma, JPN
Kunstlerhaus Bregenz, AUT
La Biennale di Venezia, ITA
Lee Ufan, KOR
Li Chen, CHN
Lissoni Associati, ITA
Daniel Libeskind, POL
Lisson Gallery, GBR
Ludwig Museum, DEU
Heinz Mack, DEU
Fumihiko Maki, JPN
Richard Meier, USA
Mies v.d. Rohe Foundation, ESP
MIT, USA
Francois Morellet, FRA
Nanjing University, CHN
New Museum NY, USA
Hermann Nitsch, AUT
Yoko Ono, USA
Roman Opalka, FRA
Pan Tianshou Foundation, CHN
Mike Parr, AUS
Otto Piene, DEU
Arnulf Rainer, AUT
Karim Rashid, USA
Moshe Safdie, ISR
Sammlung Lenz-Schonberg, AUT
Oki Sato, JPN

Nikken Sekkei, JPN
Schusev Museum Moscow, RUS
Setagaya Art Museum, JPN
Stanford University, USA
E. Souto De Moura, PRT
Tsinghua University, CHN
Turenscape, CHN
UNESCO, ITA
Universidad Católica del Norte, CHL
Universidad Ibero Americana, MEX
University of Arkansas, USA
University of Hong Kong, HKG
University of Houston, USA
University of North Carolina, USA
University of the Philippines, PHL
University of Sydney, AUS
Ben Vautier, FRA
herman de vries, NLD
Lawrence Weiner, USA
White arkitekter, SWE
WOHA, SGP
Written Art Foundation, DEU
WY-TO Architects, SGP
Xu Bing, CHN
Kris Yao, Artech, TWN
And many others



SPONSORS & PARTNERS

We are not a wealthy organisation and so each year becomes a challenge to properly finance all our activities.

Our goal is to stay as transparent and independent as possible and so we choose to finance our activities with the support of the very organisations and people who participate in our projects. In return, they often receive financial support from numerous cultural and governmental institutions, companies, non-governmental organisations, as well as from private sponsors.

Over the years we have established long-term partnerships with other prominent cultural institutions and organisations. In case you would like to support us, please feel free to contact us. We would love to cooperate with you.

OUR APPROACH

Because of our social responsibility, we wish to establish a democratic, dynamic and creative platform. Being aware that globalisation cannot be stopped, our aim is to cherish our differences and at the same time strengthen our intellectual and cultural commons.

We believe in equality, a commitment to others, a sincere caring and that every individual person should try to better understand, tolerate, respect and appreciate other cultural values - as long as these cultural values respect the freedom, the dignity and rights of every single living being.

To achieve a sustainable Europe, a peaceful sustainable world, the intellectual, environmental, social and cultural objectives have to be re-balanced with integrity, against our financial and economic interests.

Horizontal relationships, an open, honest and as sincere as possible visual and verbal communication, education, creative and critical thinking, fostered by the arts and all other cultural activities, also play an important role if people are to regain trust in Europe, to gain trust in their own world.



EXHIBITIONS

ECC exhibitions are non-profit and produced worldwide. However, we are currently most active in Moscow and Venice, Italy. In Venice we organise extensive international Art, Architecture and Design expositions in our two Palazzos and in two Venetian public gardens. In addition we organise National Pavilions at the Venice Biennale and solo presentations of artists or architects.

Our exhibitions mainly promote the Arts, Architecture and Design & Innovations and put forward the latest developments, thoughts, ideas and even dreams emerging from those fields.

We present some of the world's best known artists and architects while also providing chances for new and upcoming talent. Our exhibitions attract a large and significant audience of professionals and all other interested visitors from around the world. While being always free entry for everybody, our exhibitions are seen by over 600.000 visitors every year.





Joseph Kosuth, Rene Rietmeyer and other participants at the ECC symposium in Tokyo.

SYMPOSIUMS

We understand that in order to bring people together, organising exhibitions might not be enough.

To stimulate direct communication between artists, designers, architects, professionals and all others who might be interested, the ECC organises lectures, public debates and symposiums on various fields of thought and on a wide range of topics.

To date, 21 symposiums were realised at art institutions in Germany, the Netherlands, the United States, Japan and Italy.

If you would like more information on any of our symposiums or would like to co-organise one, please feel free to contact us. We are here to assist and are available to discuss all possibilities with you.

PUBLI CATIONS

The ECC publishes articles, exhibition catalogues, books, limited editions and videos.

Our publications aim to highlight our exhibitions, symposia, projects as well as individuals through informative theoretical texts, understandable interviews and photographic documentations.

To present different thoughts in regards to the topics TIME – SPACE –EXISTENCE we also create video interviews with artists and architects from very different cultures.

With our publications we give hundreds of thousands of people an insight into the life, work and ideas of professionals such as: Daniel Libeskind, Yoko Ono, Richard Meier, Odile Decq, Lawrence Weiner, Fumihiko Maki, Arata Isozaki, Denise Scott Brown, Peter Eisenman, Joseph Kosuth, Ricardo Bofill, Marina Abramovic, Kengo Kuma and others.



ART PROJECTS & EDITIONS

Since 2010, some of our Art Projects are documented as Personal Structures Limited Edition Books and Limited Edition Prints. Each project focuses on an artist and examines his or her work and philosophy.

We have documented Art Projects that have featured Lawrence Weiner, Hermann Nitsch, Roman Opalka, On Kawara, Arnulf Rainer, Lee Ufan, Ben Vautier, Herman de Vries, Yoko Ono, Otto Piene, Heinz Mack and Nobuyoshi Araki.

In order to support our organisation, several artists donated the Limited Editions Prints or the original artworks to us, that were made as part of our Art Projects.



A work by Rene Rietmeyer.

THE ECC COLLECTION

The ECC Contemporary Art Collection contains artworks donated to the Collection by many established and upcoming artists.

The collection includes paintings, sculptures, drawings, photography and limited edition prints from artists, such as; Joseph Kosuth, Yoko Ono, Rene Rietmeyer, Hermann Nitsch, Nobuyoshi Araki, Sarah Gold, Arnulf Rainer, Takashi Suzuki and many others.

In order to co-finance our cultural activities, the European Cultural Centre does sometimes sell these artworks.





The YTAA ceremony at the European Cultural Centre.

THE ECC AWARDS

Every year, the European Cultural Centre awards an Artist, Designer, Architect or Educational Institution for exceptional achievement, concept and execution thereof.

In the past this Award has been given to: Hermann Nitsch (Art 2019), Willem de Kooning Academy (Art Edu 2019), Piero Castiglioni & Barrisol (Design 2019), Ying Gao (Design 2018), North Carolina State University (Arch. Edu 2018) and Odile Decq (Architecture 2018), Oki Sato (Design 2017) Joseph Kosuth (Art 2017), Karim Rashid (Design 2016), Denise Scott Brown (Architecture 2016), Yoko Ono (Art 2015), University of Houston (Arch. Edu 2014), Arnulf Rainer (Art 2013), Arata Isozaki (Architecture 2012).

We also host exhibitions and presentations related to other awards, such as the Young Talent Architecture Award (YTAA) from the Mies van der Rohe Foundation.



The architect Curt Fentress explaining new projects at the ECC Academy.

THE ECC ACADEMY

The ECC Academy was created as part of the European Cultural Centre. The goal of the ECC Academy is to educate and advance careers in Art, Architecture, Design and other creative industries.

Our short courses provide exclusive insights into these fields while also teaching practical skills in the organisation of international exhibitions, symposia and conferences, in a short period of time.

Each course is composed of lectures, workshops and guided visits to studios, museums as well as to the Venice Biennale.

Our faculty includes artists, designers, curators, gallerists, architects and scholars that help one build the necessary skills to navigate through these opaque and very competitive industries.



ECC FUTURE

The European Cultural Centre is a continuously growing organisation, organising and supporting cultural activities. Having started many years ago in Venice, it is our goal to cooperate with other people, foundations and institutions from all over the world. Therefore, we have started cultural franchises in New York, Amsterdam, Moscow and Tokyo. Our vision is to establish more ECC Satellites in many more cities worldwide.



OUR TEAM

Responsible for the European Cultural Centre and its future is a growing international team of, for the moment, more than 80 dedicated and sincere people, working in different countries.

CONTACT

We hope to have the opportunity to work with you and start a conversation. We look forward to hearing from you. We are open to all suggestions, no matter how unusual they may seem.

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Bianca and Elena from the ECC-Italy at Palazzo Mora in Venice.

Cover photo: visit to the installation “The Floating Piers”
by Christo and Jeanne-Claude.



