

Project Description

THE WALLS WE BUILT

Locations:

- 1st of August to 4th of August 2019: Lunkulu Island, **Kampala, Uganda**; Bayimba Festival of the Arts
- **Berlin, Germany**, UDK University (in talks)
- 10th of September to 15th of September 2019: **Hildesheim, Germany**, Theaterhaus Hildesheim; Rasselmania.

Concept:

The Year 2019 is an important one for the Rwandan, the Ugandan and the German History. This year marks 25 years since the end of the Rwandan Genocide, while in Germany (Berlin) 30 years ago, the Berlin Wall fell.

Walls came down.

With focus on 'The Walls We Built' in Rwanda, Uganda and Germany, the motivating questions on which the installation concept was originally developed are;

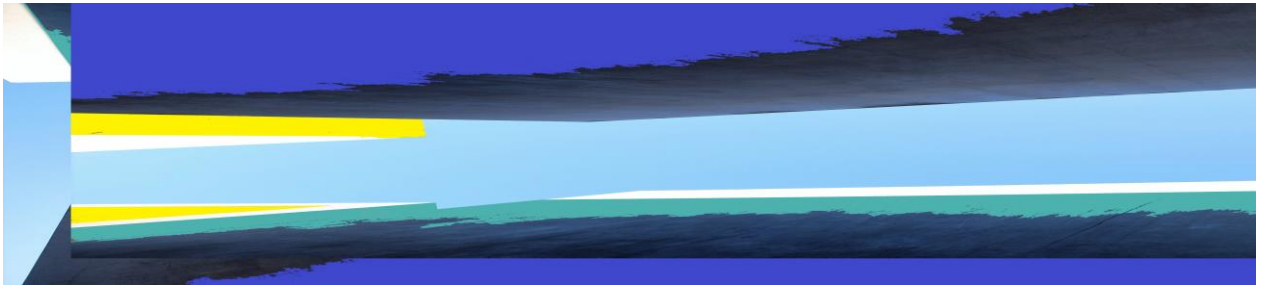
- I. How are historical events influencing the identity of each individual in a society?
- II. How can we tear down walls by creating unity, and at the same time hindering the creation of new walls in our societies?

The topic of 'building walls' is more present and paramount to discuss and address in these times than ever before. The whole world is building up walls, nation barricade themselves behind growing walls and the concept of unity in these days of separation is becoming more and more thin and fragile.

To begin with, 'The Walls We Built' is focusing on the fragile unity of nations, by giving a voice to the people from Rwanda, Uganda and Germany, and those from other parts of the world, an individual voice to speak through the walls their nations have built.

Our belief is that through a reflection process of individuals in different societies about 'walls' and their own identity and the possibility to exchange these thoughts with other people around the world, we can break the walls and create a new understanding of each other.

'The Walls We Built' seeks to create a platform of international exchange and artistic expression through building up an international Cooperation between Rwandan, Ugandan and German Artists, while at the same time creating a platform of exchange for people all over the world.



Installation Concept:

'The Walls We Built' is going to be an Audio-Visual Installation with an incorporation of different Performing Art forms (Music, Dance, Poetry, Theatre, Film, Sound and Light Design). In addition to this installation, different kind of workshops, dealing with the topics of walls, borders and identity will be added to the program of the project.

By creating a fluent space of different kinds of artistic expression, on the one hand 'The Walls We Built' is giving young artists from Germany, Uganda and Rwanda and other countries in this world a chance to express their own definition of 'identity' and 'walls' through their artistic work(s), and on the other hand it gives people around the world the possibility of being heard through a recording of their voice, being played as part of the installation with the aid of loudspeakers. By bringing together many and different artistic forms of expression, the audience is experiencing a fluent, non-stop artistic experience and will have the possibility of taking part in the installation by recording their own voice as well, which will be added to the recordings that are already part of the installation.

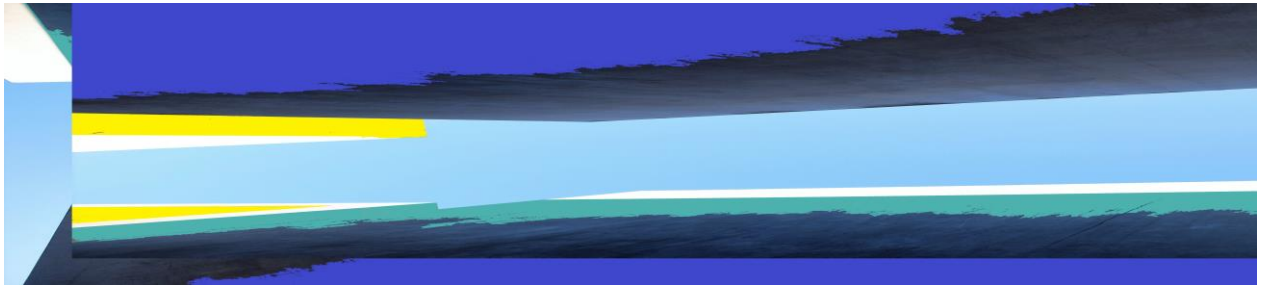
Therefore, the installation is a work in progress and growing with every staging, location and country.

The installation box of 'The Walls We Built' will be made out of white wooden boards, placed in important locations of the different cities. Everyone is open to participate in the project therefore we are not charging any entrance fee, but open to donations at the entrance.

The installation will consist of both the auditive and visual level.

On the auditive level, the recordings of people from various countries around the world speaking about the topic of 'identity and walls', will be played through headphones in the sound areas of the installation.

On the visual level, artistic works of German, Ugandan and Rwandan and Visual Artists from other parts in this world, sceneries of different kind of walls in cities all around the world and videos showing crowds of people moving in the streets will be projected on the inner walls of the installation box. Performance Art and a Live Theatre-Music Performance will be happening around the installation area (in Hildesheim and Berlin).



Workshop Concept:

As the project does not only want to focus on artistic projects, but wants to set a focus on the social and political situations in the countries, and at the same time support the contribution of people in the participating countries, different formats of workshops and panel discussions will be added to the installative part of the project. The participants will get the chance to reflect about the situation in their countries and find out ways to improve the social and political situation.

Berlin: The workshops in Berlin are dealing with the Fall of the Berlin Wall and the question of a new unity of the country. In which ways do Germans identify with this historical event? Furthermore, the workshops are dealing with the topic of migration and the fragility of the symbol of liberty, in times of European countries building up walls and using border control to establish a new feeling of “safety” in the countries. The participating artists from Morocco and Rwanda will hold workshops about the topics of Europe as the symbol of a better life, and the influence of former colonial powers in their home countries. Together with the participants of the workshops a new platform of exchange will be created and hopefully new kinds of equal exchange and collaborations on both sides will be built up.

Speakers: Soufiane Ezzahy (the promise of a better life in Germany for young Moroccan adults. New future perspectives through Beat Boxing); Professor of the UDK Berlin (New collaboration possibilities in the art sector, the possibility of a united Germany through making art).

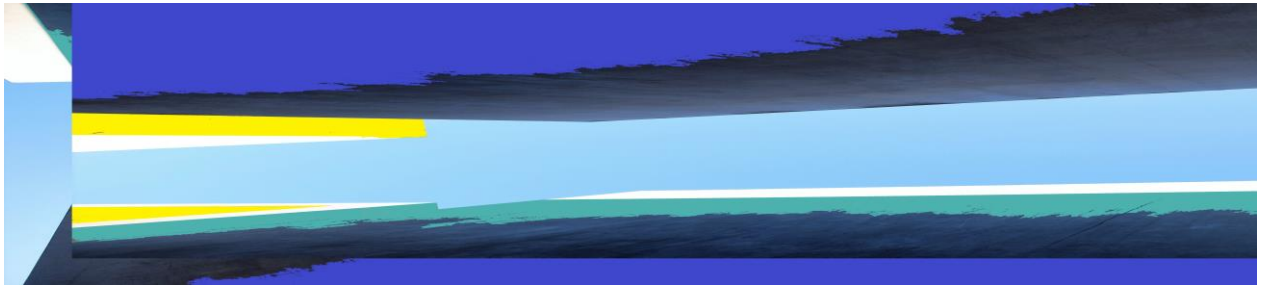
Hildesheim: Hildesheim wants to become the European Capital of Culture 2025. What does it mean for the city, its cultural sector and its population? In Hildesheim the workshops and panel discussions will reflect the situation of the city and are going to present new ways of international collaborations and exchange. The whole project week will be organized by artists from Hildesheim, collaborating with artists from Kigali.

The workshops will be located in the *Theaterhaus Hildesheim* and will be focusing on young adults and students. In the second part of the project week, an international Art Festival, including the installation and art projects from artists based in Rwanda, Uganda, Berlin and Hildesheim, will be created at *Rasselmania*.

Topic of the Panel discussions: New kinds of artistic exchange and cooperative work between Hildesheim and Kigali.

Speakers: Annika Rachor (Student at the University of Hildesheim; Visions for the art sector of the city); Artists from Kigali, Hildesheim and Berlin, who will speak about their artistic projects they are contributing to the project and the focus of their work; Soufiane Ezzahy (Casablanca and Hildesheim, uniting the Beatbox scene);

Moderator: Person of the cultural department of the city of Hildesheim.



Workshops

1. **Soufiane Ezzahy (Casablanca, Morocco)** Topic: *Be unique, speak music*
Target group: Children and young adults. Languages: Arabic and Englisch, German translation.
Topic: Self-empowerment through Beatboxing. Finding identity through music and language. The young adults will get an introduction into Beat Boxing and will create a short performance. Children from all kinds of cultural backgrounds are invited to join.
2. **Udo Jeschke (Berlin)**: Topic: *The Fall of the Berlin Wall, between history, the presence and the future.* Udo Jeschke, a witness of the Fall of the Berlin Wall will talk about his experiences while living in the DDR and will create new ways of a historical experience. The children will discuss about the situation in Germany today and on how to create a new unity.
3. **An Art Collective from Hildesheim** will get the chance to offer the third workshop and find new ways of presenting cultural and art projects to the younger population of the city.

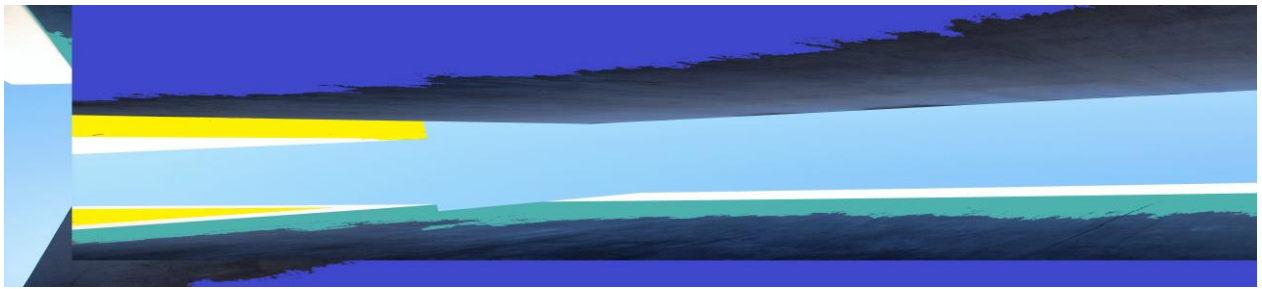
The Team:

Annika Rachor is a German Performance Artist and Theatre student in Hildesheim, Germany, who is touring through different countries in the world with her installation 'Voices for identity' and collaborating with different Artists around the globe. Her artistic focus is giving people a voice through her work. Annika is the second Curator of 'The Walls We Built', and the contact person for the German Artists involved in the project.

Through Annika Rachor's travels, a collaboration with the Moroccan Beat Boxer Soufianne Ezzahy developed. Soufianne Ezzahy is the leading Beat Boxer in Morocco and is focusing on musical expression of identity by investigating traditional vocal expressions of different countries and bringing them all together in his artistic work. By working together with Musicians from Germany and Rwanda, a new kind of musical expression of identity will be created.

During the conception phase in Kigali, Rwanda, a collaboration with the Rwandan Musicians A4 and Sano Boi has been established. SANO BOI (Hitiyise Sano Innocent) and A4 (Ndahiro Alban) are Young Rap artists born and raised in Rwanda in a Kigali's neighbourhood called Kacyiru. They are making Rap music in both English and Kinyarwanda language to present the stories/products/songs on both local and international market. In their music, they want to share their stories and give a voice to the people of their home country. As part of the organizing team, they are helping in conceiving the Audio Visual Installation, and at the same time sharing their music with people by giving live concerts in Hildesheim and Berlin.

Furthermore, different Artists from East Africa and Western Europe are going to take part in the installation through the contribution of either their visual or auditive artistic work. The main goal of 'The Walls We Built' is to be an open, ongoing and participatory Art project.



Besides the visible walls in our societies, young Artists are often struggling with the none visible walls within the Art sector(s). They are having difficulties in establishing themselves and finding platforms to present their work(s) to an international audience.

The 'Walls We Built' is therefore breaking different kind of walls, on the one hand visible ones, built up by nations for political reasons, on the other hand the non-visible ones in the Art sector(s), which are hindering young Artists to express themselves and spread new ideas.

By spreading new ideas, bringing people together and being open for an exchange of ideas and visions, 'The Walls We Built' is creating a new platform on which all partners involved can and shall express their visions of a free world. It at the same time support the establishment of young Artists in their home country. The project will present a new way of exchange and co-productive work(s) in Rwanda and Germany and will especially add a new kind of artistic expression and exchange to the Bayimba Festival of the Arts and this year's celebrations of the 'Fall of the Berlin Wall'.

Sponsors and Cooperation Partners (01.07.2019):

