

Invitation to take part in a public painting performance.

*Lydia Richardson, Europe in Pieces*

24.09.2016

Vismet, Brussels

In the frame of SIGNAL #5

Dear artist, dear teacher, dear student,

Considering the inhuman conditions that migrants are facing when arriving in Europe or at its borders, we would like to invite you to take part in the performance *Lydia Richardson, Europe in Pieces*.

Through this public posing session, we invite you to help us constitute a collection of paintings about the 'decline' of Europe; Europe in which we live and which does not respect fundamental rights amended by the conventions of Geneva in case of armed conflicts.

Far from images and words used by the media, *Lydia Richardson, Europe in Pieces* wants to highlight people who have recently arrived in Brussels at the peril of their lives. What if, together, we welcomed them in the heart of the City!

*Lydia Richardson, Europe in Pieces* wishes to create life, encounter and exchange between bodies who don't usually get to mix; theirs and ours. We hope that, through this encounter, many artpieces / glimpses will arise. We hope that you, painter, visual artists, illustrator, all gathered in one place, will seize this ephemeral image to share your own artistic, sensitive and quirky perspective. We think that the image can only reach its symbolic and political dimension by meeting many different visions.

The following *tableau vivant* will be proposed: a group of migrants tries desperately to lift up Lydia Richardson, allegorical figure of a heavy Europe, wallowed to the ground and puffed with too much food.

This is a call to professional artists, amateurs and art students; come and join us to seize this vivid picture through the making of a painting, drawing, collage... There are no artistic constraints or imposed choices of treatment.

The performance will be held on Saturday 24 September from 13h to 18h on the square Vismet, between Quai aux Briques and Quai du Bois à brûler in Brussels. The posing session will last four hours (sessions of 15 minutes, with breaks), artists should bring their own equipment <sup>1</sup>. At the end of the day, we invite models and artists to share a moment at Globe Aroma (26 rue de la Braie, 1000 Brussels).

*Lydia Richardson, Europe in Pieces* is a part of the series of public and private actions called *Lydia Richardson*, conducted by Anne Thuot. Under the guise of her "very bourgeois" character and with the complicity of the Mauritanian painter Saidou Ly, she questions the privileges of her "complete" identity - white, educated and recently heir - in a Europe, which gradually closes its borders.

<sup>1</sup> Should you need specific equipment that you cannot provide, get in touch with us so we can examine if we can find a way to help.

*Lydia Richardson, Europe in Pieces* is presented as part of SIGNAL, international event organised by CIFAS, offering debates and workshops on living art and the city, as well as a program of urban interventions, from 21 to 24 September in Brussels. [www.cifas.be](http://www.cifas.be)

After the performance (on the spot or at the latest on 27 September if you need more time), artworks will be collected to be exposed a few days later in *Lydia Richardson Welcomes You*, installation held as part of Nuit Blanche, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2016 in the Concert Noble. [www.nuitblanchebrussels.be](http://www.nuitblanchebrussels.be)

We will also need you to concede image rights of your work so we can make an exhibition catalog.

For those who want to invest and support furthermore this initiative, it is possible to donate your artwork. All donated artworks will be sold, benefits will go entirely to the association Globe Aroma, open House of the Arts where "refugees, newly arrived artists and Brussels inhabitants get to meet, inspire and stimulate artistic creation". Benefits will be used more specifically to repair the roof of Globe Aroma's building. [www.globearoma.be](http://www.globearoma.be)

By adding a certain artistic value and demonstrating solidarity, your presence at this performance, will help draw attention to the way Europe is dealing with the issue of migration. Showing the paintings of *Europe in Pieces* is also the opportunity to spread different kind of images than the ones we are submerged with in the media and which, too often, still convey a certain form of insult to the dignity of migrants.

Finally, we hope that the benefits donated to Globe Aroma will help the association in its mission, that of providing a place for creation, greeting of migrant artists, refugees or newcomers in Brussels.

Very much hoping that you can join us in this performance on 24 September 2016, and pending on the confirmation of your presence (please fill in the attached form), we send you our very best solidary regards.

Anne Thuot, Artist  
Antoine Pickels, Curator for SIGNAL

**MORE INFO:** [www.cifas.be](http://www.cifas.be) | Facebook: [LydiaRichardson](https://www.facebook.com/LydiaRichardson)

**ANNE THUOT** is a performer and theater director. She directed for Groupe Toc and collaborated with the groups Transquinquennal, Dito'Dito, youth theatre Bronks as well as choreographers Hans Van Den Broeck and Jérôme Bel. Recently she created *Wild* and *J'ai enduré vos discours et j'ai l'oreille en feu* co-written with Caroline Lamarche. She is associated artist of Centre Dramatique Wallonie Enfance et Jeunesse and professor at INSAS.



*Lydia Richardson, Saidou Ly, 2016.*

## PARTICIPATION FORM

Surname& Name:

Profession/School/Activity:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Hereby, I commit myself to take part in the public painting performance *Lydia Richardson, Europe in Pieces*, presented in the frame of SIGNAL, event organised by CIFAS from 21 to 24 September 2016.

I will make an artwork inspired by the pose of *Lydia Richardson* on Saturday 24 September from 13h to 18h on the square Vismet, between Quai aux Briques and Quai du Bois à brûler in Brussels.

This participation will be without financial compensation and I will bring my own painting equipment.

Hereby I agree that images of myself and of my work will be used in the frame of the project *Lydia Richardson, Europe in Pieces* during SIGNAL on 24 September 2016 and *Lydia Richardson Welcomes You* during NUIT BLANCHE, on 1 October 2016 in the Concert Noble building.

I commit myself to give my finished artwork on 27 September 2016 at the latest so it can be shown in the frame of the exhibition *Lydia Richardson Welcomes You*. I accept that my artwork appears in the *Lydia Richardson, Europe in Pieces* catalog (under the condition that I am satisfied with the artwork made on 24 September).

Optional:

I donate my artwork to the project *Lydia Richardson, Europe in Pieces*. It will then be sold, all benefits will be donated to the association Globe Aroma (date and location will be communicated later. We will contact you as soon as the artwork is done about the selling conditions).

YES –  NO

To return this form and for questions or more info, you can contact Charlotte David, coordinator of CIFAS, by mail: [charlotte@cifas.be](mailto:charlotte@cifas.be).

Signature: