



Activity Report

Please also see www.urbangorillas.org for our profile and activities. Please note that the website is not up to date.

I. Urban Interventions

Title: Pame Kaimakli: Adopt an Artist

Date: July 2018

Context: Annual neighbourhood cultural festival



Urban Gorillas in collaboration with the Kaimakli residents have co-organized Pame Kaimakli festival, 2018 edition, with the theme "Adopt an Artist".

Old Kaimakli became an open gallery, and a hub of creative and social actions. Residents of Kaimakli hosted the works of local and international artists, "adopting an artist" and co-curating exhibitions, installations, and happenings in homes, shops and social spaces of the neighborhood.

Artists from the Milan-based network [NON Riservato](#) following a residency in Nicosia have been also adopted by the local community.

Roads were closed for cars and public spaces were transformed through a series of actions, becoming a platform for discussion, culture, play and engagement.

During the festival, a series of performances, workshops, exhibitions, sound and art installations, screenings, food and music were planned, or at times occurred unexpectedly.

Funded by: Ministry of Education and Culture, Nicosia Municipality and Tandem for Europe

Activities/Projects:

38 projects presented in all the neighborhood

5 workshops

3 upcycling projects

23 Houses hosted an artist and opened their doors to the public

9 (Private Studios / Shops/business) opened to public

2 empty shops activated

2 private churches in peoples houses opened

6 Live performances

1 Documentary presenting stories of the neighborhood

11 projects in public spaces

Public Engaged:

Neighbours:93 actively engaged

Active engagement of older people: 16

Total number of Artists: 58

International Artists participation: 15

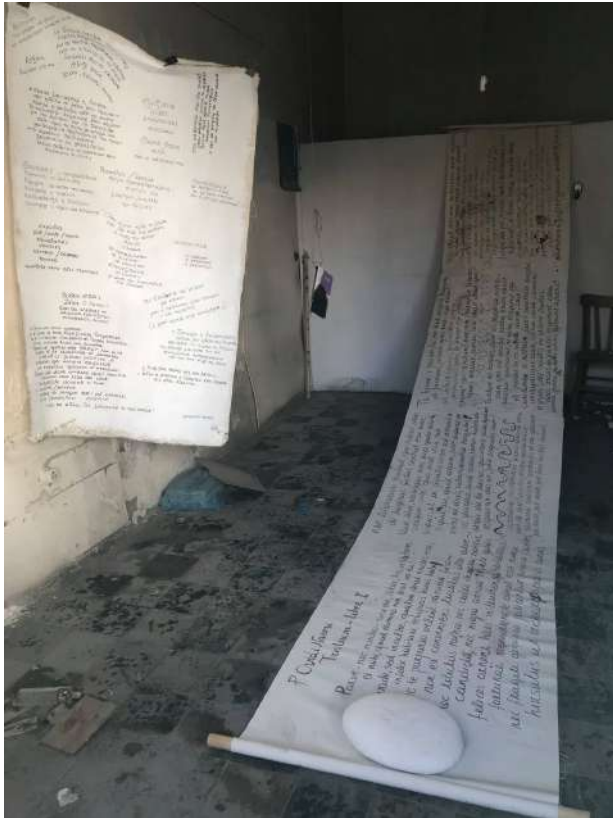
Kaimakli Artists Engagement: 22

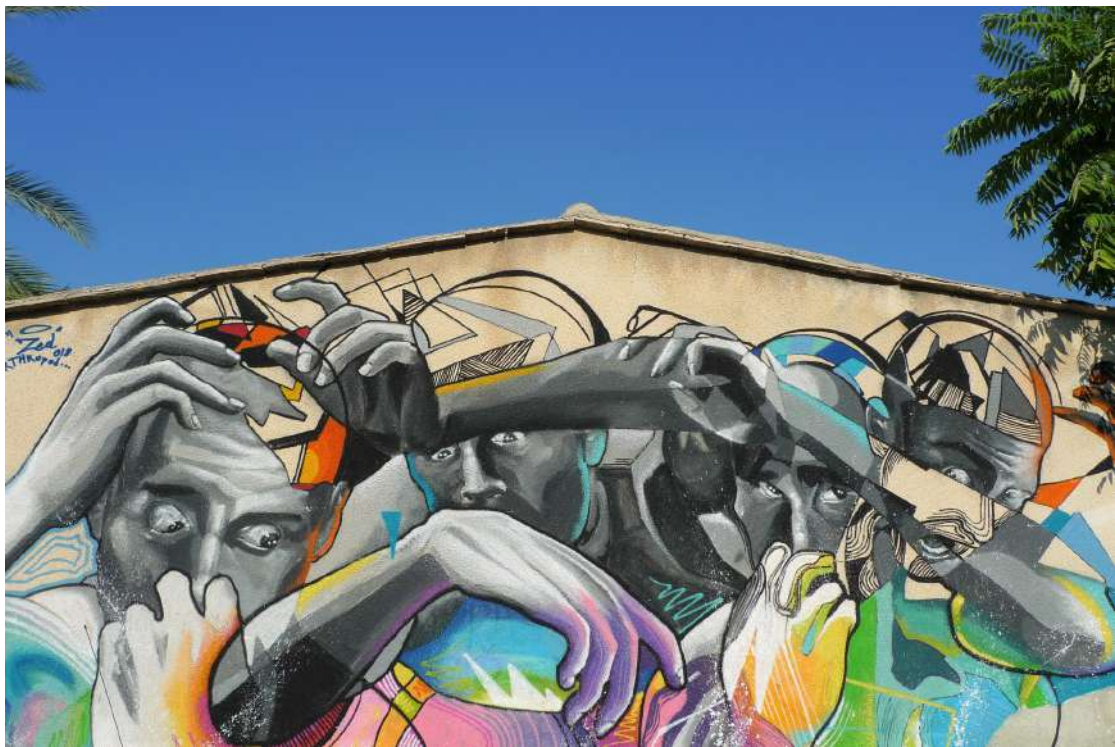
Nationalities: 16

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF VISITORS: 1000







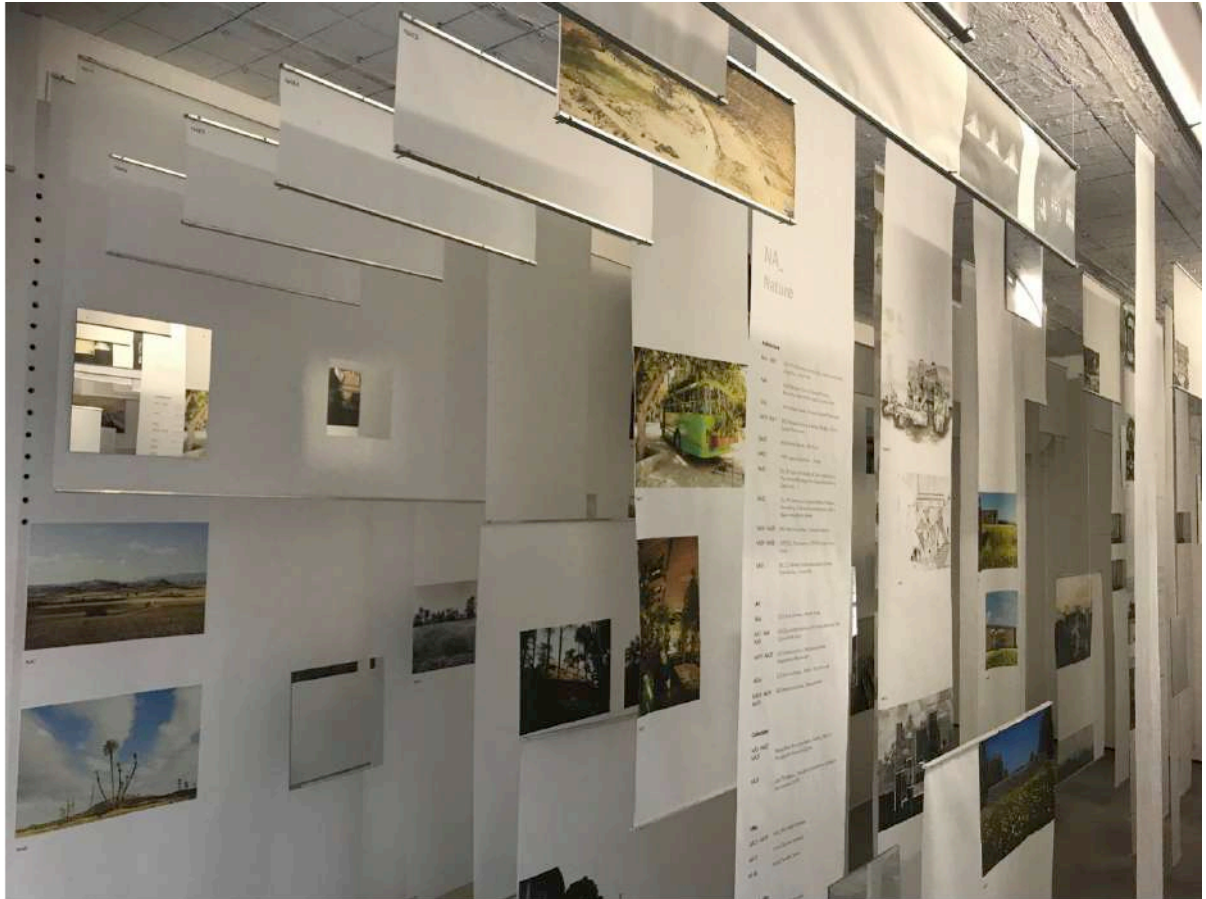








Title: I am where you are
Date: May 2018-November 2018
Context: Venice Biennale of Architecture



Urban Gorillas was the main partner of the curators as appointed by the Ministry of Culture of Cyprus to represent the Cyprus Pavilion at the Venice Biennale of Architecture. The project presented "I am where you are" focused in presenting the Freespaces present in the Cypriot cultural landscape. The project presented\ voices of resistance and challenged the globalization of the built environment. It focused on the crafting of humanitarian constructed fragments and in the augmentation of the simplicities of everyday rituals. Equally important was the presentation of the untouched and the harnessed environment and the examination of the scenography of nature and the human condition.

The Urban Gorillas team was responsible for the collection of the work of artists and architects through the open calls, for the communication of the projects and for the visual identity and design of the project.

https://www.facebook.com/pg/CyprusPavilionBiennale2018/about/?ref=page_internal

<https://www.arc.unic.ac.cy/iamwhereyouare/>

Title: Book Launch “ Green Urban Lab”

Date: October 2018

Context: Green Urban Lab

GREEN URBAN LAB
Activating Public Spaces

Book Launch: 24.10.2018 @7pm
In-parallel with the Presentation of "I am Where you are", the Cyprus Pavilion at the Venice Biennale of Architecture,
LOCATION: University of Nicosia, Architecture Department

***20% Discount :** The Book will be sold for the price of 15 Euro at the Book Launch event.

For orders, contact Aileen O'Donoghue, Publications Editor at University of Nicosia Press, 22842305, email: odonoghue.a@unic.ac.cy

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UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA
URBAN GORILLAS

The poster features a hand holding a book titled "GREEN URBAN LAB: Activating Public Spaces" by Aileen O'Donoghue. The book cover shows a silhouette of a city skyline against a large, glowing moon. The background of the poster is a grey gradient with a white line-art city skyline at the bottom.

This publication draws on analytical literature, the latest data on public spaces in Cyprus and the valuable inputs of a team of researchers, architects, designers, urban planners and city enthusiasts.

The research that led to this book is the result of the Green Urban Lab project that took place in 2014-2015 and that was made possible through funding from the [EEA and Norway Grants Cyprus](#).

The research was conducted in collaboration with [CYMAR Market Research Ltd.](#) has led to collecting data on public spaces in Cyprus.

Title: Outstanding Contribution Award

Date: July 2018

Context: University of Nicosia | annual honorary award



Urban Gorillas has received the annual honorary award (Outstanding Contribution Award) by the University of Nicosia in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the betterment of society.

The award was given at the graduation ceremony for the master programs of the University of Nicosia.

Title: I am Where you are : Where am I?
Date: September 2018
Location: Venice
Context: IND [Inter.National.Design] by Università Iuav di Venezia



From the academic year 2013-2014, the Dacc and the Triennial Degree Program offers its students an intensive teaching formula called "A week with ...". These workshops are aimed at learning the architectural project not so much through a design experience, such as the summer workshops, but through an intense dialogue developed over a week between the invited foreign teacher and the students. This dialogue will have different forms in relation to the choices of the single invited teacher: lectures, study visits, project tests, brief project experiences, thematic seminars, etc. Urban Gorillas have participated with the Board Director Yiorgos Hadjichristou who guided the students to create some radical work through comprehensive and hands on design exercises.

Title: 'Ayios Sozomenos – place of barley' _ 'Timeless Encounters'

Date: March 2018

Context: CCFT- Creative Center of Fluid Territories

Location: Ayios Sozomenos, abandoned village near the Buffer Zone, Cyprus



The CCFT- Creative Center of Fluid Territories in collaboration with the NGO 'Urban Gorillas' and the Architecture Department of the University of Nicosia organised the event 'Ayios Sozomenos – place of barley' _ 'Timeless Encounters' with a series of creative interventions and presentations and exhibitions within Agios Sozomenos an abandoned cultural heritage site near the Buffer Zone and the surrounding area. Through the different forms of presentation, CCFT proposes to explore aspects of the nature of Ayios Sozomenos as a place that is redolent of complex histories: both personal and national. Related events will also take place within communities in the neighboring village of Potamia.

https://www.facebook.com/events/511375559263011/?active_tab=discussion

https://vimeo.com/280063354?fbclid=IwAR0QAaFfI1082pm89t0vrKud_SmU80WgBTJyFctRMQBzp1TmTNLc1O_bk8

Title: PS:MiNi
Date: September 2017-November 2018
Context: Tandem for Culture
Location: Milano, Nicosia (and meetings in Bulgaria, Portugal, Greece , Italy)



Urban Gorillas was funded by Tandem Europe program during a year to explore innovative approaches to culture with the Milanese partner Non Riservato. UG and NR have created PS:MiNi Network, to broaden and strengthen expertise with regards to public space (PS) innovation. PS:MiNi explored the idea of “virtual residencies” in connection to local communities, as a way to explore global networking tools. The network connected and fostered collaboration between diverse stakeholders in Milano and Nicosia that are engaged in PS interventions and community engagement through artistic, economic, cultural and socially-engaged actions. The network discussed challenges faced in both countries such as cultural diversity, transient societies, lack of social cohesion, and the desire to foster creative communities. The PS:MiNi Network experimented throughout the process with “virtual” residencies adopting IoT tools to overcome geographical disparities and examine new ways of communicating “localities” while undertaking transborder spatial interventions. “Virtual” residencies will be realised through the connection of artists and community members from the corresponding partner city. The project presented the work of the associated artists in two public space festivals, one in Milano, The PxePicNic and Pame Kaimakli in Nicosia.

<https://www.tandemforculture.org/collaborations/psmini-network-milano-nicosia-public-space-network/>

Title: Do it Your street
Date: June 2018
Context: ERASMUS +
Location: St.Etienne , France



“Fabriquer ta ville”!! “Do it your street “!!

Urban gorillas’ five-member youth team has returned after a 10-day residency in St. Etienne, France organized by [Crefad Loire](#) and [Ici Bientôt](#).

Together with 30 young people across Europe, they have succeeded in transforming the heart of the historic neighborhood of St. Etienne using participatory design processes. They have worked together for the renewal of the old city and focused to create a city more accessible to children.

Public space was turned into a playful construction site.

<https://ici-bientot.org/do-it-your-street-fabrique-ta-ville/>

Title: Urban Filming Workshops and Rooftop event
Date: October 2017
Context: Incommunicado |
Location: Nicosia(North and South)



We spent a week exploring our community in the streets and disorienting any "borders" with roof-to-roof digital communication and also with other creative mean. Participants took part in an interactive two-day workshop with Italian director Alessandro Negrini and concluded the week of events with Sunday's open-air film screening in Kaimakli's church square.

The film 'TIDES' of the director was also screened during [Yuka Blend Street Festival 2017](#) in an urban transformed space; from a car garage to a mini cinema.

<http://urbangorillas.org/our-work/urban-interventions/in-communicado-project-week/>

Title: Screening
Date: October 2017
Context: Incommunicado
Location: Nicosia



Urban Gorillas, in collaboration with **Cyprus Community Media Centre (CCMC)**, invited the multi-award winning Italian director **Alessandro Negrini** to screen his latest film **'TIDES'** and hold a **two-day workshop**.

'TIDES' depicts lives across the divided Northern Ireland and reflects on issues that are going beyond borders and the very concept of it. The film, narrated from the point of view of the river separating Catholic and Protestant communities, invites us to discover its story.

Concluding the week of events, was the open-air screening at Kaimakli which was followed by a fascinating discussion with the help of Irish journalist Brian Kelly, director Sholeh Zahrei, activist Marios Epaminondas, architecture professor Yiorgos Hadjichristou and the director.

The film was presented in both sides of the island, to encourage various viewers living in similar conditions to 'Tides' concept' and to reflect on Cyprus' situation.

The closing event was kindly supported by the Italian and the Irish embassies in Nicosia.

<http://urbangorillas.org/uncategorized/1537/>

Title: Into Street Art
Date: October 2017
Context: Yuka Festival | Incommunicado
Location: Nicosia (North)



Urban Gorillas team transformed an old car garage into a mini cinema. With zero budget and utilizing existing resources and recycled material we have created two screening spaces.

In one space we presented the results of a research into street art within the walled city of Nicosia and in the second space there was a screening of the award winning film *Tides*, in presense of the director, Alessandro Negrini. This urban film screening and the results of the team's research invited the festival-goers to question their understanding of borders.

The Film was presented in both sides of the island, to encourage various viewers living in similar conditions to 'Tides' concept' and to reflect on Cyprus' situation.

Title: Map Your City Pulse'
Date: September 2017
Context: Youth Festival | ONEK
Location: Acropolis Parc, Nicosia



Driven by transforming unused public spaces and with an interest in exploring city planning and how citizens interact with it, we took part in **ONEK's** *It's Up to You(th)* festival 2017.

Converting an area of the park into a green living room made of palettes and the organization's custom-made cushions, we turn in our kiosk stand for a more creative and interactive space.

Wanting to collect data about living in the city, Urban Gorillas constructed the '**Map Your City Pulse**' board, where passerby's were invited to participate in this interactive and visual installation-questionnaire. By mapping their answers on the board, we were able to document how they interact with their city, what they desire from their surroundings and note the geographical residents that were eager to take part.

A few weeks later, our board travelled to the *Let's Play Art in the Park* contemporary arts exhibition to intermingle with other citizens and regenerate the green area.

<http://urbangorillas.org/our-work/urban-interventions/map-your-city-pulse-onek-festival-17/>

Title: Creativity workshops
Date: November 2017
Context: Ecole d'Automne en Management de la Créativité
Location: Strasbourg



Urban Gorillas were invited in the Fall School of Management of Creativity week, Strasbourg edition, last week with a participatory workshop. The program featured visits to innovative organizations, interactive workshops and meetings with researchers, students and creators. [Veronika Antoniou](#) from Urban Gorillas and [Marco Canevacci](#) from Plastique fantastique led a workshop on space and creativity, where a "bubble" became a canvas for expressing new ideas and use of a historical monument.

Together with a group of 40 participants we had to think outside the box (and inside the bubble) to generate creative ideas for the renovation of the hygiene dentistry department!

<https://www.creaccro.eu/je-veux-booster-creativite/ecole-dautomne/>

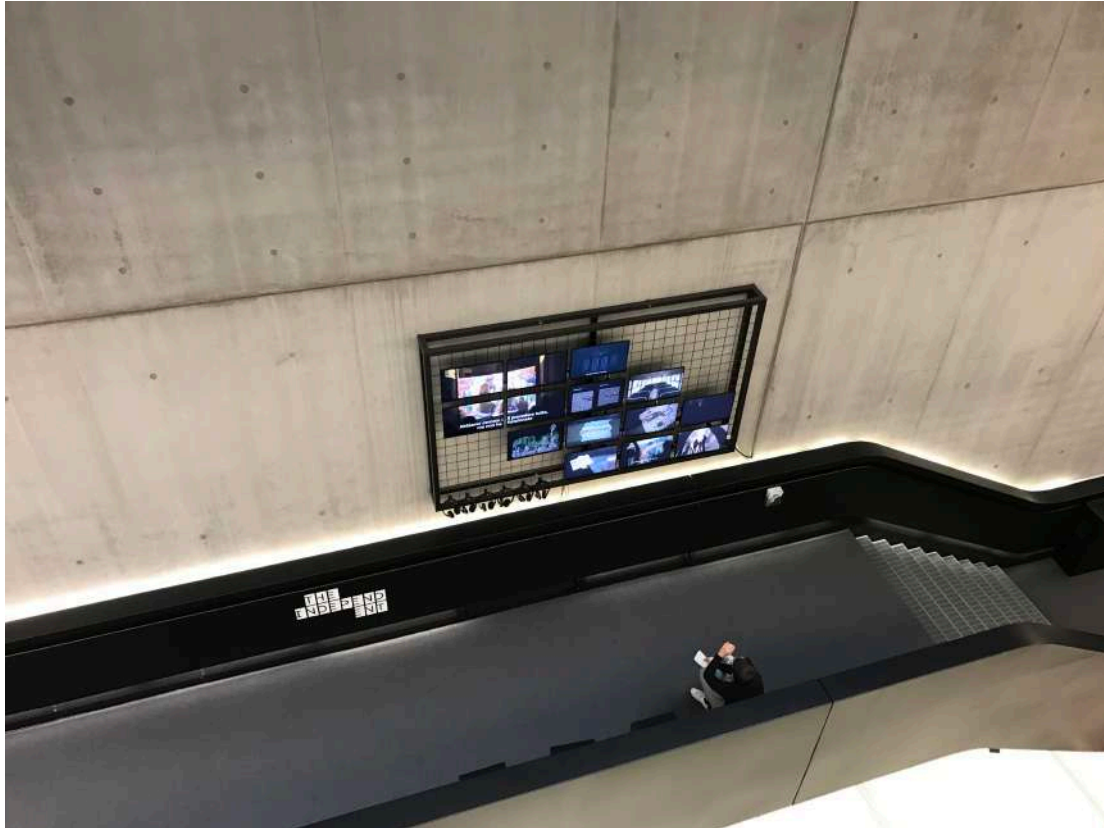
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUngRCPEA7Q&fbclid=IwAR10j7sfaPQyBPxCyqwhoE-7DiLL7wGuUkGnSG1PxUdsSt9YA0736LHiCsk>

Title: Urban Spectacle in 'The Independent' project by MAXXI museum, Rome

Date: 09 February 2017 – 20 March 2017

Context: Urban Spectacle

Theme: Urban Gorillas take part in 'The Independent' project of MAXXI



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNhjfXWnSU8>

Within the context of Maxxi museum's *The Independent project*, Urban Gorillas and co. are presenting *Urban Spectacle*, a series of public interventions exploring basic human activities in urban spaces, starting out from the relationship that is established between observer, player and spatial context and attempting to spark a new dialogue between them. The project is designed to encourage people to overcome stereotypical ways of looking at "the other" and to interact with them in public spaces.

THE INDEPENDENT is a research project focusing on the identification and promotion of independent spaces and thinking; it is the manifesto MAXXI has chosen to use to extend the confines of the museum institution, investigate the contemporary and encourage the culture "of difference".

<http://urbangorillas.org/news/the-independent-project-maxxi-museum-rome/>

Title: Baffle Zone

Date: January 11 2017

Context: Urban Spectacle



Urban Gorillas in collaboration with local street artist, Twenty Three, brought to life a project displayed across the buffer zone in Nicosia. 'Baffle Zone' aims not only to mirror the current circumstances of Cyprus, but also to encourage the public to personally engage in its current socio-political situation. Artist Twenty Three, paints a visual riddle, split in two, along the two sides of the green line, heartening the viewers to be interactive within the buffer zone, cross the checkpoints and map their city. In order to obtain the full wall mural and solve the riddle, one has to undertake a city stroll, transcend the physical barriers and connect the pieces. Once the image is pieced together, the visitors will be confronted with a visual maze. Under crucial socio-urban connotations and in reflection of recent re-unification talks of the island, 'Baffle Zone' proposes an interaction across the divide where the spectator merges the two parts of the mural to introduce an amalgamated web.

<http://urbangorillas.org/uncategorized/baffle-zone-urban-spectacle-series/>

Title: Sweet Give & Take Relationships
Date: 13 January 2017
Context: Urban Spectacle



A black box placed in a public environment with marshmallow sticks waiting to be taken and a stack of notes ready to be written. The artist of this installation wants to witness and narrate how a pass-er-by would be intrigued enough to stop and see what the installation is about and what it represents. Once the concept was understood, whether or not they would inter-act by either taking candy, replacing it with a message or simply dis-missing it. What is interesting is how the reaction of each individual also leaves behind a small part of their personality... something of their character.
<http://urbangorillas.org/our-work/urban-interventions/sweet-give-take-relationships-urban-spectacle-series/>

Title: Urban Dinner
Date: 11 December 2016
Context: Urban Spectacle



Urban Dinner is part of The Urban Spectacle public intervention series, where primary human activities are explored in public spaces and examine the relationships between the observer, the performer and the spatial setting in an attempt to create new negotiations amongst them. The Urban Dinner proposed a theatrical stage of the act of dining where food becomes an art form, and the act of eating an engaging, and participatory experience. Here we dined together with the general public in a playful, colorful and interactive manner. Through this installation performance the team investigates how food can create connections with people that overcome social, cultural and ethnic divisions. Identity is obliterated; people are unified and connected despite their disparities.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/153630501783359/>

Title: Spatial Interventions for Faneromin 16
Date: 11 June 2016-30 September 2016
Context: Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation Courtyard | Summer program of events
Support: Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation



Urban Gorillas presented an interactive and thematic series of spatial interventions at the BoCCF through the Summer of 2016 to set the scene for the Foundation's Faneromeni16 programme of events. The Foundation's courtyard is a private space that is offered for public use during the opening hours of the Foundation itself. Urban Gorillas were also interested to explore the lines between private and public space.

<http://urbangorillas.org/uncategorized/spatial-interventions-at-faneromeni16/>

Title: Off The studio
Date: 8 November 2016
Context: Arthropod Artistic Residency Residency at the National Art Chamber
Support: N/A



In a world where one can no longer distinguish fiction from reality, Arthropod in collaboration with Urban Gorillas propose an installation performance situated in the in-between state of these two notions. The installation performance seeks to indulge the public between the film and real life, where the public watches the artists' live painting performance projected on the blank side of the canvas. The canvas acts as an evanescent boundary between the artists painting live in one side and the public experiencing this moment through a live projection on the other.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/921048011373212/>

Title: Installation and Playful Interactive Urban Social Space
Date: 24 May 2015
Context: Festival NEON | Youth Festival at the Municipal Gardens | Nicosia
Support: ONEK (Cyprus Youth Organisation)



Urban Gorillas' DNA inflatable structure made in collaboration with Plastique Fantastique and a team of participants in the Inflating the Public_2 featured as a temporary urban playful social space on 24 May 2015 at Festival NEON | Youth Festival in Nicosia. A live art project was created by Mathieu Devavry and Baroque Rococo who painted the inflatable structure. Inside the structure we installed a sandy beach play area. The structure was home to Pecha Kucha presentations, children's play, picnics, relaxation and artists' live work performance. Urban Gorillas were proud to be part of this successful event that reached out to youth and the wider community, while making great use of public space at the Nicosia Municipal Gardens.

<http://urbangorillas.org/our-work/urban-interventions/gorillas-create-playful-social-space-at-festival-neon/>

Title: Installation and Anthropometric Performance
Date: 26 April 2015
Context: Let's Go Kaimakli! Neighbourhood Event | Nicosia



Urban Gorillas went local with Anamorphes – Body Art Factory at Let's Go Kaimakli! Neighbourhood Event on 26 April 2015. A pair of French performers took us into the anthropometric dimension: Created on a plastic cylindrical volume, a pictural work revealed itself through the story of an encounter between body and paint.

<http://urbangorillas.org/our-work/urban-interventions/anthropometric-performance-at-lets-go-kaimakli-neighbourhood-event-2/>

Title: ΦουσκόPolis [FouskoPolis] | Activating Urban Public Spaces
Date: 24 March – 4 April 2015
Context: Green Urban Lab (GUL) Project
[Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation, Nicosia | 4 April 2015](#)
[Paphos Castle | 31 March – 1 April 2015](#)
[Limassol Castle | 27-28 March 2015](#)
[Larnaca Castle | 24-25 March 2015](#)
Partners: [University of Nicosia Architecture Research Centre \(ARC\)](#),
Dentros Ltd., [Plastique Fantastique](#)
Support: EEA Grants / Norway Grants

[Fouskopolis Event Page on FB](#)



ΦουσκόPolis [FouskoPolis] was a series of temporary architecture installations in the form of giant inflatables in public spaces all over Cyprus. Starting from workshops in Autumn 2014 to design and build the inflatables, to stepping out into underutilised public spaces and engaging the wider public in Spring 2015, ΦουσκόPolis was a grassroots initiative that was aimed at activating underutilised public spaces and challenging our perceptions and uses of public space. ΦουσκόPolis hosted a diverse programme of local and international artists and activities inside and outside the specially designed inflatables; these activities were selected after an [Open Call](#) for the community to present their own work and ideas.

Urban Gorillas worked in partnership with the Architecture Research Centre (ARC) of the University of Nicosia, Dendros Ltd. and Plastique Fantastique (Berlin) to realise this islandwide initiative. Open and free to the public ΦουσκόPolis invited the participation of the public and passers-by to get involved and experience their city from a new perspective. By experimenting with temporary inflatable architectural structures Urban Gorillas and their collaborators played with inside and outside spaces and our perceptions and use of public spaces in our cities. ΦουσκόPolis took place within the framework of the Green Urban Lab project and was made possible with funding from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants / Norway Grants. The total grant amount received was EUR109,800 and the project cycle ran for 18 months.

ΦουσκόPolis attracted around a thousand visitors per day in each site. ΦουσκόPolis even brought people to the sites who had never visited these public spaces before. The programme of events was made up of a diverse range of actions from creative groups, collectives, artists, community organisations, other NGOs, designers and performers. There were urban games, exhibitions of photography, printmaking and architectural design work, dance, storytelling, drumming, musical workshops for young children, video installation, projections, theatre performance, yoga, capoeira, hip-hop, skateboarding, circus performances, film and documentary screenings, free hugs, a sculpture installation, a piano and other interactive installations and games as well as a mobile cafe, food from diverse minority groups living in Cyprus and a DJ closing party inside the inflatable.



Title: Life Inside_Outside a Bubble
Date: 20-21 March 2015
Context: Extension of Green Urban Lab (GUL) Project to the Turkish Cypriot community | Bedestan | Nicosia
Partners: Plastique Fantastique, European Mediterranean Arts Association (EMAA)
Support: EU Commission in Cyprus, Embassy of Italy



Urban Gorillas in collaboration with Plastique Fantastique (Berlin) and the European Mediterranean Arts Association (EMAA) hosted Life Inside_Outside a Bubble at the Bedestan in the old city of Nicosia on 20-21 March 2015. The project was a temporary architecture installation in the form of a giant inflatable structure that hosted an artistic, cultural and community programme of events that were free and open to the public over the course of the two days. Life Inside_Outside the Bubble took place within the framework of the Green Urban Lab, made possible with funding from the EEA Grants / Norway Grants.

The European Commission and the Embassy of Italy in Cyprus hosted a lecture by Marco Canevacci, architect and founder of Plastique Fantastique on Friday 20 March at 18:30 at the Bedestan, where the giant inflatable was installed, marking the beginning of the two-day programme of events. The programme of local and international artists and activities inside and outside the specially designed, site-specific bubble was selected after an [Open Call](#) whereby interested parties were invited to present their own work and ideas. Beginning on Friday evening and continuing throughout Saturday, the programme included a diverse range of activities from dance and theatrical performances, exhibitions, video projections,

screenings, yoga and live music to a photography project building a mosaic of the city, a series of urban furniture installations, spatial and interactive installations and a mobile café.

Title: Inflating City Plaza

Date: 23 November 2014

Context: Pop-Up Festival 2014 | Nicosia

Partners: [University of Nicosia Architecture Research Centre \(ARC\)](#)



Following the successful workshop Inflating the Public_II led by Marco Canvacci, architect and founder of Plastique Fantastique (Berlin), Urban Gorillas inflated City Plaza in downtown Nicosia with one of their temporary structures for a couple of hours during the Pop-Up Festival on 23 November 2014.

Inflatable structures such as the one briefly installed at City Plaza are low-cost and high-impact. Ephemeral in nature, they appear in a public space and temporarily change it for the passer-by. After the installation is removed, the space remains different in the memory of the observer. This experiment was a spontaneous action as part of the Inflating the Public_2 workshop that took place within the wider framework of the Green Urban Lab (GUL) project, made possible with funding from the EEA Grants / Norway Grants.

<http://urbangorillas.org/our-work/urban-interventions/inflating-city-plaza-at-pop-up-festival-2014/>

Title: Five Installations_Five Locations_1 City
Date: 19-21 September 2014
Context: Pop-up Event | Nicosia Old Town
Partners: [University of Nicosia Architecture Research Centre \(ARC\)](#)
Support: EEA Grants / Norway Grants



Urban Gorillas NGO in partnership with the Architecture Research Centre (ARC) of the University of Nicosia ran a pop-up event in the walled city of Nicosia following the recent workshop *Inflating the Public_I*, with invited guest inflatables specialist from Rome, Daniele Mancini. On 19, 20 and 21 September 2014 participants installed temporary inflatable structures at five different locations within the old part of the city. The installations were open for the public for three evenings, raising curiosity and inviting public participation with multi-sensory experiences, sound and visual installations and interactive experiences. *Inflating the Public* took place within the framework of the Green Urban Lab (GUL) project, which benefits from a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants and Norway Grants. "These inflatables are ephemeral spatial structures that alter our use and perception of existing spaces in the city," said Yiorgos Hadjichristou, one of the workshop leaders at the ARC. "Inflatable structures are low-cost, flexible and light, so they can pop up in urban areas effortlessly and bring new aesthetic and energy to public spaces in the city that are often underutilised, abandoned or forgotten", said Veronika Antoniou, Urban Gorillas Creative Director.

http://urbangorillas.org/our-work/urban-interventions/pop-up-event-five-installations_five-locations_1-city/

Title: Green Urban Kitchen Bus
Date: May – June 2014
Context: Temporary Urban Installation | Nicosia and Limassol
Partners: [AKTI](#)
Support: Cyprus Fulbright Commission



In May 2014 Urban Gorillas took a disused bus from the scrap yard and converted it into a temporary urban installation that transformed a pavement area at Ayios Antonios Park outside the old walls of Nicosia, into a shaded green space for social interaction among city dwellers. With this project we were able to promote Cypriot artistic work at street level, offer the public a creative use of public space and promote Tiganokinisi, an innovative project turning used cooking oil into biodiesel. The Green Urban Kitchen Bus was an action to raise awareness about the use of public transport and get people thinking about sustainable living, recycling, and growing our own food at home. The Green Urban Kitchen Bus was temporarily installed in Nicosia, and then in Limassol, offering shaded seating and temporary green spaces in the city. It has since been returned to the scrap yard and its future remains uncertain. The bus was inaugurated on 29 May by Dr. Costas Kadis, Minister of Education and Culture. This project was made possible by support from the Cyprus Fulbright Commission and was realised in cooperation with AKTI.

<http://urbangorillas.org/our-work/urban-interventions/green-urban-kitchen-bus-2/>

II. Workshops

Title: Play-me | Sit-me
Date: 10-16 November 2014
Context: The structure project
Partners: Artos Foundation and Hack66
Support: [Artos Foundation](#)



Urban Gorillas joins the Structure project in the Buffer Zone, in the UN Buffer Zone to create an interactive design workshop in order to create a public living room that will be installed in a public space in the city. SITME_PLAYME proposes the use of an open participatory workspace where everyone is invited to come and play, interact, share ideas, offer skills and create. Together with the participants we drafted the design proposal, and choose a site in the municipal park where it remain for 6 months.

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1010117899041715&id=166783090041871

Title: Inflating the Public_II Workshop
Date: 10-16 November 2014
Context: Green Urban Lab Project | Nicosia
Partners: [University of Nicosia Architecture Research Centre \(ARC\)](#)
Support: EEA Grants / Norway Grants



Urban Gorillas NGO in collaboration with the Architecture Department of the University of Nicosia hosted a second specialised workshop all about inflatable (pneumatic) architecture. Berlin-based architect Marco Canevacci, founder of *Plastique Fantastique*, led the workshop.

The workshop offered the opportunity to architects, students and graduates, urbanists, industrial designers, interior designers, and anyone else interested in design, public spaces and social engagement issues, to have a hands-on learning experience with one of the world's leading inflatables specialists. The structures resulting from these workshops were key features for the site-specific installations island-wide in Spring 2015.

Following the workshop Urban Gorillas and participants of the workshop tested one of the structures at Pop-Up Festival 2014. The structure was inflated on the night of the 23rd November. at a central shopping centre in Nicosia, City Plaza, once thriving and now almost abandoned due to economic crisis.

http://urbangorillas.org/our-work/workshops/workshop-inflating-the-public_ii-2/

[Inflating the Public_II Workshop Video](#)

Title: Rethinking Architecture Workshop: Inflating the Public_I
Date: 8-19 September 2014
Context: Green Urban Lab (GUL) Project | Nicosia
Partners: [University of Nicosia Architecture Research Centre \(ARC\)](#)
Support: EEA Grants / Norway Grants



The workshop was led by our guest instructor from Rome, Daniele Mancini, architect and specialist in inflatable structures. The participants were asked to conceive, design and construct flexible inflatable structures that were later installed at various locations in Nicosia in a three-day pop-up event. The working material was polyethylene and the participants experimented with the technique of taping for its assembly. The outcome of the workshop acted as a tool in regenerating urban public spaces in Nicosia. All the materials and participation in the workshop were provided to the participants free of charge.

This workshop took place from 8 – 19 September 2014 and was the beginning of a series of workshops for the collaborative project Green Urban Laboratory (GUL) and was run by Urban Gorillas in partnership with the University of Nicosia and made possible with funding from the EEA Grants & Norway Grants. The overall project, that incorporates research and action based activities, was aimed at raising awareness on the importance of public spaces in developing socially sustainable cities through bottom-up initiatives that endorse participatory democracy.

III. Lectures & Exhibitions

Title: Order and Disorder
Date: 28 November 2015-6 December 2015
Context: Exhibition, Children's workshop, Conference, and graffiti in the city.
Partners: ArtWay, Apotheki 79, French Institute



Eleven artists, one mathematical physicist, one neuroscientist, one sound experimentalist and one performer gather and invite the public to experience a rich sensory approach of chaos and chaos theory, one of the greatest scientific revolutions of the past century.

The exhibition addresses visually and theoretically the powerful and inspiring forces of creativity operating within order and disorder in chaos. Talented and recognized artists from Cyprus, France, Syria and Lebanon will be presenting their work. Each artist will offer a personal interpretation of the theme through painting, sculpture, video, sound, performance and installation.

<http://urbangorillas.org/news/order-disorder-chaos/>

Title: Piccole Utopie Exhibition
Date: 10-21 November 2014 at Architecture Research Centre
02-13 December Bedestan
Context: Italian Presidency of the EU | Nicosia
Partners: Embassy of Italy, European Commission, [University of Nicosia](#)
[Architecture Research Centre \(ARC\)](#)



In the framework of the Italian Presidency of the EU, the Embassy of Italy in Cyprus, and the European Commission, in collaboration with the Urban Gorillas NGO, the exhibition “Piccole Utopie / Small Utopias”, focused on Italian architecture of the third millennium – between history, research and innovation. The exhibition showcases new Italian architecture and demonstrates that contemporary architecture that is produced by smaller, emerging architectural firms.

The exhibition opened on 10 November at the Architecture Research Centre of the University of Nicosia with a lecture by Marco Canevacci, architect and founder of Plastique Fantastique (Berlin) and ran until 21 November 2014. The exhibition then moved to the Bedestan in the northern part of Nicosia on 2 December 2014 where it was opened with a lecture by Professor Giuseppe Ciorra, Senior Curator of the exhibition. Professor Ciorra is an architect, critic, lecturer and advisor to the Gold Medal for Italian architecture and for the Mies van der Rohe award. He has also curated and designed exhibitions in Italy and abroad, and since 2009 he is the Senior Curator of the Architecture Section of the renowned MAXXI, Rome.

<http://urbangorillas.org/our-work/lectures-and-exhibitions/exhibition-piccole-utopie-in-collaboration-with-the-embassy-of-italy/>

Title: Urban Catalysers | Lecture by Marco Canevacci
Date: 10 November 2014
Context: Italian Presidency of the EU | Nicosia
Partners: Embassy of Italy, [University of Nicosia Architecture Research Centre \(ARC\)](#)

Urban Gorillas and the Architecture Research Centre (ARC) of the University of Nicosia in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy in Nicosia on the occasion of the Italian Presidency of the EU presented a lecture by Marco Canevacci, architect and founder of the Berlin-based temporary architecture platform, Plastique Fantastique.

The lecture entitled 'Urban Catalysers' took place on 10 November 2014 at the Architecture Research Center, University of Nicosia and marked the opening of the exhibition Piccole Utopie / Small Utopias that was organised in the framework of the Italian Presidency of the EU by the Embassy of Italy in Cyprus and the European Commission, in collaboration with Urban Gorillas.

See [Facebook Event Page](#) for more info.

<http://urbangorillas.org/our-work/lectures-and-exhibitions/lecture-urban-catalysers-by-marco-canevacci-plastique-fantastique-berlin/>

Title: Unpacking Urban Fields | Lecture by Daniele Mancini
Date: 9 September 2014
Context: Green Urban Lab (GUL) Project | Nicosia
Partners: Embassy of Italy, [University of Nicosia Architecture Research Centre \(ARC\)](#)



On 9 September 2014 Urban Gorillas and the Department of Architecture of the University of Nicosia, in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy in Cyprus, hosted a lecture entitled "Unpacking Urban Fields@Cyprus" by Daniele Mancini. This lecture was held within the framework of the Green Urban Lab, which is supported by the EEA Grants / Norway Grants.

IV. Research & Publications

The research conducted at Urban Gorillas is centered on the analysis of the use, access and revitalization of public spaces in Cyprus. It is based on a wide range of research approaches: A nation-wide survey, on-site observations, interviews, focus groups and behavioural mapping methods were applied in order to carry out empirical research. Urban Gorillas' research so far reveals that public spaces in Cyprus are currently underused and underutilised, thus preparing the ground for new and innovative methods of public space designs. Through the study of the Green Urban Lab (GUL) events that took place in Cyprus in 2015, the research exposes the positive social impacts that can be gained through the means of participatory design and inclusive events. Urban Gorillas will publish in November 2016 a comprehensive presentation of the results:

Antoniou, V., Carraz, R., Neophytou, M. & Hadjichristou, Y. (Eds.) (2015). *Fouskopolis: an Urban Lab*. Urban Gorillas, Cyprus.

Additionally, the research has been presented at four peer-reviewed conferences:

- Carraz R., Merry A., Antoniou V. and Y. Hadjichristou (2015) *Life inside-out an inflatable space: how artistic experiences can be diffused in a city through playfulness*. Contemporary Museum and Gallery Education practices: Local Communities meet Global Narratives, Nicosia, May 22-23, 2015;
- Hadjichristou, Y., Carraz R., and V. Antoniou (2015) *A green urban lab: how to raise awareness on public spaces through creativity and participatory democracy, a Pan-Cypriot experience*. MaPS. Mastering Public Space, Biennale dello Spazio Pubblico, Rome, May 21-24, 2015;
- Antoniou, V., Hadjichristou, Y., R. Carraz (2015) *Inflating the Public Space*. International Conference on changing cities 2, Spatial, Landscape & Socio-economic dimension, Peloponnese, 22 to 26 June 2015;
- Merry, A. and R. Carraz (2015) *Art and Play: Promoting Social Interaction*. Imperial College London, *Art in Society* 22-24th July.

In parallel, research results have been published in one peer-reviewed journal (b), one conference proceeding (a) and are under review in a peer-review publication (c):

a) Antoniou, V., Carraz, R., Hadjichristou, Y. (2015) *Inflating the Public*. *Proceedings of the International Conference on Changing Cities II Spatial, Design, Landscape & Socio-economic Dimensions*, 1597-1607.

b) Merry, A. and Carraz, R. (2015a). *Exploring the Social Impacts of Temporary, Playful and Artistic Interventions*. *The International Journal of Social, Political and Community Agendas in the Arts*, 10(4).

c) Merry, A. and Carraz, R. (2015b). *Designing an experience model for social change in underutilised public space*. *International Journal of Design*, manuscript under review.

<http://urbangorillas.org/our-work/research-publications/participation-at-contemporary-museum-gallery-education-practices-conference/>

V. Other Public presentations

To ADD

[https://www.facebook.com/alkis.dikaios/posts/10159663590235532?_xts__\[0\]=68.ARBjz6CiBg84mnLyr5SmBKWPbalFgv8_MfOvWmrQqes5WuRdRhILCslaSo4h_29KG-](https://www.facebook.com/alkis.dikaios/posts/10159663590235532?_xts__[0]=68.ARBjz6CiBg84mnLyr5SmBKWPbalFgv8_MfOvWmrQqes5WuRdRhILCslaSo4h_29KG-)

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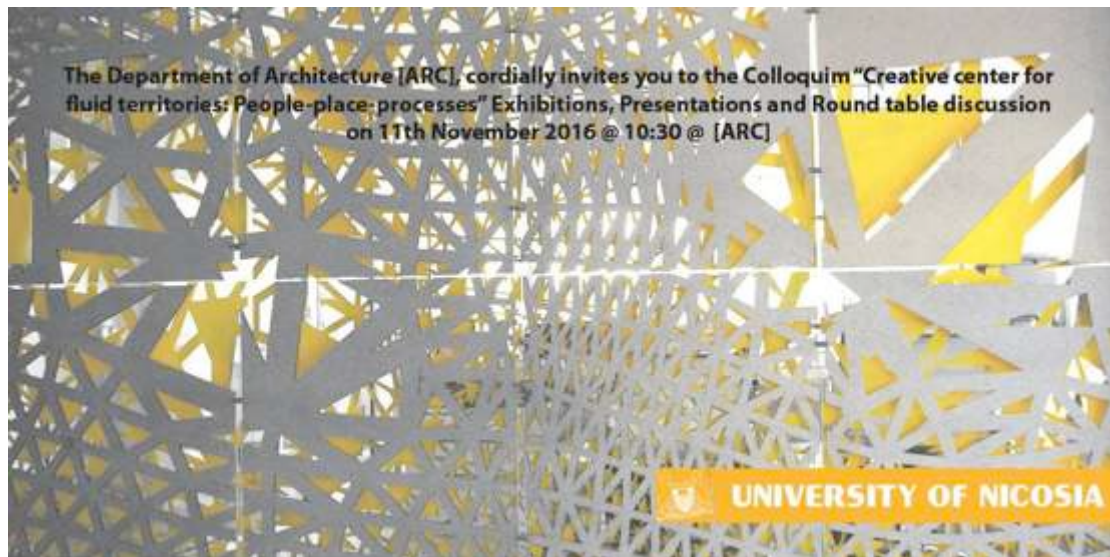
<https://www.facebook.com/Urban.Gorillas.ngo/photos/pcb.1707968939278191/1707967695944982/?type=3&theater>

Title: The Creative Centre for Fluid Territories: People, Places, Processes

Date: 11 November 2016

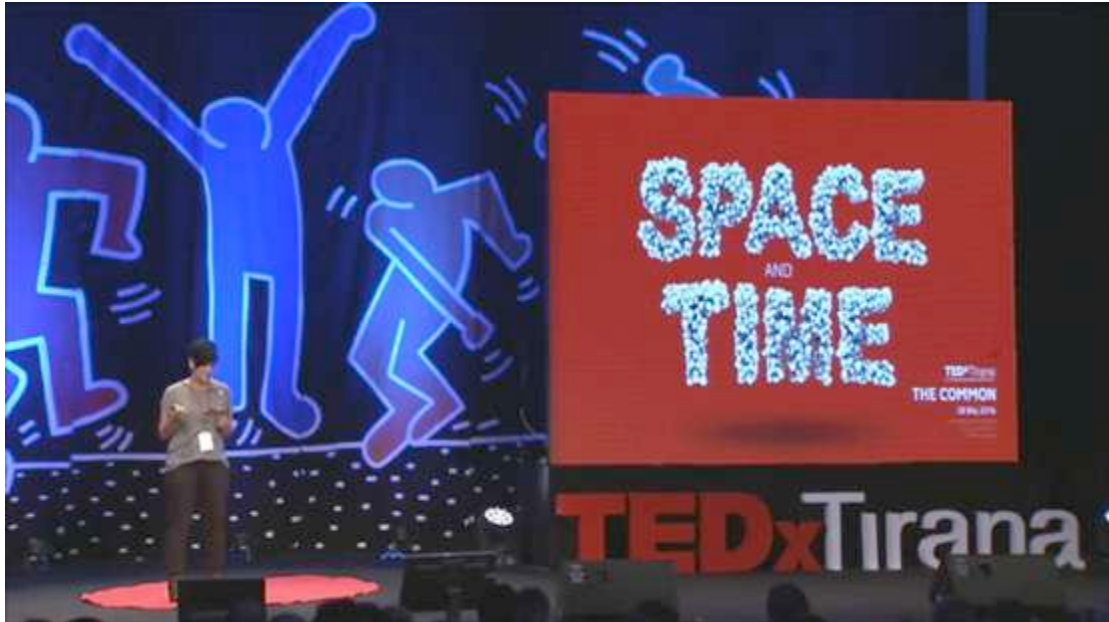
Context: University of Nicosia

Theme: Participation in Colloquium



The Creative Centre for Fluid Territories: People, Places, Processes comprises a group of artists, architects, designers and cultural theorists from England, Scotland, Norway, Cyprus and Lithuania, whose practices, individually (and collectively), seek to consider the nature and value of space and spaces, public as well as marginal, across Europe. We aim to cultivate new forms of engagement with public values, cultural rights and common ground. The members of CCFT's approach is both: theoretical, focused on such topics as the aesthetics, cultural archaeology and representation (historical and current) of space and place; and practical, in the consideration of how public and marginal spaces might actually be represented and transformed through human engagement and interaction. Core to the centre's research belief is the view that culture (whether defined in the terms of community, place or landscape) should not be reduced to a state of homogeneity, but should be allowed to express difference as a dynamic aspect of positive exchange and interaction.

Title: Public Talk by Claudia Konyalian,
Date: 28 May 2016
Context: TEDx Tirana
Theme: In and between: urban creativity in public space



Claudia Konyalian, director at Urban Gorillas advocated for the need of creative public spaces and presented the work at Urban Gorillas at TEDx Tirana.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNhjfxWnSU8>

Title: European Summit
Date: 27 May -2 April 2016
Context: NEW EUROPE-Cities in transition
Theme: Participation as the Nicosia Ambassadors



We join the City Makers Movement in September 2015 where we a network of European groups with interests in improving living conditions together, came together to discuss, exchange and take actions.

https://www.facebook.com/necitiesintransition/?hc_ref=SEARCH&fref=nf

Title: Human Topographies | Emerging Identities
Date: April 2016-September 2016
Context: MILANO TRIENNALE – CYPRUS PAVILION
Theme: Participation in the Exhibition



The exhibition eloquently illustrates how two prevailing struggles, Division and Crisis, can lead to a new and positive 'Emerging Identity' for the Island of Cyprus. Architectural works/projects from both the public and private realm have been carefully researched and chosen for the ways in which they activate architectural and social change. These are collaged, projected and blurred, creating an interactive corporeal and sensory experience. This experience evokes a new urban landscape, created from human topographies that echo the voice of an emerging identity. Urban Gorillas' work was chosen amongst others to be represented in this exhibition.

<https://www.facebook.com/Cypruspavilion.XXI.InternationalTriennaleMilano/?fref=ts>