

R R O O O M M

T O

B L O O M M

« a woman must have money
and a room of her own if she
is to write fiction »

VIRGINIA WOOLF

ABOUT

Room to Bloom is a training and peer learning programme supporting 100 young feminist artists. It funds 15 artistic productions, which will be staged in international Biennales (Palermo, Kiev, Warsaw). The supported artists will engage in constructing feminist and postcolonial artistic narratives of Europe.

The partnership involves artistic and cultural organisations from France (Alternatives Européennes), Sweden (Museums of Cultures of the World, Gothenburg), Italy (Alternative Europee, Rizoma) and Germany/Greece (AthenSyn). Associated partners include the Kiev Biennale, Warsaw Biennale, Biennale Arcipelago Mediterraneo, Fundacio Aroa (ES), Gals 4Gals (PL), Izolyatsia (UA), Fundacja Nasz Wybór (PL) and other informal partners from Ukraine, Poland and beyond.

Whereas migrants and women, from Malevich to Picasso, from Tamara de Lempicka to Sonia Delaunay, famously contributed to the making of European Arts, their access to the world of arts remains extremely limited today.

Beyond a few famous faces, women and migrants struggle to be effectively contributing to the making of the European cultural and artistic discourse, not from a lack of ideas or capacities but because the structural obstacles they face are not of those that one can easily fight individually.

Room to Bloom recognises that it's more than time to build on that and provide artists and cultural operators to navigate patriarchalism and racism in the world of arts and to open up the space for them to bloom in a transnational Europe.

The project promotes young female and notably artists from migrant backgrounds and provides them with better tools to operate in the European cultural scene. It focusses on postcolonial feminism, and is open to all genders and origins.

I AM NO
LONGER
ACCEPTING
THINGS
I CANNOT
CHANGE.
I AM
CHANGING
THE THINGS
I CANNOT
ACCEPT.

OBJECTIVES

- Train, assist and support of 100 young promising artists and create professional opportunities.
- Create an online network of feminist artists and migrant background artists, made of more established and younger artists and arts professionals.
- Formulate proposals for running post-colonial feminist artistic and digital practices.
- Create feminist and post-colonial narratives for a Transnational Europe, which is expressed through the final productions by 15 young artists for young innovative Biennales.
- Support emerging artists to produce artwork to be performed and showcased in internationally visible at online events.
- Young artists are supported by a board of 15 more experienced artists, who deliver training and accompany the projects' development.



Room to Bloom project will specifically:

- Organise a regional forum for artists (ArtGora 2021) in Kiev, which aims to set the grounds for further reflection and collaboration of about 40 artists. The forum will produce a manifesto, which will provide the red-line for the development of an Anti-Manual for Postcolonial Feminist art practice.
- Organise three trainings on Eco-Feminism (Greece), on Postcolonial Feminism (online) and on leveraging obstacles to women and migrants' careers (Palermo), aiming at developing the capacities of young artists. The development of a shareable training manual will accompany the process.
- Create a European transnational network of feminist and post-colonial established artists, which can act as a support group and a resource for the direct members of the network, and beyond that for a larger audience of art institutions and cultural managers.
- Support emerging artists to produce artwork to be performed and showcased in internationally visible events.
- Facilitate access to women and postcolonial artists, which practice will be duly documented during the process in order to provide an index, a database of relevant artistic projects and art practices.
- Contribute to improving and developing the practice of feminist postcolonial management of the partners' institutions themselves.

TIMELINE

- Launch project and call for applications for artists: 25 March 2021
- Close open call for applications: 23rd April
- Selection of participants: 19 April - 14th May
- Communication with selected (and not selected) participants and preparation for the first meeting online June: 24th May
- Kick off & launch programme - Online: 21 June 2021
- Workshop on Eco-Feminism. Dates: 25-30 June TBC - (online - local participants will be welcome in a face to face meeting in Athens - pandemic conditions allowing)
- Closed call for artworks (new productions) to be presented at international events in the Autumn 2021 - July. Production will take place in August/September 2021. Exhibition in Palermo in November and other Biennales in the Autumn 2021 to Spring 2022.
- Workshop on Postcolonial Feminism in September 2021 - Dates: 20-24 September TBC - (online, four sessions of 2,5 hours).
- Workshop on leveraging obstacles to feminist and migrant artists careers in November 2021 - Dates: 22-26 November TBC - (online - local participants will be welcome in a face to face meeting in Palermo - pandemic conditions allowing)

SISTERHOOD

SMASHES

BORDERS



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CREDITS ILLUSTRATIONS

Page 4: Edinah for Fine Acts @wildlogic, *Changing The Things*

Page 6: Raha Amiri (first poster) and Clara Stella Hüneke (second poster)

Page 8: WISH Women In Solidarity House (Lesbos) <https://www.facebook.com/wishlesb>