



Research seminar

Politics of refuge

From **Thursday the 23rd** to **Saturday the 25th** of May
2019

Le Channel the National Performing Arts Centre of Calais

As part of the cultural event *La saveur de l'autre* – from the 24th to the 26th
of May 2019

in collaboration with the European program *Atlas of transitions*,
the ANR program *Liminal* and « Non Lieux de l'Exil » (NLE).

 ATLAS OF
TRANSITIONS

 LIMINAL
COMITÉ DES INTERDISCIPLINAIRES
RECHERCHES EN CONTACT ET
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 Art Refuge UK
www.artrefugeuk.org

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« *A refuge is first and foremost a shelter created in a hostile context (....). Its permanence, under certain circumstances turns it into a ghetto* »

Michel Agier, *Campement urbain*, Paris, Payot, 2013, p. 32.

In April 2017, le Channel, the National Performing Arts Centre of Calais - invited the artist Momette to work on a large collection of handprints as part of the artistic project *Mano à Mano*. Momette met with the inhabitants of Calais, some of whom were exiled persons either in transit or in the process of seeking asylum. While following her fieldwork, we realised that her practice consists of opening a space-time “bracket” of refuge through art. Furthermore, since the demolition of the slum of la Lande and the closure of the Jules Ferry centre along with the container camp, all the shelters, precarious camps that exiled persons try to install or occupy are systematically demolished following local policies that do not allow them to “fix a location.”

Refuge is a heterogenous concept. In English, many words can be used to describe a refuge: a haven, a shelter, a sanctuary. Each of these words points towards a facet of the “refuge”, which is in itself a generic term. It essentially signifies a space-time bracket in which one can temporarily escape surveillance and control in the public sphere. From this point of view, the current French policy of providing shelter appears to be ambivalent as it ultimately enables them to justify the demolition of “precarious” camps. This idea of sheltering submits exiled persons to control and as a result, the shelter is no longer a place of refuge.

For American anthropologist Anna Tsing, as quoted by Donna Haraway, a refuge is a place of regeneration for members of the human species that are endangered by reductive, rationalist and exploitative global policies, policies that ruthlessly wear out natural resources and all forms of life, in general. According to them, the destruction of refuges is a characteristic of both, the current ecological crisis as well as the “refugee crisis”.

Thus perceived, a refuge can no longer be conceived uniquely from the point of view of hospitality, as a place that “we” would have to create in “our homes” for the “others” whose vulnerability drives them to seek “refuge”, at the cost of being cast aside or being assigned a space to occupy.

Rather than exploring the different ways of “offering” a refuge, as one “offers” hospitality, we will instead try to explore the way in which shelters are actually experienced as a refuge for exiled persons. In order to be experienced as such, a shelter needs to not only provide the necessary conditions for regeneration but also create an environment in which exiled persons can experience a shelter as a refuge. A policy of refuge must, therefore, sustain the possibilities of regeneration: possibilities of speaking, creating, resting, befriending, recreation, and uniting against hostility. How does the cultural and artistic world figure into such a policy? During the three days of the seminar, we will explore the different facets of this question.



No nacimos para ser refugiados

Claudio Zulian

The original version sub-titled in English

We weren't born refugees recounts the unique stories of eight people whose lives intersect in the city of Barcelona. One is a lawyer, another a musician, yet another a translator, a security guard, an actor or a call-centre employee...

Some have just arrived, others have been in the city since several years. Despite the vast differences in their stories, they have all had to take a serious decision at some point in their lives: living in exile rather than in submission.

Thursday the 23rd of May 2019 at 8:30 PM

at the cinema hall l'Alhambra, 2 Rue Jean Jaurès Calais

Followed by a discussion with Béatrice Micheau

Reservations

with the cinema l'Alhambra: <http://cinema-alhambra.org/>

Questioning refuge – Interacting in situations of violence and emergency

Marie-Caroline Saglio-Yatzimirsky – ANR Liminal;
Sophie Djigo – Philosopher, the Migraction collectif;
Marie Le Ray – PSM, journal des jungles;
Joëlle Le Marec – U. Paris 1/Celsa;
Saskia Cousin – U. Paris Descartes, NLE

How to reflect upon the politics of refuge through an interdisciplinary approach? Combining field research, theoretical perspectives and real present and future projects of refuge, we wish to question the “need” for refuge and in what way the “outside” can become a laboratory for creating new utopias and necessary outlets that allow one to invent new ways of occupying and experiencing the world. To think of shelters as potential refuges is also to think of these places as spaces of translation, of sharing and of recreation.

Friday the 24th of May 2019 at 10 AM
duration: 2:30 hours

Le Channel, 173 boulevard Gambetta Calais
Registration by mail: billetterie@lechannel.org
Gratis, entry on registration

Transitory refuges versus precarious camps: language, art and interactions...

Laure Wolmark, COMEDE; Hayatte Lakraa, ANR-Liminal; Momette, artist;

Bobby Lloyd, Naomi Press, Miriam Usiskin – Art-refuge

Introduction: Marie Glon – U. Lille

This workshop will look at the role of translation in daytime refugee centres, shelters and camps. Here, we will look at the process of translation in a broader sense, considering all sorts of artistic practices and multilingual and intercultural mediation in contexts of emergency and violence. Through the experiences of different people engaged in such translation, we will reflect upon the specificities and the implications of these kinds of mediation. The workshop will also examine spaces of refuge as spaces of hospitality and care that are required to transform the nature of communication and exchange.

The workshop will welcome members of the non-profit organisation Art-refuge who practise art therapy in contexts of political violence, the Medical committee for exiled persons (COMEDE), the ANR research programme LIMINAL that studies interaction and mediation in situations of emergency and the Secours Catholique Calais chapter.

Friday the 24th of May 2019 at 2 PM
duration: 3 hours

Le Channel, 173 boulevard Gambetta Calais
Registration by mail: billetterie@lechannel.org
Gratis, entry on registration

The politics and the poetry of handprints: seeking refuge in one's own body

Yasmine Bouagga – CNRS, Liminal, author of *Fingerprint/Basamat: les mains prises dans la procédure*

Eugénia Vilela – U. Porto, Non-Lieux de l'Exil, Liminal

Babak Inanloo – Artist, creator of the short film *Les mains captives*

Discussion: Christiane Voltaire, philosopher, NLE

William Berthomière – CNRS, author of *Touchant-touché. Mécanique politique de la main tendue*

Discussion: Marion Dalibert – U. Lille, Atlas of Transitions

Introduction: Alexandra Galitzine-Loumpet – INALCO, ANR Liminal

What does the act of tracing one's own handprint on paper mean in a context where it has a large part to play in the apparatus of control that one wishes to evade? Based off the work of the artist Momette realised in Calais in 2018, we will present the works of different artists and authors that question the role of the hand, of its scan and its prints, in administrative procedures and the current media discourse on exile.

Saturday the 25th of May 2019 at 10 AM

duration: 2:30 hours

Le Channel, 173 boulevard Gambetta Calais

Free admission

De nos vies...quelques traits

(Our lives on a few lines)

Myriam Dao

A short film, the original version sub-titled in English

In Vietnam, two calendars exist together, two timelines run parallel. What are the traces left behind by this ancestral culture of divination ? Is Tử Vi still practised ? By whom and for whom ? What can this practice contribute to the world today, especially to the lives of those whose futures are uncertain ?

Saturday the 25th of May 2019 at 2 PM

duration : 18 minutes

Le Channel, 173 boulevard Gambetta Calais

Free admission

From prison islands to islands of refuge.

Greece and the remote edges of Europe

Miléna Kartowski-Aïach – Anthropologist and director of the play *Léros, un exil chez les damnés*.

Christiane Vollaire – Philosopher, creator of the documentary *Grèce : interroger les solidarités*.

Moderation: Emilie Da Lage – U. Lille, Atlas of Transitions;
Amanda Carolina Da Silva – U. Liège, Atlas of transitions.

From Calais to the Greek islands, this journey to another frontier will allow us to understand the importance of contexts and stories in order to fully comprehend the experience of refuge when one is faced with violence at national borders.

Saturday the 25th May 2019 at 2:45 PM

duration: 1:15 hours

Le Channel, 173 boulevard Gambetta Calais

Free admission

