TWELVE ARTISTS, EIGHT CURATORS,
SIX ARTSPACES, FOUR COUNTRIES

BREAKING *BOUNDARIES*

09.2021 - 09.2022

THE NETHERLANDS, TURKEY,
GERMANY AND ITALY

FOREWORD

→ Let's create a positive change together

The last year and a half has been tough for the cultural field in general. The pandemic has affected art spaces, art agents, and artists, being especially harsh on those who are still young and are still not established. Physical exhibitions, travelling, and networking suddenly became distant memories and we had to hold on to our hopes for a (long-awaited) better future.

But desperate times can be fought with creative measures. This is what brought us to start Breaking Boundaries. With the exciting idea of supporting emerging artists and curators, the project was born from the collaboration of 8 curators, working in 6 spaces across 4 countries, who selected a total of 12 emerging artists.

Now, thanks to Breaking Boundaries, different art scenes, and curatorial narratives cross paths, creating opportunities, stimulating dialogue, and allowing ideas to be exchanged. Most importantly though, we are showcasing talented emerging artists' work once again. Re-opening our spaces for this initiative is a strong statement. In fact, after the last year, it is exciting to participate in a project that includes—and listens to—multiple voices as well as offering an alternative to networking at a time of restrictions.

Lucia Trevisan, Fernanda Andrade

In this booklet, you will find information about the actual works, spaces, and interviews with the artists, but you will also find pages that invite you to reflect on the topic of this exhibition: "Traveling"

In times of globalisation where 'fast living' makes traveling 'normal'—sometimes even a 'must' that we take for granted—are we still able to enjoy what travel brings us?

Are we aware of what we see? How do cultures, the surrounding art scenes, and people impact our perceptions? What influence do they have on us? Are we actually learning in order to pass on new knowledge to our future generations? The pandemic, and the fact we had to stop, made us reflect more on the richness that 'travelling' can bring.

With this project and the exhibition—intended to support the career of emerging artists and young curators—we want to generate a timely conversation about what the idea of travelling means for the viewers, artists and professionals.

With the continual reformation of the arts, new currents, and societal needs, Breaking Boundaries is the 'seed' for a New Contemporary Art World. With this project, we aim to stimulate dialogue, bring different cultures and art scenes together by proposing a more ethical, fair and sustainable model for exhibitions. Hopefully, we will harvest the positive change, together.

INTRODUCTION

→ 6 art spaces, 8 curators in 4 countries

→ KARŞI SANAT, Istanbul.
It is a functional exhibition space, workshop, and space for debates on current issues and topics. Run by artists, teachers, and academics, it is home to an Art Collective. It is a space where artists can express themselves freely.

Ezgi Bakçay invited Gözde İlkin and Sevim Sancaktar to join the dynamic team behind the Breaking Boundaries project. They are two women artists living in Istanbul, who explore 'being-in-common', Social Justice, and memory with different tools and materials. Engaged in activism related to the issues of Human Rights, for years Sevim and Gözde have been important mediators between different cultural environments in Turkey, such as the Academy, the Contemporary Art scene, design, archives, and social movements. They have created solidarity networks, connecting the fragilities of living and nonliving beings, and collected the memories of the 'invisible side' of history and society. Their artistic production could be seen as meditating the possibilities humankind has to live together peacefully, with others as well as with nature.

→ DE MELDKAMER, Maastricht.
From 2018 it has been Anne Büscher's atelier which regularly hosts other artists' works. It is a space for emerging artists, experimentation in Art and Design—a glasshouse where art can grow.

Davy van Gerven presents the work of Anne Büscher, as her 'Tea Ceremony' embeds the values and concept of Breaking Boundaries. The work itself was created after an artist residency

in Tokyo. Anne decided to perform the ceremony as a travelling piece. The work is about new materiality in the sense that Anne combines her glassblowing and ceramic skills with a conversation held during the ceremony. The fleetingness of the work shows Anne's interest in the fragility of materials. In fact, the work itself has been created to share an experience of 'materiality'. Every time the work shows a unique arrangement of objects, as for each ceremony Anne designs new cups. For Breaking Boundaries, the cups and the tea set are chosen in collaboration/conversation with each curator. So, each 'Tea Ceremony' will be different and unique to a specific space.

→ OFFICINA 15, Castiglione dei Pepoli.
OFFICINA 15 aims to spread Culture and Art 'without any boundaries of character or taste'. It is a collaborative space that provides a fresh perspective on Art, new languages, new media, and contemporary forms of expression, giving a new voice to the area.

Federica Fiumelli, for Officina15, presents Simone Miccichè and Giulia Cacciuttolo artists that deal with the theme of this international project, 'Travelling', in completely different ways.

In the case of Simone Miccichè, the action of travelling is understood as a pop metaphor for the important and serious historical period that we experienced during the lockdown. It is deeply critical of a capitalist world, that still does not understand how its idea of progress is equivalent to a disastrous regression - a qualitative, human, and moral regression.

However, in the case of Giulia Cacciuttolo's work, the journey is always a metaphor for memory, landscape, and passage between the two. Giulia succeeds in elegantly and delicately manipulating material. By studying it and experimenting with the form - and thus the very essence of things and materials - she transforms it, just like words can be combined to whisper a poem. Here, nothing can be assigned to one place, but everything has a 'mobile life'— eternally moving between different times and places.

→ a.topos, Venice.
The Female Curatorial Collective cherishes a transdisciplinary and intersectional approach, reflecting the times we live in. Welcoming, showcasing emerging creatives, they see Art as activism.. a.topos curatorial collective aims to accelerate and renew the artistic scene in Venice.

The Curatorial Duo a.topos, Lucia Trevisan, and Fernanda Andrade, chose artists that share the same base as their creative nest - the insightful city of Venice - but who explore different perspectives in their creative practices.

Eva Chiara Trevisan starts from the transmutation of matter, developing a process that aims at reaching a place where memories can resurface. This leaves the viewer with unclear sensations and thoughts which interweave with fragments of forgotten books and distant conversations.

Giulio Polloniato focuses his research on ceramics. Drawing from the sphere of everyday life, he creates objects and situations that undermine the very idea of this humble material and its role as an object of everyday use. He devotes himself to a thoughtful procedure of deconstruction and translation of meanings, floating between space, form, and content.

→ PATTY MORGAN, Amsterdam.
It is a 'label for art' run by a community of artists, curators, designers, and art handlers. They propose a platform for new art, ground-breaking perspectives, visually provocative works, and conceptually daring or surprising ideas

Jelmer Wijnstroom embarks three Patty Morgan artists on the Breaking Boundaries journey. The artists share a deep interest in human behavior and how they treat their surroundings.

Two of them—Suzie van Staaveren and Jan Dirk Adams—work as a Duo, investigating the relation between exhibitions and the public. For this exhibition they have created a special mobile

container which transports the artworks across the countries, picking up stories and traces along the way.

The third artist, Willem de Haan explores the communication methods embedded in the locations participating in Breaking Boundaries, bringing them together. For him, every space or location a human enters is subject to a set of social, political, and mental rules. A playful or humorous intervention offers the opportunity to undermine or even challenge those rules.

→ SUPER+ CENTERCOURT, Munich.
It is an exhibition space that enables people to see art without falling into 'banal aesthetics'. Super+ Centercourt promotes young artists and defines itself as a meeting place for confrontation and interdisciplinary dialogue.

Janina Totzauer and Miriam Salamander are the artists invited by Jessica Capra & Sophie-Charlotte Bombeck. The artists question our point of view. They explore how we, as humans, travel and what we will pass on to our future generations.

Miriam Salamander explores the boundaries of landscapes in her series of drawings. Drawing on the moving train, she questions our perception of nature and panorama: How do we define a landscape? What do we actually see? At the same time, her drawings invite us to sit back and observe both the landscape and time passing.

Janina Totzauer, on the other hand, challenges the limits of humankind.

The artist presents seeds she has especially created. The idea behind them is to preserve Humanity's essence, but what will grow from them in 30,000 years? The artist starts a conversation about what our species intends to preserve and leave behind. If the seed is good and planted in fertile soil, will the harvest be rich and plentiful?

ARTISTS

→ 12 emerging artists

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SUZIE VAN STAAVEREN

TEA CEREMONY
ANNE BÜSCHER

→ Lives and works in Maastricht

'Tea Ceremony' (2020—ongoing) touches on the sacred importance of materials. Anne Büscher invites participants to enjoy tea in tiny hand—blown glass bubbles filled with flowers and engage with the artworks surrounding them.

In this work, both a performance and an experience, the artist investigates how the value of materials in ceremonies and in exhibitions compare to each other. It is a contemporary take on the traditional format of the Japanese tea ceremony where materials take centre stage.

It explores how materials like glass are experienced and valued, finding the contact point between the traditional ceremony and how she sees and uses materials in her work. From an artistic point of view, she dives into the ´connecting´ themes with participants.

Scan the QR code for an interview with the artist

→ Anne Büscher uses various materials, including glass, marble, silver, ceramic, photography, silicon, and stone. She often reaches for design, crafts, and natural sciences in her work. By learning from her international experiences and integrating insights from different fields, Anne constantly changes perspective in her exploration of the potentials of materials. Locating the unknown, the elusive, and the magical qualities hidden in the everyday is what drives her, feeding her inner ambition to gain new insights.

Image credits: Courtesy of the artist, Anne Büscher.

Image credits: Magdalena Jooss

SEEDS OF HUMANITY
JANINA TOTZAUER

→ Lives and works in Munich/Mozambique

'Seeds of Humanity' (2020—ongoing) is a positive memory of humankind. It is both performance and ritual. The work functions as a time capsule that will only sprout in 30,000 years, when humankind will become extinct. The seeds are planted in the safest places and the most diverse climates, giving them the best possible chance of survival.

For Janina Totzauer, the act of planting is natural, and therefore, it never needs to be explained. This makes it pure, sincere, and beautiful. Wherever the volunteer planters are—regardless of their different backgrounds, cultures, religions, and belief systems—they are united in the very human moment of planting the seeds.

Scan the QR code for an interview with the artist

→ Janina Totzauer is a multimedia artist. Her research bridges the gap between the past and a post—anthropocentric future while trying to explain the role of humans on this planet. Drawing from Philosophy, she explores essential questions through rituals, anecdotes, and traditions.

SUBLIMAZIONE INVERSA
EVA CHIARA TREVISAN

→ Lives and works in Venice

In 'Sublimazione Inversa' (2018), stones made of clay are placed on a wall. However, the fact they are suspended is confusing.

The stones appear heavy and light at the same time—fluid and solid. Even how they are created reflects this. In fact, Fire, Water, and Earth have transformed the initial matter into the 'stones' we see in 'Sublimazione Inversa'.

These forms are contemporarily made out of these three elements—flames and fumes, fluids and material. The intention is to create a sense of emptiness, inviting the viewer to a place where memories and sensations rule.

Scan the QR code for an interview with the artist

→ Eva Chiara Trevisan's artistic research tries to reach a place where memory resurfaces, leaving unclear sensations and thoughts. Taking from the core of Alchemy, which attempts to create life from the material, she focuses on matter and its transformation. With her work, Eva Chiara Trevisan invites us to find an intimate space by contemplating the subject.

Image credits: Courtesy of the artist, Eva Chiara Trevisan

Image credits: Lorenzo Stefanini

NON C'È UN CA**O DA RIDERE SIMONE MICCICHÈ

→ Lives and works in Bologna

In 'NON C'È UN CA**O DA RIDERE' ('There is nothing to fu**king laugh about') (2021), Simone takes the online shopping platform Amazon's logo, a smile, and turns it upside down.

His work plays with Amazon's message, transforming the logo into a sad face. Now it is an emoticon like those used in everyday communication. But instead of symbolising happiness—Amazon's intent—it expresses sadness, disappointment, and pain.

The work, made with repurposed boxes, is a statement. With the pandemic, as Simone explains, the increase of online shopping meant that the only things travelling were these boxes, which filled up our houses.

Simone Micciché points to the effects of the pandemic: the surge in Amazon orders, the expansion of Amazon, and the growing number of protests and strikes caused by the unfair and inhumane working conditions which many who work for Amazon face.

Scan the QR code for an interview with the artist

→ Simone Micciché experiments with the medium and materials, observing the contemporary world we live in. With his work, he often highlights the hypocrisy and contradictions of our culture.

ANNOTATIONS OF PASSING LANDSCAPES
MIRIAM SALAMANDER

→ Lives and works in Munich

'Annotations of Passing Landscapes' (2009—ongoing) is a developing project. It is a collection of drawings made while travelling.

The series documents impressions of the shifting natural sceneries visible while travelling by train. It is a translation of what is perceived and captured of the fleeting dynamic landscape, into a language of abstraction.

Over the years, drawings from Germany, England, and Japan have built up to the project's collection, representing various landmarks across different natural habitats.

Every annotation is specific to a particular landscape. Each drawing captures the shifting natural sceneries and documents the impressions of a particular environment's moments, rhythms, and elements.

Scan the QR code for an interview with the artist

→ Miriam Salamander specialised in drawing and printmaking. Her artistic practice focuses on the imagery of landscape and how it is depicted. Her works investigate the rhythms, elements of nature, and constructs through abstraction—repositioning and building it again.

Image credits: Courtesy of the artist, Miriam Salamander

NOTES

→ What does “travelling” mean to you and your life?

Share your thoughts @breakingboundariesartproject

NOTES

→ When does a trip start for you?

Share your thoughts @breakingboundariesartproject

NOTES

→ What memories and thoughts come to mind when you think about "Travelling"?

Share your thoughts @breakingboundariesartproject

NOTES

→ While moving through the exhibition, what are the things/ concepts that you can connect to the most?

Share your thoughts @breakingboundariesartproject

Image credits: Courtesy of the artist, Gödze Ilkin

DRIFTED NARRATIVES
GÖZDE İLKIN

→ Lives and work in Istanbul

'Drifted Narratives' (2009—21) presents a series of materials, sketches, and notes brought together as a printed collection of thoughts and perspectives. The final booklet allows us to see how ideas have changed and evolved over time—'drifting.'

The collection has been made by Gözde İlkin with the intent of allowing the printed series to travel and encounter different people in various places and settings. This will allow the ideas, sensations, and thoughts to accumulate over the journey, integrating the visitors' perspectives in the six destinations.

As a memory of the working process, this printed series touches on different concepts—including borders, gender, gentrification, and the exploration of how we can heal through nature.

Scan the QR code for an interview with the artist

→ Gözde İlkin works on household fabrics such as tablecloths, curtains, and bedsheets. Her works represent social identity, social processes, and memories. Political, social, cultural, and gender motifs are intertwined in her drawings with organic forms. It is a trace of healing techniques, transformations, and the idea of belonging that connects plants, animals, and humans.

CONUNDRUM II
GIULIA CACCIUTTOLO

→ Lives and works in London

'CONUNDRUM II' (2021) is inspired by the artist's research on the physical relationship between memory, space, and landscape. Giulia's research interests gravitate around those parts of the landscape that can be defined liminal. She focuses on those landscapes at the border between sea and land—especially sea caves. These are areas of passage from one state/place/moment to another and cannot fully belong to any.

This piece is an encounter between the themes animating the project Breaking Boundaries and her current research. It comprises a dried seaweed cast in Jesmonite and black & white 35mm film, scanned and printed on poly film.

Scan the QR code for an interview with the artist

→ Giulia Cacciuttolo's research focuses on investigating memory, contemporary archives, and archival forms, as well as on how we relate to memory, space, and landscapes. She is interested in understanding the dynamics, tensions, and stratification of memory and the way individuals and communities relate to their past, the role of memory, and heritage. Her theoretical research is accompanied by a strong technical and visual experimentation, exploring the role of images and sculpture in relation to these themes.

Image credits: Courtesy of the artist, Giulia Cacciuttolo

Image credits: a.topos curatorial collective

WORLD NEWS
WILLEM DE HAAN

→ Lives and works in Amsterdam/Berlin

"The themes, issues and subjects written about on this page will be discussed internationally by the visitors of the Breaking Boundaries* exhibition." is what the advertisement states.

Using the international scope of Breaking Boundaries, Willem has developed 'World News' (2021). With an independent budget, local newspapers from Amsterdam, Istanbul, Maastricht, Munich, Rome, Venice, and Castiglione dei Pepoli have been asked to print this advert on one of their pages.

The artist will create a network of themes at each exhibition. He will bring different topics together, connecting the six destinations and specific matters even though separated by thousands of kilometres—ultimately turning local news into world news.

Scan the QR code for an interview with the artist

→ Willem de Haan tries to evoke absurdity, alienation, and confusion—the sensation that precedes a joke before it is perceived as funny. He recreates that iconic moment when something is seen as out of place or unexpected. Through his work, he explores daily life with a playful attitude. He constructs works as site-specific. As a result, De Haan's pieces are humorous interventions playing with the rules of specific spaces—influencing the scenes of daily life, like props affect a play at the theatre.

TU BI OR NOT TU BI?
GIULIO POLLONIATO

→ Lives and works in Venice

'Tu Bi or not Tu Bi?'/'Tu-be or not tu-be?', (2016—17) presents a nearly replica of industrial plastic tubes but as a ceramic artwork. This piece drives us to question its nature, essence, and purpose.

By placing ceramic tubes inside a gallery space and outdoors, the artist carries out an alchemic research transforming the useless into highly precious. It is both refined and humble, taking from the material's artisanal traditions.

The way the objects are perceived depends on how the public sees them, whether simply rushing past the artefact on the street or admiring it in a gallery. For this reason, the artist sees this work in a variety of places—both inside and outside gallery walls.

The context influences how people engage, receive and value the artwork. It highlights how people behave and dialogue with urban landscapes, especially in cities affected by massive tourism—underlining the (often underestimated) difference between looking and seeing.

Scan the QR code for an interview with the artist

→ Giulio Polloniato is an artist and ceramist. He uses clay as a medium for representation, breathing life into spiritual and non-functional objects.

Image credits: Courtesy of the artist, Gulio Polloniato

Image credits: Courtesy of the artist, Sevim Sancaktar

VOIDS OF LEMON PEEL
SEVIM SANCAKTAR

→ Lives and works in Istanbul

A-void.

Scan the QR code for an interview with the artist

→ Sevim Sancaktar is an artist, curator, and exhibition designer with a background in archival research and contemporary art. She completed a Master in the Visual Arts Department of Sabanci University.

Since then, her work has been shown in multiple solo and collective exhibitions.

Sancaktar is one of the founders of the artist collective REC Collective and collaborates on publications, as well as organising and curating exhibitions. During the pandemic, she started to work on 'Omuz Solidarity', a solidarity network platform.

Sevim Sancaktar's practice as an artist, curator, and exhibition designer is rooted in archival research and contemporary art.

JAN DIRK ADAMS & SUZIE VAN STAAVEREN

→ Live and work in The Hague

Jan Dirk Adams and Suzie van Staaveren share an interest in social relations and interactions with objects. With an inclination towards the functional and the tactile, they investigate the social realm of the interplay and continual adjustments around the objects they make.

For Breaking Boundaries, the two artists made the crate in which the artworks travel. The container had to meet a specific dimension and weight. As well as these requirements, it includes practical compartments for the artworks.

The crate is a contact point where different actions and perspectives come together. During the one—year 5,400 km journey, all the various encounters, events, and forms of the exhibition will leave a mark on the skin of this crate. It will develop, becoming the 'visual diary' of the travelling project.

Scan the QR code for an interview with the artist

→ Jan Dirk Adam's work spans performance and sculpture, often inviting others to participate and react to his works. The context and objects relate to each other, creating a continual dialogue that confronts us, drawing us to focus on specific aspects of our surroundings.

→ Suzie van Staaveren is interested in the role of the mediator and making compromises, researching and developing this role in her practice. She sees herself as the figure who works towards a settlement—someone who understands different needs and perspectives, looking for a balance.

Image credits: Courtesy of the artist, Jan Dirk Adams and Suzie van Staaveren

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

→ Each exhibition has a specific public program. Make sure to follow @breakingboundariesartproject and join us

2021

15 September - 15 October

→ Karşi Sanat Calamari, Istanbul

2 November - 25 November

→ De Meldkamer, Maastricht

2022

8 January - 30 January

→ Officina15, Castiglione dei Pepoli

4 February - 27 February

→ a.topos, Venice

11 March - 27 March

→ Patty Morgan, Amsterdam

3 September - 2 October

→ Super+ Centercourt, Munich

COLOPHON

→ Thank you for creating a positive change together

This visitors guide is published within the Breaking Boundaries. Follow us @breakingboundariesartproject, we´ll love to hear how you experienced the exhibition.

The concept of the exhibition has been initiated by The Artist and the Others and enriched by talking with a lot of dear professionals and people who helped us create what became the Breaking Boundaries project.

→ Concept & Coordination: The Artist and the Others

→ Artists: Jan Dirk Adams, Anne Büscher, Giulia Cacciuttolo, Willem De Haan, Gözde İlkin, Simone Miccichè, Giulio Polloniato, Miriam Salamander, Sevim Sancaktar, Suzie Van Staaveren, Janina Totzauer, Eva Chiara Trevisan.

→ Curators: Fernanda Andrade, Ezgi Bakçay, Sophie Charlotte Bombeck, Jessica Capra, Federica Fiumelli, Davy van Gerven, Lucia Trevisan, Jelmer Wijnstroom

→ Editor: Zoë Rivas Zanello

→ Graphic Design: D!NG Studio by Jolien Dirix

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