

## **Call for contributions: Culture Kaleidoscoop #02 (2023)**

### **Solidaire: Practising solidarity**

**Deadline: 15 March 23:00 (CET)**

We invite proposals for contributions for the second issue of Culture Kaleidoscoop. Culture Kaleidoscoop is an online, open-access, peer-reviewed publication for research and critical reflections on socially engaged practices in the arts, cultural, and heritage sectors. With an aim to bridge theory and practice, the platform has an international and interdisciplinary scope. Culture Kaleidoscoop is made together with and for a wide audience of reflective practitioners, practitioner-researchers, academic researchers, students, volunteers, and others involved in this work.

In this second issue, we hope to explore the topic of solidarity in the arts, culture, and heritage sectors. This theme emerged out of our first issue on mapping socially engaged practice in these sectors, particularly Lora Krasteva's piece '[The civic role of cultural spaces in culture and immigration: Reflections from the Becoming\\_... projects](#)'.

#### **The theme**

This issue aims to examine the approaches the cultural field takes in regards to solidarity. We see solidarity as a contested concept, which can be interpreted and enacted in different ways due to its ambiguity. Solidarity will look different in different contexts. We can think of solidarity from the positionality of individuals, groups, collectives, or parts of organisations, for example. Solidarity might emerge in social movements, resistance and protest, race politics, or First Nations-led processes, for example, and it can take many different forms. We are particularly interested in contributions that explore both the theoretical and the practical, action-based aspects of solidarity.

We invite contributions that feature examples of solidarity in the sector, present the possibilities and opportunities that arise from practising solidarity, explore what practising solidarity means in the context of the sector, and question how or whether practising solidarity is possible in the art, culture, and heritage sectors.

## Background

If you have come to help me you are wasting your time. If you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.

– Dr. Lilla Watson (Gangulu woman), also attributed to Aboriginal Activists Group Queensland, 1970s)

When we first started to discuss this theme of solidarity, Krasteva mentioned that there's no English equivalent for the French verb *solidaire*, meaning to be in solidarity or to practise solidarity. The lack of an equivalent verb in English might point to contextual gaps and the continued coloniality of the English language.

*Solidaire* as a verb also implies an ongoing relationship, action, or practice. Western culture promotes individuality and competition in everything we do, but when we address solidarity, this sense of individual-above-all starts to lose meaning. Everyone has a need for connection, and practising solidarity is a way to connect, collaborate, and innovate. Solidarity supports thinking of the world as interconnected and relational, and it allows for alternative framings of power relations within this interconnected world.

Solidarity is often seen as performative or as a means to serve an ulterior motive. At the same time, solidarity can also be a core means for survival when disenfranchised or oppressed communities stand in solidarity with one another.

Solidarity is enacted in various ways in the arts, cultural, and heritage sectors, and the concept and its practices continue to evolve. From repatriating colonial objects to acts of communal celebration and healing, solidarity can include a women-led artist-run collective to ensure fair payment practices, institutional acts of resource distribution, or communal resource sharing.

We invite approaches that work outside of the mainstream. Culture Kaleidoscoop strives to rethink academic and publishing practices to be more supportive and to stand in solidarity with practitioners, communities, and researchers. We would be happy to receive proposals that show how the praxis of solidarity challenges or offers alternatives to these structures.

## Keywords

solidarity, sustainability, co-creation, grassroots action, community engagement, inclusion, social justice, decolonisation, democratisation, activism, social impact, people-centred practice, cross-sector working, organisational change, structural change, resistance



## Potential topics

Some of the questions and topics we hope to explore in this theme include, but are not limited to:

- When does making a statement have impact? When is it hollow, or when does it fall short? Think, for example, of heritage organisations making a statement on Twitter about Black Lives Matter. Is such a statement significant, or is it performative? How do individuals or organisations know when to take action and when to stay out of it?
- How can socially engaged practice support a 'doing' of solidarity?
- What systemic structures (e.g. social, political, economic, gendered...) influence these engagements between institutions, artists, communities, and cultural or creative producers? How does solidarity feature in the increasingly economic inequal artistic practice in which art is seen as an investment for the wealthy? And what happens when attempts at solidarity fail or are misconstrued?
- What kind of labour is involved in solidarity? What are the power relations between invisible and visible labour? Who benefits from the social capital of this work?
- What is our obligation or responsibility to practise solidarity? Does this differ per profession, individual, organisation, sector?
- How can the longevity of a solidarity practice be ensured? What are the ethical and political aspects of sustainable solidarity? And does solidarity have an expiration date?
- Can institutions practise solidarity at all – with their hierarchical structures, unethical funders, nepotism, systemic racial and gender inequality? Is it even possible to practise solidarity within these institutions, or do we need new institutions or no institutions at all?
- What creative practices of solidarity have spoken to you?

This is not a complete list. We are interested to hear other interpretations of the theme.

## What does Culture Kaleidoscoop publish?

We accept written and audio/visual contributions and encourage collaboration among contributors. We welcome contributions based on personal experiences and reflections and a wide range of research methods. We want to hear from a wide range of people involved in the field. We are working to accept submissions in languages other than English; please [get in touch](#) if you'd like to submit in another language.

Please visit our website to find more information about Culture Kaleidoscoop, our manifesto, and our contributor guidelines.

[www.culturekaleidoscoop.com](http://www.culturekaleidoscoop.com)



## Join us online to talk through an idea

We will host two drop-in Zoom sessions for potential contributors to discuss their proposals. If you need help working out an idea, or if you are looking for a collaborator to work with on a proposal, feel free to drop by!

- 20 February 17.00–18.30 (CET) via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86232674882?pwd=cjlnY0daeURVZFdJcjN1RFdQQ2INUT09>
- 9 March 13.00–14.30 (CET) via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86550294172?pwd=WnlqYnp0VGVEOGowbEQ0Nlcrd2FZZz09>

You do not need to register beforehand to attend the drop-in calls. We will be available to talk through your ideas or answer any questions you have.

## Contributor grants

We understand that some people who might be interested in contributing are not paid to do so – because they volunteer or because this type of work isn't built into their daily work, for example. We recognise the work that goes into creating a contribution for the Culture Caleidoscoop platform and want to remove barriers to contributing where we can.

*We have a limited number of €500 grants available for individuals and collaborative contributors. Please get in touch if you feel that this financial support could make contributing possible for you or for a potential collaborator.*

Interdisciplinary contributor grant, sponsored by the Maastricht Centre for Arts and Culture, Conservation and Heritage

Does your work span more than one discipline? For example, drawing on and crossing boundaries between (art) historical, anthropological, sociological, economic, and practical expertise? The contributor grant sponsored by the Maastricht Centre for Arts and Culture, Conservation and Heritage aims to support interdisciplinary researchers and practitioners in the field of arts, culture, conservation, and heritage.

The grant will be offered to enable a contribution produced by a person whose work draws on more than one field or a collaborative piece produced by two (or more) individuals involved in different disciplines.

*We have one grant of €500 available. Please get in touch if you think that you would be a good fit for this grant and if you feel that this financial support could make contributing possible for you or for a potential collaborator.*



## What should you submit and when?

Please tell us about your idea, what format your contribution will take, and a little information about who you are and any co-contributors.

Please take a look at our [peer review process](#) and let us know if you have any questions or preferences.

To submit a proposal, please send us your idea via email:

- Send us a short written proposal as plain text in the email or in a Word document. We're happy to receive written proposals between 100 and 300 words.
- You can also send us a short audio or video clip, up to three minutes in length.

Please send proposals to [hello@culturecaideoscoop.com](mailto:hello@culturecaideoscoop.com).

Proposals will be looked at by the editing team, the guest editor collective, and possibly the wider editorial collective before a decision is made. You will hear from us by email, within two weeks, inviting you to work on a full contribution or with other feedback. The accepted proposals will be shared among the authors of the special issue to encourage cross-references and collaboration.

*Multiple proposals from one contributor (or group of contributors) are not welcomed.*

## Publication timeline\*

Drop-in sessions for collaboratively developing ideas in February–March

Deadline for the proposal: 15 March 2023 23.00 (CET)

Deadline for the contribution: 17 May 2023 23.00 (CET)

Peer review process: end May–mid-July 2022

Deadline final contribution: 23 August 2023 23.00 (CET)

Final edits: end September 2023

Publication in October 2023

The issue will be published in October 2023, but we will continue to accept contributions related to this theme. Responses and further contributions will continue to be published in the subsequent months so the conversation can keep going and a full, expanded issue will be put together at a later stage.

Please [get in touch](#) if you have a relevant idea – even if the above deadlines have passed!

*\*This is what we are aiming for. There might be some slight variation. We will communicate clearly about deadlines throughout the process.*



### **Guest editor collective**

This is the first issue that Culture Kaleidoscoop is producing in collaboration with a group of guest editors. We are excited to be working together with a group of professionals and researchers to collaborate on this theme!

Kevin Strüder (they/them), Germany: independent museum educator and researcher, with a background in arts education and interest in queering and decolonisation

Elene Kadagidze (she/her), Belgium/Netherlands: researcher, art historian, and educator, focusing on senses-based learning and museum education

Dr. Tania Cañas (she/her), Narrm/Australia: performance maker and researcher and lecturer at University of Melbourne, with a focus on social practice and community engagement

Siân Hunter Dodsworth (she/her), Mexico: project coordinator, evaluator, and researcher, with a focus in community engagement in the cultural sector

Aleena Karim (she/her), Pakistan: external PhD candidate at Leiden University (Netherlands) and lecturer at FCCU University, with a focus on film studies

We hope to hear from you!  
- Culture Kaleidoscoop Editorial Team

