PARIS

Exploring the memory and the present-day reality of migrant communities in the European cities
From 10 to 22 March, “The City Ghettos of Today’s” international artistic team will be in residence at Paris’s Musée de l’histoire de l’immigration (Museum of Immigration History) in order to create and present the first phase of their ambulatory performance-installations. This inaugural event will explore the phenomenon of ghettoization in two neighbourhoods located in France’s Ile-de-France region: the Goutte d’Or in Paris and the Quartier du Parc in Nanterre. Coordinated by the Paris-based company Check Points, this double exploration will showcase the collaborative work of locally based artistic researchers who were brought together prior to the European team’s artistic residency with the help of Cie Check Point’s local partners (Université Paris 8, the association Atouts cours, Les Equipes de Développement Local based in both the 18th arrondissement and in Nanterre). During the collective outing of the project meeting in Paris on 22nd of March, participants will have the opportunity to view the in-progress installation, attend the performance, participate in a roundtable discussion and enjoy a convivial meal together with the artistic team.

Workshops
Debate
Artistic installation & performance

The participation in all the events is free of charge and open to the public.

The workshop, installation and debate registration is required, to sign in please contact:
sararoger@checkpoints.fr
cityghettos.com
checkpoints.fr
histoire-immigration.fr
strefawolnoslowa.pl

Coordination:
Sara Roger (Compagnie Check Points, Paris)
Ute Sperfeschter (Musée de l’Immigration, Paris)
During the weekend of 15–16 March 2014, the international artistic team will propose a series of intensive practical workshops in theatrical improvisation inspired by “The Tempest” of William Shakespeare and its characters as well as by the real stories of people and places of the city, and will take shape in response to on-the-ground scenographic installation and real-time video and electro-acoustic musical creation. These pluridisciplinary workshops enable the public to take part in “The City Ghettos of Today’s” process of creation.

During their exploration of Paris’s Goutte d’Or neighbourhood and Nanterre’s Quartier du Parc, the international artistic team will offer artistic workshops to the public in order to encounter local residents and create new spaces for exchange and reflection within these multifaceted territories. These workshops, organized in partnership with associations from the territory will similarly enable the artistic team to cull and to create new materials for the performance-installation in situ in collaboration with those individuals and groups who choose to take part in this process of artistic research.

The workshops will be led by the artistic team of the project:
- Pietro Floridia (Compagnia dei Rifugiati/Cantieri Meticci, Bologna)
- Linda Fahssis (Company Check Points, Paris)
- Alicja Borkowska (Strefa WolnoSłowa Foundation, Warsaw)
- Tomasz Gromadka (Strefa WolnoSłowa Foundation, Warsaw)
- Piotr Mikuć (Strefa WolnoSłowa Foundation, Warsaw)
- Marek Pluciennik (Ptarmigan, Helsinki)
- Alejandro Olarte (independent artist; Helsinki)
- Luana Pavani (Compagnia dei Rifugiati/Cantieri Meticci, Bologna)
- Nicola Bruschi (Fine Arts Accademy, Bologna)
- Weronika Chinowska (Strefa WolnoSłowa Foundation, Warsaw)
This debate unites all those who question the concept “ghetto”, whether artists, social workers, cultural practitioners, researchers, residents or individuals curious to discover more about the work that has been - and will be - undertaken by project team members. A time to exchange ideas, this event will provide the public with an inside look into the genesis of “The City Ghettos of Today”. It will similarly interrogate the complex ethical relationships that link artists, researchers and social workers to those populations with whom they work. The event will draw to a close by presenting the different forms that the project will take as it makes its way across Europe in the coming months.

IN SEARCH OF GHETTO INLETS

22 March 2014
17h30

Musée de l’histoire de l’immigration
293 avenue Daumesnil
75012 Paris
(métro Porte Dorée)

The following speakers will take part in the debate (pending confirmation):

Alicja Borkowska
(Fondation Strefa Wolnoslowa, Warsaw)
Pietro Floridia
(Compagnia dei Rifugiati/ Cantiere Mettici, Bologna)
Linda Fahssis, Rachel Shapiro, Sara Roger and the participants of the theatre research workshop No/s Ghettos (Compagnie Check Points, Paris)
Franco La Cecla
(Università di Bologna)
Aleksander Robotycki
(National Ethnographic Museum, Warsaw)
Maria Koskijoki
(Ethnographic Museum, Helsinki)
Louise Glassier
(NAGA association, Milan)
Elena Basteri
(Alternative Européenne, Berlin)
Mabrouck Rachedi, Laurence Février, Philippe Ripol (auteurs)
Didier Lapeyronnie
(Université Paris 7)
Sabrina Mahi
Marie Poinso, (Musée de l’Immigration, Paris)
Outi Korhonen,
(Art promotion center, Helsinki)
The ghetto, very often concerns primarily an individual’s interior sphere. Often it is a state of mind of being imprisoned in the ghetto. The ghetto should be open. Literature can be a way to open it. Trying to read the dynamics of the “ghetto” through the filters given by Shakespear’s “The Tempest” and its re-interpretations give us, is our way to search for the possibilities, movement (if not other than of the thought itself) and freedom where at the first glance we can see only locks, coercion and paralysis.

We are going to explore the districts, often isolated, as the island of Prospero. We are going to contradict Prospero’s dominant speech – by affirming that the throne of knowledge is transfigured through the power of many voices, different voices of many Calibans, many Ariels, many Mirandas with their strategies of expression in the interstices of the Prosperi’s speech.

Pietro Floridia – artistic director of installation and performance (Compagnia dei Rifugiati /Cantieri Meticci, Bologna)

With the participation of the international artistic team:

Linda Fahssis
(Company Check Points, Paris),

Alicja Borkowska
(Strefa WolnoSłowa Foundation, Warsaw)

Tomasz Gromadka
(Strefa WolnoSłowa Foundation, Warsaw)

Marek Pluciennik
(Ptarmigan, Helsinki)

Alejandro Olarte
(indipendent artist, Helsinki),

Luana Pavani
(Compagna dei Rifugiati /Cantieri Meticci, Bologna)

Nicola Bruschi
(Fine Arts Accademy, Bologna)

Piotr Mikuć
(Strefa Wolnoslowa Foundation, Warsaw)

Weronika Chinowska
(Strefa WolnoSłowa Foundation, Warsaw)
About the Project “The City Ghettos of Today”

At the heart of this project lies a desire to redefine and re-examine the concept “ghetto” in the context of today’s closed migrant districts. Through artistic creation and sociological research, we aim to create a space in which to examine and discuss the multiple stories emanating from Europe’s migrant “ghettos”. How do we talk about “ghettos” today? Is it possible – and even necessary – to redefine the word in a manner that more accurately reflects the multiform realities that constitute our contemporary urban landscapes? What role do “ghettos” play in constructing a European identity? What factors contribute to phenomena of “ghettoization” in contemporary Europe? What are the dynamics that contribute to the implantation of migrant communities throughout Europe today and how do they connect to the collective memory of Europe’s past?

“The City Ghettos of Today” entails a series of workshops open to local communities in different European cities – Warsaw, Paris, Bologna, Milan, Helsinki, Berlin and Antwerp. Run by artists and cultural actors, each workshop installment will conclude with an art installation and public debate on the project’s themes in each of the cities listed above. This European collaboration will conclude in Warsaw in December 2014 with a large-scale installation-performance and debate that will bring together materials culled from each of the participating city workshops. The project will unite artists, cultural actors, academics and social workers in order to explore the broad themes of “ghetto” and “districts of migration” in participating European cities. The City Ghettos of Today reflects the interdisciplinary dimension of the Strefa WolnoSłowa foundation, which crosses academic and theoretical methodologies with practices of artistic and cultural creation. Through artistic reflection and intellectual research, this collaborative project seeks to unravel the complex and problematical theme of “migrant ghettos” in contemporary Europe, paying particular attention to various definitions and visions of ghettos within the contexts of Warsaw, Paris, Bologna, Milan, Helsinki, Berlin and Antwerp.