



# AFIELD

MAY 27-30  
2025

MUNMI NANAY WAQA A

CO-PRODUCED WITH  
KANAL-CENTRE POMPIDOU  
& KUNSTENFESTIVALDESARTS

# FORUM



# AFIELD FORUM: TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE BY ARTISTS, 27-30 MAY, BRUSSELS

Held from 27 to 30 May, 2025, in Brussels, the forum centers on innovative solutions by artists that contribute to the mechanisms of transitional justice.

'Transitional justice' refers to the legal and institutional processes employed to address widespread human rights violations committed during conflicts or under repressive regimes. Centered on the needs and aspirations of victims, it encompasses judicial and non-judicial measures, including prosecutions, truth commissions, reparations programs, and institutional reforms.

Artists have played a pivotal role in developing essential tools for seeking justice and addressing the lasting impact of the harm done to individuals and groups. Their work strengthens processes of reconciliation and accountability by producing alternative forms of evidence, constructing archives that challenge dominant narratives, and creating spaces for collective healing and remembrance. Through artistic interventions, they foster dialogue, amplify marginalized voices, and shape public discourse, ultimately influencing institutional frameworks and policies that contribute to long-term justice and societal transformation.

The forum is free of charge and will take place between the two venues: K1 (KANAL-Centre Pompidou), and Beursschouwburg. Audience is limited to the capacity of the venues.

The 2025 AFIELD Forum: *Transitional Justice by Artists* is a project by AFIELD co-produced with KANAL-Centre Pompidou and Kunstenfestivaldesarts with support from the Terra Foundation for American Art.

→ This year, components of the program are co-curated within the framework of Kunstenfestivaldesarts' Free School titled *The School of Fireflies*.

To receive updated information, pre-register [here](#).  
Bookings open on April 9 at 11am.

KANAL-K1  
BEURSSCHOUWBURG  
GUIDED WALK  
THEATRE NATIONAL WB  
KVS BOL

TUESDAY, MAY 27

*Evening*

18:00-19:00

KANAL-K1

*Introduction to Transitional Justice*

Conversation with Alejandra Ballón Gutiérrez, Rosemarie Buikema & Joseph Kaifala

The AFIELD forum opens with an evening at K1, beginning with a conversation to frame the connection between transitional justice - its principles, history, aspirations and application - and the important place of art and culture within those mechanisms and processes. How do artistic and cultural practices intersect with legal frameworks, truth commissions, and education, to reshape narratives and preserve memory in the aftermath of violence?

19:00-20:00

KANAL-K1

*With Justice Impacted Artists*

Conversation with Jesse Krimes & Steve Happi

Artist Jesse Krimes and music producer Steve Happi shed light on issues of mass incarceration, its relationship to poverty, and the need to reimagine criminal legal systems away from punishment towards rehabilitation. They are both, through the work of their initiatives: Center for Arts and Advocacy (US), and Jail Time Records (Cameroon), actively creating opportunities for formerly incarcerated artists, and reshaping the often over-simplified narrative around prisons.

20:00-21:00

KANAL-K1

*Opening Drinks*

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

### Morning

10:30-12:30

**KANAL-K1**

**Visual Testimony as Cultural Reparation**

Workshop with Alejandra Ballón Gutiérrez

10:00-13:00

**BEURSSCHOUWBURG**

**Free School: Escola viva**

Workshop with Selvagem (PT/FR)

(see [Free Schools](#) below)

10:30-12:30

**KANAL-K1**

**Workshop**

(see [Call for Proposals](#) below)

10:00-13:00

**BEURSSCHOUWBURG**

**Free School: Holding Time, Writing Futures**

Workshop with Archivo de la Memoria Trans (ES/EN)

(see [Free Schools](#) below)

Artist and academic Alejandra Ballon Gutierrez will share methodologies from visual arts and anthropology that she uses in the healing processes to accompany indigenous women victims of state-forced sterilization (between 1990 and 2000), and survivors of the recent anti-democratic political corruption, in Peru.

**Call for Proposals:** In the first week of April, AFIELD will make a call from individuals and organisations with diverse experiences and disciplines of knowledge, to contribute to the AFIELD Forum by designing and running a two-hour workshop related to the topic of transitional justice by artists. By opening up the forum to sessions led by audience members and locally based initiatives, we hope to create a more porous and co-creative platform.

**Free Schools:** Within the dual framework of *The School of Fireflies* and the AFIELD Forum: *Transitional Justice by Artists*, over three days 28-30, two Free Schools at Beursschouwburg will run parallel to the two workshops at KANAL-K1.

Selvagem (with guests including anthropologist Francy Fontes Baniwa, philosopher and writer from the Maxakali people Cristine Takuá, and Carlos Papá, who works with the Guarani language and enchantments of the forest) creates a temporary space for learning through embodied practices, readings, exercises, and moments of reflection. Over three days, the school will explore several guiding themes including how to learn from other forms of life, Indigenous narratives on the origins of the world, and more. The school is open to everyone, offering a journey into imagined futures and new ways of learning, where the boundaries between human and non-human dissolve in thought.

Archivo de la Memoria Trans (AMT) will open a temporary school on archiving as a tool. Participants are invited to bring personal photographs, newspaper clippings, notes, letters, etc. and collectively reflect on narratives that have been made invisible. The school also includes a *clínica de limpieza* focused on cleaning and preserving traces.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

### Afternoon/Evening

14:00-17:30

**GUIDED WALK**

**Decolonial Tour of Brussels**

Led by François Makanga

14:00-17:30

**GUIDED WALK**

**Local Initiatives and Artists' studios**

(To be announced)

18:00-19:30

**BEURSSCHOUWBURG**

**Keynote**

Archivo de la Memoria Trans (ES/EN)

Participants will be led out the door and onto the streets to situate themselves in our host city of Brussels. Going beyond a typical tour, these walks reframe our understanding of the city and its history, connecting with broader discourses of colonialism, migration and social justice. Visiting local communities to discover place-based practices, the groups will witness how creative expression plays a crucial role in orchestrating and enacting solutions, to address trauma and foster reconciliation for diverse communities.

Archivo de la Memoria Trans is dedicated to preserving and honouring the stories of trans communities through the creation of an alternative archive, a powerful counter-narrative against invisibility and stigmatisation. In this conversation, they question the assumed authority of traditional archives and engage in a reflection on how archives also function as mechanisms of power, and the ways in which they can be reclaimed for radical reimagination and resistance to disappearance. A dialogue on memory, representation and archival politics.



**THURSDAY, MAY 29**  
**Morning**

10:30-12:30  
**KANAL-K1**  
**Reimagining Accountability through Objects**  
Workshop with Pio Abad

10:30-12:30  
**KANAL-K1**  
**Workshop**  
(see *Call for Proposals* pg.3)

10:00-13:00  
**BEURSSCHOUWBURG**  
**Free School: Escola viva**  
Workshop with Selvagem (PT/FR)  
(see *Free Schools* pg.3)

10:00-13:00  
**BEURSSCHOUWBURG**  
**Free School: Holding Time, Writing Futures**  
Workshop with Archivo de la Memoria Trans (ES/EN)  
(see *Free Schools* pg.3)

Visual artist Pio Abad will guide us through how memory and evidence play a role in his artistic practice when considering corruption and the colonial past of the Philippines; how archives in museums situate specific histories within broader contexts; how exhibitions are sites of interrogation; the importance of storytelling between the forensic and the poetic; and the need to rebuild rather than destroy these institutions.

**THURSDAY, MAY 29**  
**Afternoon/Evening**

16:00-17:30  
**KANAL-K1**  
**Colombia: The Truth Commission and Recovering Lost Knowledge**  
Conversation with Manuel Correa & Hannah Meszaros Martin

17:30-19:00  
**KANAL-K1**  
**In Pursuit of Justice : The Role of Film**  
Contributions from Alejandra Ballón Gutiérrez, Manuel Correa, Sevinaz Evdike, Joana Hadjithomas, Basel Nasr, and Ukraine War Archive.

How do artistic and investigative practices contribute to uncovering historical truths and shaping collective memory? Filmmakers and researchers Manuel Correa and Hannah Meszaros Martin have worked with Forensic Architecture and the Colombian Truth Commission, using 3D modeling, audio analysis, and data mining to examine the country's armed conflict. Their work demonstrates how film and forensic research can help rewrite the past and expose hidden narratives, challenge official accounts, and contribute to the mechanisms of transitional justice.

What is the role of film in truth-telling; in fostering collective memory and healing? How does visual storytelling challenge dominant narratives and deeply define the human psyche, the imaginary, the past and the future? These are some of the questions confronted through the lens of seeking justice, in a collectively curated screening program with films from speakers as well as members of the AFIELD Network from Lebanon, Palestine, Peru, Rojava, Spain, and Ukraine.

Will a video archive of war crimes being committed in real time against a nation, its people, and the earth, serve as evidence in a future court of justice? What happens when overlooked stories of Black and Maghreb-descendant communities are documented and made accessible to the public? How can an organic practice of preserving memories turn into a political tool of resistance?

In this lecture performance, conceived for the Free School, Elizabeth Povinelli focuses on the progressive disappearance of stars due to light pollution, and the loss of a magical relationship with the celestial vault. She engages in conversation with Federico Campagna, whose books *Prophetic Culture* and *Technic and Magic* offer a radical rethinking of reality in the face of modern decline. Together, they shed new light on how we perceive and experience the cosmos in an era of disappearance.

21:00-22:30  
**THEATRE NATIONAL WB**  
**Dance: BORDA**  
Lia Rodrigues

With a new generation of dancers, choreographer Lia Rodrigues weaves a porous embroidery of liquid otherness, with edges that fray, float and dance. In her signature style, starting from the energy of the collective and using simple materials like textiles and plastic, she creates a unique ballet between bodies and matter whose recipe only Rodrigues seems to know. Bodies clump together into constellations, form masses and separate again. With great care, what was separated is brought back together.

**FRIDAY, MAY 30**  
**Morning**

9:00-10:30

**KANAL-K1**

**Transitional Justice: Artists' recommendations for better public policy**

Conversation with Joseph Kaifala, Jesse Krimes, Hannah Meszaros Martin, Ukraine War Archive.

Towards reparations and policy change, the work of artists has forged particularly critical and relevant tools for seeking and addressing justice. Researchers, lawyers, policy-makers and cultural workers are invited to join a discussion on how artists and creatives working with institutions have been able to impact communities, implement change, and develop pilot programs that are replicable in other contexts to contribute to healing for societies and individuals harmed by atrocities.

10:30-12:30

**KANAL-K1**

**Sierra Leone: Traditional Rites as a**

**Collective Healing Mechanism**

Workshop with Joseph Kafaila

10:30-12:30

**KANAL-K1**

**Workshop**

(see *Call for Proposals* pg.3)

10:00-13:00

**BEURSSCHOUWBURG**

**Free School: Escola viva**

Workshop with Selvagem (PT/FR)

(see *Free Schools* pg.3)

10:00-13:00

**BEURSSCHOUWBURG**

**Free School: Holding Time, Writing**

**Futures**

Workshop with Archivo de la Memoria  
Trans (ES/EN)

(see *Free Schools* pg.3)

Lawyer, poet and educator Joseph Kaifala will lead a workshop sharing his experience with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Sierra Leone, and the importance of symbolic reparations for a nation and its people.

**FRIDAY, MAY 30**  
**Evening**

18:00-19:30

**BEURSSCHOUWBURG**

**Keynote**

Selvagem & Lia Rodrigues (PT/FR)

How do movement and knowledge intersect? Selvagem is an initiative that interweaves Indigenous cosmologies and artistic practices, and emphasises interconnectedness and the vitality of nature. Lia Rodrigues is a choreographer known for her political and poetic work in which dance becomes embodiment of resistance, often in collaboration with marginalized communities in Brazil. They engage in a conversation about how both a body and a forest hold memory, history and the potential for transformation. An exchange in which education, embodiment, and artistic practice are reconsidered as tools for radical transformation.

21:00-22:30

**KVS BOL**

**Theatre: Faustus in Africa!**

William Kentridge

The performance was presented at one of the first editions of Kunstenfestivaldesarts. Now, 30 years later, Kentridge has reworked Faustus in Africa!, linking it to extractivism and politics in the new South Africa and globally. Sadly, the question posed by the original theatre classic remains relevant: are we willing to betray ourselves and make an ill-fated deal with the devil for short-term gain? The new script combines Goethe's drama Faust with the irony of South African poet Lesego Rampolokeng. A new generation of performers brings to the stage a harmonious blend of theatre and world-class puppetry. James Phillips' music underscores Kentridge's stunning animations. A project and an artist that should not be missed at this 30th festival edition.



# CONFIRMED SPEAKERS/PRESENTERS INCLUDE

## Archivo de la Memoria Trans

The Archivo de la Memoria Trans (AMT), founded in 2012 by trans activist María Belén Correa, preserves and promotes trans memory. It is a collaborative space involving artists, activists, archivists, journalists, historians, curators, critics, editors, conservators, researchers, and educators. Its collection spans from the early 20th century to the late 1990s, including photographs, films, audio, press articles, IDs, passports, letters, and police records. It promotes job inclusion for trans people over 50 through training and advocates for historical reparation laws for those affected by Argentina's last dictatorship and post-democracy.

## Alejandra Ballón Gutiérrez

Alejandra Ballón Gutiérrez is a Peruvian artist and academic who connects art, criticism, gender studies, and social research. Her interdisciplinary work has been showcased in solo exhibitions and group shows at institutions like the Reina Sofia Museum (Madrid), MUAC (Mexico), MASM (Peru) and LUM (Peru). Since 2010, her focus has been on public health, women's rights in Peru, and art in transitional justice. She is currently the coordinator of GREF - Monitoring Group for Forced Sterilization Reparations, a faculty member, editorial director of CROMA magazine, and a member of the PUCP Art and Design Council.

## Rosemarie Buikema

Rosemarie Buikema is professor of Art, Culture and Diversity and project leader of the online Museum of Equality and Difference MOED.online. She has widely published on the role the arts can play in the implementation of transitional justice. Among her latest book publications are Cultures, Citizenship and Human Rights (Routledge 2020), Revolts in Cultural Critique (Rowman&Littlefield, 2020) and Doing Gender in Media, Art and Culture (Routledge 2025).

## Federico Campagna

Federico Campagna is an Italian philosopher based in London. He is the author of Otherworlds: Mediterranean lessons on escaping history (2025), Prophetic Culture (2021), Technic and Magic (2018) and The Last Night (2013). He is a lecturer in worldbuilding at the Architectural Association (London), associate fellow at the Warburg Institute (London), and lecturer in intellectual history at ECAL (Lausanne). He has presented his work in international institutions including Documenta, the Venice Biennale, Tate Modern, transmediale, Winzavod Arts Centre, Jameel Arts Centre, Serpentine Gallery, MACBA, Reina Sofia, LUMA, Beyeler Foundation. He works at the radical publisher Verso (London/New York), as editorial consultant for philosophy at Einaudi (Turin), and as senior editor at Timeo (Palermo), which he co-founded.

## Manuel Correa

Manuel Correa is Colombian artist and filmmaker based in Madrid. His work explores memory and post-conflict reconstruction in contemporary societies. It has been presented at venues such as the 19th Venice Architecture Biennale, curated by Carlo Ratti, the Spanish Pavillion at the 18th Venice Architecture Biennale, Kunsthau Graz, Rotterdam International Film Festival, TBA21, The 8th Norwegian Sculpture Biennial, Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos in Chile, e-flux Architecture, DOK Leipzig international documentary film festival, amongst other spaces.

## Jail Time Records

Jail Time Records is a non profit record label working from inside prisons in Cameroon and Burkina Faso. After succeeding in creating what is the first permanent recording studio inside an African prison in Cameroon in 2018, Jail Time Records has become a collective of musicians, music producers and filmmakers from inside and outside the prison that produce the music of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated artists. While helping them build careers post-release, among inmates it also fosters non-violent communication, using music to heal and unify while challenging societal perceptions of incarceration.

## Joseph Ben Kaifala

Joseph Ben Kaifala is a Sierra Leonean lawyer, writer, and historian. He is the Founder and Principal of the Center for Memory and Reparations - facilitating remembrance and collective narratives around the Sierra Leonean civil war. Joseph is also the Founder of the Jeneba Project - which provides educational opportunities to adolescent girls in Sierra Leone. He works in areas of International Law, Transitional Justice, Human Rights, and Education. Joseph currently serves as the Commissioner and Chairman of Sierra Leone's Monuments and Relics Commission.

## Jesse Krimes

Jesse Krimes is a multimedia artist and the Founder and Director of the Center for Art & Advocacy- a national organization dedicated to supporting justice-impacted creatives. His work has been exhibited at The Met, MoMA PS1, Palais de Tokyo, Philadelphia Museum of Art, and Brooklyn Museum. He won an Emmy Award for his documentary "Art and Krimes" and has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, Rauschenberg Foundation, and Creative Capital. Krimes also successfully led a class-action lawsuit against JPMorgan Chase for charging people predatory fees after their release from prison.



### François Makanga

François Makanga is a cultural activist whose professional, civic, artistic, and research practice intertwines convergence, awareness, and advocacy on decolonial issues in European artistic creation. Grounded in decolonial mediation, his work seeks to challenge and transform dominant narratives within cultural institutions. Since 2017, Makanga has served as a decolonial guide-lecturer, mediating exhibitions that engage with de/post/neo-colonial issues for the educational services of institutions such as the Africa Museum and KANAL-Centre Pompidou. He also collaborates with self-managed Afro-descendant collectives, including Femīya, which advocate for the recognition and reconfiguration of Belgium's colonial memory.

### Hannah Meszaros Martin

Hannah Meszaros Martin is an artist, filmmaker and writer. She holds a PhD from the Center for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths, University of London. She is a Postdoc in the 'Expanding the Social World Downwards' project at USC. She is also a Research Fellow at Forensic Architecture. With FA, she led the two-year investigation with the Colombian Truth Commission which culminated in the exhibition 'Huellas de desaparición'. She directs a new unit of Forensic Architecture located in Bogotá, Plano Negativo.

### Justine Jaz Okolodkoff

Justine Jaz Okolodkoff is a Brussels and Paris based documentary director and advocate for LGBTQIA+ and women's rights. Their work and approach questions how stories we are told define us and how shaping new ones can create bridges and conflict resolution. They're anchored in sensitive geography, transitional justice and comparative approaches. Today, they work on more inclusive public policies created by grassroots movements, programming movies as a tool for cooperation and they talk daily about gender, identity and representations.

### Elizabeth Povinelli

Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University. Informed by settler colonial theory, pragmatism and critical theory, Povinelli's writing has focused on developing a critical theory of late liberalism that would support an anthropology of the otherwise. Povinelli is one of the founding members of the Karrabing Film Collective based in Australia's Northern Territory. Their cinematic corpus resuscitates a complex network of practices and relationships

### Lia Rodrigues

Lia Rodrigues was born in São Paulo Brazil in 1956 and studied classical ballet and history at the University of São Paulo (USP). After having been part of the São Paulo contemporary dance movement in the 1970s, she joined Maguy Marin's dance company in France from 1980 to 1982. Back in Brazil, she set up the Lia Rodrigues Companhia de Danças in 1990 in Rio de Janeiro. In 1992, she created the annual contemporary dance festival Panorama de Dança, running it until 2005. Since 2004, her company has been involved in developing educational and artistic activities in the Maré favela in Rio de Janeiro in partnership with the NGO Redes de Desenvolvimento da Maré. In her professional and artistic career spanning forty years, the choreographer has dedicated herself not only to artistic training and creation, but also to education in the form of workshops and seminars. Lia Rodrigues believes in the synergy between art and social processes.

### Selvagem

Selvagem is a study cycle about life that offers wayfindings of study on various topics through dialogue between indigenous, scientific, philosophical, and knowledge of other species since 2018. These studies unfold in notebooks, audiovisual materials, workshops, conversations, and exhibitions, always free of charge to the public. Our actions aim to support a network of Living Schools, indigenous centres for the transmission of knowledge, ensuring a monthly transfer of 8,000 reais to each Living School and creating joint actions. This entire movement seeks to contribute to alternative educational pathways, imagining regenerative and non-destructive ways of being in the world. Selvagem also collaborates with books from Dantes Editora Publishing House to deepen specific themes.

### Ukrainian War Archive

Ukraine War Archive (UWA) is a non-profit collaborative digital preservation platform that creates a unified register of materials related to the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine. With innovative technological and methodological approaches, it serves as a tool for Ukrainian and international organizations to preserve history and fairly represent events in legal, historical, and cultural discourse, establishing a foundation for truth and justice. Russia's war against Ukraine is now the most well-documented act of military aggression in history. To make these first-hand records available for use in criminal courts, investigative journalism, research, and art, they must be collected and stored professionally. That's why the Archive uses state of the art systematisation to ensure secure storage and the effective search of materials.



The background of the poster is a collage of various images related to African art and culture. At the top, there's a group of people, possibly a family, in a traditional setting. Below that, two large, stylized, arched frames contain images of a traditional building with a tiled roof and a person in a field. To the right, there's a close-up of a person's face. At the bottom, there's a close-up of hands. The entire poster has a warm, orange-brown color palette.

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