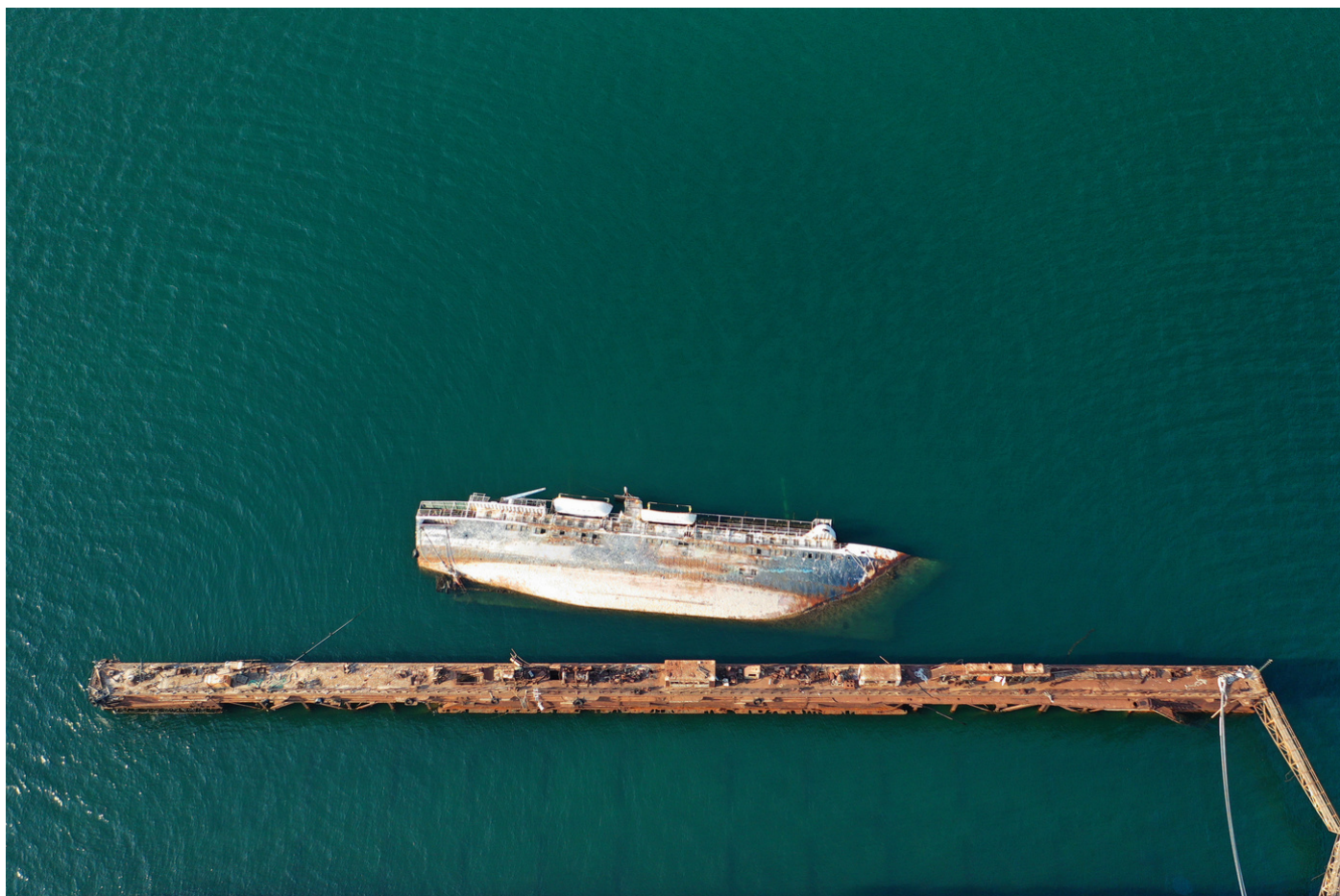


SPARK: PLACEMAKING & PERFORMING ARTS

June 14-17, 2023 / Elefsina (Greece)



SPARK IS ORGANISED BY

**CIRCO
STRADA**
EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR
CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS
AND OUTDOOR ARTS

PAC
LE PLUS PETIT CIRQUE
DU MONDE

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INTRODUCTION

Organised by Circostrada - European Network for Contemporary Circus and Outdoor Arts - Spark is a two-day cross-sectorial laboratory gathering a selected group of participants from different backgrounds and disciplines, in order to focus on a specific contemporary circus or outdoor arts related topic. The main objectives is to provide short and long-term recommendations, contextualized solutions, as well as creating the ground for a future resource edited by the network.

The second edition of Spark will gather around 20 professionals from across Europe around the topic of placemaking through performing arts: the participants will be invited to walk & talk, share experiences and expertise, build common knowledge, and provide concrete recommendations. This event is built in partnership with ARTCENA, Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde, 2023 Eleusis European Capital of Culture, Institut français, Institut français de Grèce, Teatroskop - South Eastern European Network for Performing Arts, and is supported by the European Union and the French Ministry of Culture

SPEAKERS BIO



Chrissie Faniadis

She runs the independent capacity-building firm EUNIA since 2011. A College of Europe graduate, she also holds an MA in Broadcast and film management from Bournemouth Screen Academy. She is a producer and senior strategist, specialising in EU policy and capacity-building for the arts and culture sector. Chrissie is an avid public speaker and moderator, a board member of the Swedish Royal Opera House, and a former advisor to the European Cultural Foundation. She has extensive experience in developing European projects, securing partnerships and funding.



Alexandros Mistriotis

Born in Ottawa, Canada, Alexandros Mistriotis grew up in Athens before studying at the Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Marseille.

His artistic research develops through literature, painting, cinema, photography and hybrid multimedia forms. Back in Athens in 2004, he began working in the performing arts, in various capacities, first as a video artist, then as a playwright and sometimes as an actor. Compelled by social developments in Greece and throughout Europe, he has considerably changed his artistic practice.

He now focuses on orality, history and its formal influence on the public space. It is part of the Greek independent scene that has emerged over the past ten years, defending fragility and disappearance and maintaining a critical distance from any form of representation in the media or institution. He has been invited several times to share his views on topics such as the relationship between art and politics, or between technology and culture, in different European cities.

DAY BY DAY PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14TH

19:00

Welcome drink @Cyceon bar

20:30

Site specific performance by French circus director [Clément Dazin](#). This project by Clément Dazin, with 5 circus artists (acrobatics, juggling, etc.) was created in a very short space of time (10 days of residency, 4 with all the artists). The company tried to give a voice to the city's residents, with a collection of Tony Guérin's work (which will give rise to a podcast).

21:30

Welcome dinner

THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH

10:00-14:00 - **Discovering the city - We meet at 09:15 in front of Elefsina Hotel.**

Let's begin the activity with the first curated walk through Elefsina. The path will lead us to the archaeological site of one of the significant religious and cultural center for many centuries in Ancient Greece. During the Mycenaean Period, the first temple dedicated to Demeter, the goddess of nature and grains, was constructed on the acropolis of Elefsina. Rituals dedicated to Demeter were local in the beginning, although over the years, the entire region of Athens started to celebrate the goddess. This led to the establishment of the annual Eleusinian Mysteries, one of the biggest ancient rites practiced every year in Athens during autumn and spring, for more than 1000 years!

It is there that we'll stop and have the chance to listen to [Alexandros Mistriotis](#) about how to read the different layers of the hidden city and the understanding of Elefsina and Athens as landmarks of place making today.

We'll then discover different industrial sites that are part of the modern identity of Elefsina. During the 1880s, industrial development began around the archaeological site, with the foundation of a soap factory (CHARILAOU -1875), the TITAN cement industry (1902) TITAN (1902), BOTRYS (1906) and Kronos (1922) distilleries. In 1922, 2000 refugees were settled in Elefsina, doubling its population. After the Second World War hundreds came from all over Greece to work in the industries of the area. The Eleusis area became the main industrial zone of Greece in the 1970s, as well as the most polluted bay in Europe.

14:00-16:00 - Lunch (covered)

@Kapaki Restaurant - Heroes Square 2, Elefsina / Πλατεία ΗΡ-Ν 2, Elefsina

16:00-19:00 - Workshop

@Innovation Lab

With the help of our facilitator Chrissie Faniadis, we will pick up the thread of discussion from the morning and begin our collective reflection on placemaking and public space. Get your ideas flowing!

20:15 - Show

@city center (Perikleous 3)

[Les amants du ciel](#), by Marco Mannucci (IT)

This show uses two key elements which form its core: vertical dance and contemporary circus. Vertical dance allows for the discovery of spaces that are not usually used for performances, thus contributing to the history of architecture and other related topics. The contemporary circus, like the circus in general, ensures a connection with any kind of audience of any political, linguistic and social horizon, echoing and including the fact that culture is free for all.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16TH

10:00-14:00 - Discovering the city - we meet at 09:15 in front of Elefsina hotel

During this second day, we will visit two different neighborhoods of Elefsina (Pontiaka and Mikrasiatika) and present the methodology of the project Climbing over Elefsina - Discovering the landscapes of Elefsina.

14:00-16:00 - Lunch (covered)

16:30-19:30 - Workshop

@Innovation Lab

Once again, Chrissie Faniadis will help participants to pick up the thread of the morning's discussion and continue to develop concrete ideas from what was developed the day before.

20:00 - Show and party

@ARK

[Timecircus Climbing over Eleusis](#) (FR / GR)

Timecircus is a Belgian collective from Antwerp that traversed Europe with a Landship that moved only with human strength. Since their arrival at Elefsina, Timecircus has focused on the construction of The Ark, a place of Eternal Youth and Culture functioning as an open space for youngsters of all ages in the city. This place will host a pop-up performance from the Climbing over Eleusis project that gathers French and Greek artists, who work together between 2020 and 2023 to create a modular show mixing circus, dance and oriental music made for the urban space.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH

10:00-12:30 - Workshop - feedback

@Innovation Lab - Sotiriou Gioka and Tzaferi (inside TITAN)

Last collective session with the facilitator. Let's sum up and give our opinion on these two days of discovery and reflection.

14:00-16:00 - Lunch (covered)

17:00-19:00 - Conference

@Workers' Union

Open presentation of the results of Mystery 57 Revisiting the Landscapes of Elefsina by Eleférios Kechagioglou, director of PPCM, Valia Kardi, Mains d'Oeuvres, Dimitra Kanellopoulou, Architect, Alexis Gouin et Guillaume Barnavon, Architects, Ya+K Agency, Amine Slimani, architect, RDTA Studio, Loïc Julienne, architect, Construire Agency.

Presentation of the results of SPARK - cross-sectorial laboratory about Place Making and Performing Arts in Elefsina, by Stéphane Segreto Aguilar, Head of International Development.

Conversation with the audience.

20:00 - Show

@Open Air Theatre - Old Elaïourgio

[Climbing over Eleusis](#) (FR / GR)

Climbing over Eleusis show brings together French and Greek artists from the fields of contemporary circus, dance and music. Under the artistic direction of Gaëtan Levêque (Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde) and Christina Sougioultzi (Ki omos kineitai), Climbing over Eleusis is a musical, acrobatic and poetic journey where the musicality of the bodies, the acrobatics of the notes, turn unceasingly towards each other, punctuated by the sound of an Oud, a Kanoun or a Bouzouki. Where the musicians engage their bodies, the acrobat questions his musicality. Starting from the fact that the Mediterranean Sea is a sea shared by several civilizations, the creative work is based on a musical journey linking the East and the West. The artists explore the ways in which these musics have remained alive through bodies and memories, and how they are embodied in different cultures, art forms and urban landscapes.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Travel to Elefsina

The best way to get to Elefsina is to take a taxi from the airport. It will take you around 40 minutes. Taxi is covered.

You can also choose to take the metro until Agia Marina Station and then take the bus 876 until Eleusinas. It will take you 1h30.

Accommodation

You will be staying at Elefsina Hotel. Your accommodation is covered.

Address:

Dimitros 55, Elefsina 192 00, Greece

For more information: mathilde@ppcm.fr

Food

Circostrada will cover lunches for all participants.

Dinners are yours to cover, but we will organise a nice places.

Contact information

Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde:

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Circostrada:

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PARTNERS & CO-ORGANISERS

Circostrada

Circostrada is the European Network for contemporary circus and outdoor arts. Created in 2003 with the core mission of furthering the development, empowerment and recognition of these fields at European and international levels, over the years the network has become an important anchoring point for its members and a key interlocutor in the dialogue with cultural policy makers across Europe. In a few words, Circostrada is:

- A community of contemporary circus and outdoor arts professional who advocate for greater recognition and more structured cultural policies.
- A network dedicated to its members, engaged in facilitating the exchange of experiences, knowledge, and good practices at European and international levels.
- A digital resource platform that provides thematic publications, observation tools and news on contemporary circus and outdoor arts, available to all free of charge in English and French.

ARTCENA

ARTCENA is the National Centre for Circus, Street Arts and Theatre. Created by the French Ministry of Culture, ARTCENA is a national rallying point that aims to strengthen the foundation and growth of circus, street and theatre arts. Keeping an open attitude and lively outlook, it works closely with sector professionals while also addressing the needs of teachers, students and researchers.

It coordinates Circostrada and has a permanent seat on its Steering Committee. ARTCENA works towards its missions in three main areas: sharing of knowledge and resources through a digital platform; supporting professionals via mentoring and training; promoting and strengthening the circus, street arts and theatre fields by carrying out international development projects.

Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde

Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde (PPCM) is an organisation founded in 1992 in Bagneux (92). It's a place for artistic research, social experimentation, and international artistic exchanges. It aims at promoting culture and arts, especially in the disadvantaged areas of the Parisian suburbs. Its artistic program combines circus arts, urban planning, dance and music. PPCM is also a main actor in the field of social circus in France. The organisation supports contemporary productions and professionals in the field of performing arts.

2023 Eleusis European Capital of Culture

The ECoC project is a unique opportunity to promote Europe's cultural diversity, as well as dialogue and greater mutual understanding between European citizens; to widen access to, and participation in culture; to strengthen the capacity of the cultural sector and its links with other sectors; to improve cultural infrastructure; to develop the skills, capacity, and governance of local and national assets; and to promote the city and its cultural programme.

Drawing inspiration from the rich history of the city, 2023 Eleusis forms a comprehensive artistic, research, and educational programme. Its Mysteries of Transition focus on three distinct and interconnected central programme themes – People | Society, Environment, and Labour – reflecting the unique features of the city and the contemporary challenges facing both Elefsina and Europe.

Institut français

The Institut français promotes French culture internationally, in dialogue with foreign cultures. It promotes initiatives related to various artistic fields, intellectual engagement, cultural and social innovation, and linguistic cooperation. It promotes the French language around the world, as well as the mobility of works of art, artists and ideas.

The Institut français is the public institution responsible for the international cultural actions of France, under the supervision of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture.

The Institut français in Paris works with the 131 cultural services of the French embassies, and the 98 Institut français headquarters with their 138 branches throughout the world (under the authority of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs) as well as the 27 French Research Institutes abroad (under the aegis of the MEAE and the CNRS).

Teatroskop

Teatroskop is a programme launched in 2011 by the French Institute, the French Ministry of Culture and the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs with the aim of boosting exchanges between France and South-East Europe in the field of live performance in its most contemporary and daring forms. It supports the structuring of professional networks, encouraging the dissemination and sharing of projects, professional meetings and collaborations between players in the region and with the French scene.