

Robert Bosch **Stiftung**

Introduction

Welcome to a very special game of memory!

In your hands, you hold the outcome of a unique collaboration between artists from all over the world. Their joint topic: memory cultures – or cultures of remembrance – socially approved or acquired manners of a society or a group used to keep parts of the past in their consciousness.

On behalf of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, eight creative professionals from China, Germany, Israel and other nations designed individual and co-created joint themes for this game, addressing various forms of memory cultures. The process of the game's creation is meant itself as a contribution to international understanding.

Read the following pages to learn more about the artists and the project initiator.

Bassam Allam



Bassam is from Cairo, where he studied sustainable architecture. He is currently living and working in Munich: “I’m a self-taught photographer, specializing in Fine Art/ Fashion photography. I started my journey with fine art photography in Cairo, where I began transforming my surroundings through pictures – integrating mundane objects, or planning my compositions in an abstract way to create a surreal world. My goal was to unveil mysteries that are sometimes overlooked in our fast-paced world. I then turned to fashion photography where I implemented my vision and created iconic pictures that capture the true image of my subjects.”

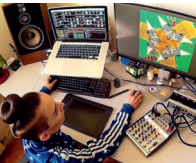


For me the project was a great opportunity to see diverse art and cultural backgrounds coming together to produce something unique.

Stella Ivšek



Stella, a.k.a. 5237, is a multimedia artist living in Ljubljana, Slovenia. She studied design and visual communications at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design at the University of Ljubljana. Her areas of focus are illustration, animation and music visualization. Her current interest is generating animated imagery set to music, making live visualizations, and video mapping. She is interested in the relationships between music and emotion, vibration and sound, and translating the processes that are communicated via musical structure into live visual art.



I really enjoyed the project because it made me get in touch with my own cultural imprint and gave me the opportunity to exchange the experiences and ideas about cultural affiliation with other artists.

Xiyu Tomorrow



Xiyu is a freelance illustrator/writer currently based in Hamburg with a background in social sciences and humanities. Her interests include the politics of representation, art and development, and oral histories. She explores these topics through visual essays, illustrative journalism, and concept books. Her work has been exhibited numerous times and has garnered multiple awards and nominations, including Winner of the 2016 Picture This! International Picture Book Competition.



Creating this work in a collaborative process has made me realize how powerful human collaboration can be and I wish that we could raise this spirit to the highest levels. I think we are in dire need of fostering positive interactions given the current political, economic and societal situation.

Ulla Saar



Ulla is living and working in Tallinn. She studied architecture and product design and is a self-taught illustrator and artist. She divides her time between architecture and book illustration, though illustration is taking up more and more of her time. The themes she likes to work with in art and illustration are: an individual's struggle and need to find his/her place in society; how we are tied to our memories with invisible threads; how humans relate to buildings and space or the lack thereof; and how taking elements (or people) out of specific contexts and shifting them to other contexts can shape our understanding of cultural connections.

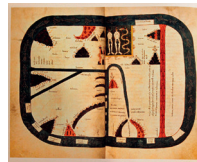


A project that created new memories through existing ones enriched my understanding of different cultures and roots immensely.

Zhen Zhang

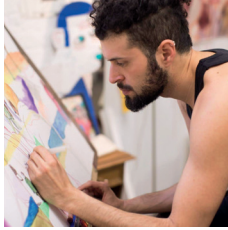


Zhen is a researcher and practitioner from China who studied architecture in Shanghai and Aachen, and has worked as journalist, architect, editor, curator and artist. Currently she is a research associate at RWTH Aachen University where she is studying literature and philosophy. One of her primary interests is how real life experiences can be grasped with the help of media - mapping, infographics, drawing, art, literature, film, thus creating a bridge between objectivity and subjectivity, quality and quantity, reality and creativity, and between various cultures and perspectives.



The most interesting was the interaction of creative thoughts and inputs from various artists from different backgrounds.

Boaz Balachsan



Boaz aka Digitalboaz is an artist and animator from Israel. He studied animation at the Bezalel Academy and documentary filmmaking at the Famu academy. He creates documentary animation shorts, illustrations and designs. Since 2015, he has worked both independently and as a part of the Werkstatttraum e.V. Art Collective in Berlin, where he creates art and holds workshops. His work is often a strange combination of different fields of visual art and a documentation of his experiences, usually reflected through the people and cultures he encounters.



The project was a great opportunity for me to collaboratively go deeper into the theme of what is home [...] a topic that has been quite a subject in my life since I moved to Germany two years ago.

Nadine Kolodziey



She is a (half Greek/half German) graphic designer and illustrator dividing her time between Berlin and Frankfurt. Her approach to visual language involves the layering across all media of her impressions of daily life. Since 2013, she has been part of the graphic collective HORT Berlin. “I try to work wherever I am – strolling around is my main source for ideas. Collecting tiny things, stories and weird circumstances along the way. I see my work as visual research and commentary on my direct and virtual surrounding. Usually I dance when I’m working.”



For me it was really interesting to mix up styles with international artists and create a direct visual dialogue of the different cultures and backgrounds.

Lina Augustin



Lina Augustin lives and works in both Munich, where she studies painting and graphics at Akademie der Bildenden Künste, and Berlin. She considers herself a poetic storyteller. Inspired by the beautiful tragedy of connections and missing connections between human beings and their surroundings, she strives to underline retrospectively the beauty and uniqueness that every story deserves in order to be fully understandable. With this act of reflection, she extends moments in time by paying them extra attention. It is her way of interfering with time itself.



While working on the memory cards, the international aspect and the way of communication through the process was most inspiring and very interesting for me.



Themes of Bassam Allam

In order to create this theme I visited the oldest street in Cairo, Al Muizz Street; the street has the greatest collection of medieval architecture in the Islamic world. I was looking for an element that for me would represent the spirit of the city. I found it in the captivating pattern across the roof of Al Zahir Barquq mosque.

I walked further in the street and came across this old door. You feel how old it is and the stories and time it withstood. I saw it as a pathway metaphor to my current life in Munich. So I made a collage of a picture I took of the Alps while flying back to Munich from the same trip. Placed together they are my visual representation of this trip and the meeting of cultures in our beautiful world.



Themes of Stella Ivšek

The theme represents a relation between our national dishes and traditional folklore songs. Furthermore, the audio output generates the final composition.



Language/music - this composition was triggered by the sound of a flute, a replica of an original made by Neanderthals in northwestern Slovenia possibly the oldest known musical instrument ever found.



Themes of Xiyu Tomorrow

I based my work on photographs and started to wonder what we want to remember and why. Against this backdrop, photography can act as an archive, experience can function as curation, and drawing can make past things come alive. This drawing shows my mother in front of the Forbidden City in Beijing. It is one of her fondest memories before her move to the Netherlands from China and has helped constitute her identity as “Chinese” while being in a foreign place.



How do we see and remember a place that we cannot revisit? My grandparents posed in front of an Austrian supermarket just because it seemed so foreign. What they recollect about the trip, however, is not the world that surrounded them so much as what they felt travelling in this new place - with their heads in the air, wondering.



Themes of Ulla Saar

A refugee crisis - people who have lost everything but the memories of places that were once their homes are played between countries like bowling pins.



Letters - memories of letters sent from pals you have never met, from countries to which you have never traveled. They seem both alien and strange, yet are utterly fascinating.



Themes of Zhen Zhang

Mappae Mundi - Europe in the eyes of Christianity. Where is Europe on this 12th-Century Beatus world map? To see Europe in different eyes means glimpsing different global perspectives. How we view the world determines how we act and react. To understand the existence of different “viewpoints” is the start of any global act.



Mappae Mundi - Europe in the eyes of India. Where is Europe on this 18th-Century Indian world map? How do people of different cultures see and understand one another? How do I see the other, and vice versa? To be aware of the co-existence of various I's is the first step of any common memory culture.



Themes of Boaz Balachsan

Where we come from does not matter if we are not able to let it go. And where we go to does not matter if we cannot remember where we came from.



Moving between cultures & places creates a strange symbiosis of visuals in our mind. When we dream, these visuals intermix, and the combinations are often both horrifying and calming.



Themes of Nadine Kolodziej

The free mind – reads the thoughts of another person and the two achieve a nonverbal, universal understanding of one another I like this idea of communication across borders and nationalities.



The hug – I want to explore the relationship between two people who are at once very different and very alike. You cannot tell if they are hugging or dancing or fighting. I want the image to convey the idea, that being close can take different shapes and that it is hard to judge from the outside.



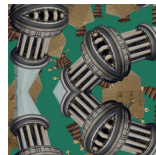
Themes of Lina Augustin

On the other side of Kottbusser Tor, Berlin – I want to show the coexistence of two places I call home, in an inner and outer reality. It is a way of balancing, to treasure home B in your mind while being at home A.



Kottbusser Tor girls in the jungle – I want to show two types of women I saw around home A. They meet each other in the environment of home B and recognize each other, instead of vanishing into anonymity.

Bassam Allam's & Stella Ivšek's co-creations



Stella fused her ideas with Bassam's themes: I got an ancient city vibe from Bassam's photos. I fused them with our architectural landmarks that have strong religious and cultural meanings. During the process, I listened to a radio stream from Egypt.

I fused Bassam's wooden door pattern with our sewed patterns that not only have aesthetic value but carry a strong mythological, protective, and religious meaning, too.

Stella Ivšek's & Xiyu Tomorrow's co-creations



Xiyu picked up on Stella's themes: Stella told me about her family background and I was fascinated by its complexity over three generations. It seemed to change so rapidly, while being firmly grounded at its root in the occupation of coal mining. I tried

to complement her themes by showing how family ties are woven over time through food and companionship.

For Stella's second theme I featured a coal miner combined with coal and lace. The image reflects the power individuals have to support their families with their own hands and labors.

XiYu Tomorrow & Ulla Saar's co-creations

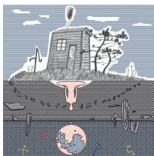


Ulla fused her ideas with XiYu's themes:

On a warm day a girl waits for her parents and twirls a parasol to make the time go by faster. She's a bit of a rebel as she's told to be careful with the parasol.

For the second theme, I featured a person on a park bench, remembering the time when he was there with someone important in his life. His arm is around his imaginative companion and the companion's hand rests on his thigh.

Ulla Saar's & Zhen Zhang's co-creations



Zhen picked up on Ulla's themes:

Every human being is a socio-political-cultural construct. This pattern is tattooed within his body ever since his birth and childhood. It stays as a part of him and flows naturally out of him. As he flees, strange new

patterns confront him. As confused and helpless as he feels at first, perhaps, with time, these new patterns will be etched into his skin?

Every human being is a soul between the sky and the earth. He comes alone and goes alone. Where the clouds scatter, stars shine. Where the smoke ends, the moon rises. Where the trees fall, rocks remain standing. Where there are no homes and no shelters, let nature be his abode. You may take away all from me; you may possess all of me - except my free will and spirit.

Zhen Zhang's & Boaz Balachsan's co-creations

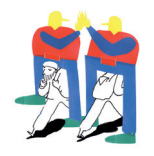


Boaz fused his ideas with Zhen's themes:

As refugees encounter it while fleeing their homeland, Europe, is a sea of red - a journey full of peril. It is an overbuilt land, leaving no space for change.

A Korean expat finds himself in Berlin and loses himself among a legion of lost souls in the corner of a dark club.

Boaz Balachsan's & Nadine Kolodziey's co-creations



Nadine picked up on Boaz' themes:

Heimat - this is a German word with many meanings. For me, it means home as the emotional root of where you feel you belong. I made a double character, who is in search of where to belong. He perhaps has two

places that for him are *Heimat*, and so he takes two positions.

Gate - this theme is very strong and related to the experience of refugees but also to the freedom of travelling and visiting many different cultures. I once again added a double character. In this case, he gives himself a high-five to celebrate the coming of the new visitor as a first positive act of friendship.

Nadine Kolodziej's & Lina Augustin's co-creations



Lina fused her ideas with Nadine's themes:

In Nadine's theme I saw a German bird longing for companionship. Inspired by Nadine's water drop form, I added a dreamy Danish fish man, connecting the theme to my own roots.

The German bird wants to hold on to a happy memory. The Danish fish man observes another planet instead of looking into the camera, while touching the heart of the bird.

Lina Augustin's & Bassam Allam's co-creations



Bassam picked up on Lina's themes:

In Lina's daily impressions of Berlin, found in kebab places and satellites, I felt the fusion of cultures happening in her mind. I added a roof pattern from a mosque in Cairo to the kebab stick, representing the culture she

subconsciously consumes, and a flower of an Islamic pattern to her spine, rooting that consumption.

When I looked at Lina's themes, I felt them looking back at me. I always think that even when they are sleeping they are still very aware of their surroundings. That's why I decided to add more surrealistic eyes, and keep one of them open, adding more dynamism and signaling awareness even in the act of dreaming.

Now that you have read about the artists and their themes, let us take a look who is behind the idea of this game.

Robert Bosch Stiftung

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is one of Europe's largest foundations associated with a private company. In its charitable work, it addresses social issues at an early stage and develops exemplary solutions. To this purpose, it develops and implements its own projects. Additionally, it supports third-party initiatives that have similar goals.

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is active in the areas of health, science, society, education, and international relations. Moreover, in the coming years, the Stiftung will increasingly direct its activities on three focus areas:

- :: Migration, Integration and Inclusion
- :: Social Cohesion in Germany and Europe
- :: Sustainable Living Spaces

International Relations

International Relations remained one of Robert Bosch's focus areas throughout life, and from the very beginning, the Stiftung has worked to promote good relations between nations. As of today, the Stiftung is active in Europe, Asia, America, North and Sub-Saharan Africa. Our projects have one thing in common: supporting courageous and relevant actors and enabling them to collaborate at eye level. To illustrate this mindset in practice, the Stiftung issued a global call and selected eight artists from around the world to co-create this memory game. During the creative process, the Stiftung deliberately stayed in the background.

Linking International Relations with Memory Cultures

Finding a way of dealing with current and past conflicts is one of the greatest challenges societies can face, as this is an issue that can potentially strain international relations, reignite old conflicts, and create new ones. Thus, the Stiftung believes that lasting peace and prospering international relations can only persist if there are initiatives that deal with history, search for the truth, and develop sustainable cultures of remembrance.

As the artists for this game shared their experiences and ideas about cultural affiliation and remembrance in a collaborative process with the other artists, the creation process of this game itself became a contribution to international understanding. Furthermore, by creatively addressing different national and international questions of remembrance, the artists have also contributed to a more differentiated perception and intercultural understanding of remembrance. They raised the awareness and the interest in memory culture issues not only among themselves, but for anybody who is holding this booklet right now.

Read the following pages to learn more about how the Stiftung is addressing memory cultures and remembrance in its projects in the field of international understanding.



Actors of Urban Change

The project aims to achieve sustainable and participatory urban development through cultural activities and by using specific potentials of culture as driver and enabler of positive change. This is carried out by strengthening the competencies for cross-sector collaboration among actors from the cultural, public, and private sectors. One example is preserving the cultural heritage of Istanbul's neighborhood Tatavla, historically populated with Greek and Armenian citizens. Recent renewal projects are both expelling residents from the area and erasing its social and architectural memory. Through activities (e.g. exchanges with local residents, recording oral history, a map of remembrance), the local team tries to preserve the spatial history and the rapidly disappearing traditions and daily practices of the residents of Tatavla.

www.bosch-stiftung.de/urbanchange



Alliance for promoting the Right to Know, the Right to Justice, and Culture of Remembrance

In many post conflict societies, the public discourses about past violence and conflict are tense and accompanied by xenophobia, confrontations between ethnic groups, and one-sided remembrance. The Alliance for promoting the Right to Know, the Right to Justice and Culture of Remembrance is an international network of documentation and memory centers that jointly fight for the recognition of conflict victims and a pluralistic memorial landscape. Its founder, Vesna Teršelič developed the idea of this initiative during her Richard von Weizsäcker Fellowship at Robert Bosch Academy.

Anlong Veng Peace Tour (Documentation Center of Cambodia)

In Cambodia, the atrocities and mass killings committed by the Khmer Rouge regime are still banned from history school classes. During the Anlong Veng Peace Tour, a series of fieldtrips to the regimes' former stronghold, students have the opportunity to visit historical sights, talk to former cadres of the Khmer Rouge as well as learn about the root causes of the conflict. Overall, this project aims at stimulating critical reflection processes on dealing with the past while encouraging Cambodia's younger generation to develop approaches for a national reconciliation process. The Robert Bosch Stiftung supported the initial phase of this project.

www.d.dccam.org



Berlin Seminar: Truth, Justice and Remembrance

All over the world, societies suffer from traumatic experiences in wars and conflicts. The Berlin Seminar of the Robert Bosch Stiftung brings peace actors from (post-) conflict societies to Germany's capital to work towards an appropriate approach to addressing violence in their countries. The participants discuss with experts and visit sites of remembrance. Furthermore, they conduct peer-consultations and exchange best practices to strengthen their abilities for conflict transformation. The belief is that lasting peace is only possible if the legacy of conflicts is dealt with in an inclusive and constructive manner.

www.bosch-stiftung.de/history_memory

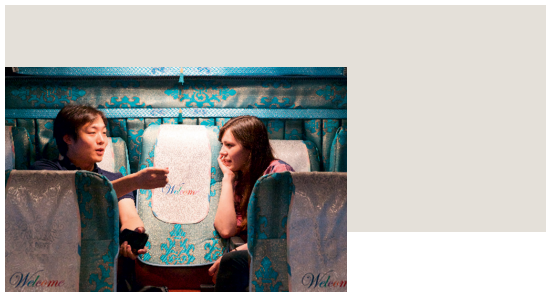


Citymakers China – Germany

The Robert Bosch Stiftung initiated this project to bring together architects, NGOs, social entrepreneurs, historians, and artists from China and Germany in order to develop new ideas for improving the livability of cities. “Culture and identity” forms one of three main focus groups of the project (besides “future of housing” and “urban gardening”). An important part of the project lies in ensuring generational interaction on cultural heritage and identity.

www.stadtmacher4986.com





Exchange Program for Regional Integration in East Asia and Europe (EPRIE)

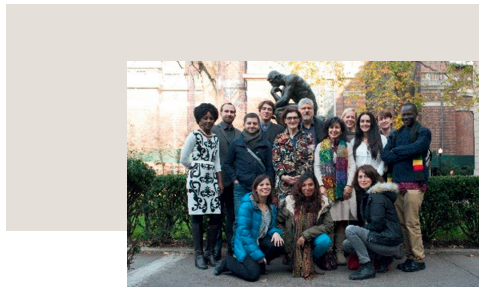
EPRIE is an intercultural exchange program that aims to improve the cooperation among neighboring countries in East Asia and Europe. Memory cultures play an important role here: ongoing territorial conflicts and the legacy of past confrontations still strain the relations between Japan, South Korea, and China. At the same time, populism in Europe is on the rise and citizens question the achievements of the EU. In workshops with experts from civil society, politics, and business participants discuss issues of identity, prejudices and differing historical narratives, and analyze current regional challenges.

www.eprie.net

Fellowship for Historical Dialogue and Accountability (Columbia University)

The multilateral and interdisciplinary Fellowship program offers civil society actors and journalists from all over the world the opportunity to spend one semester at Columbia University to share best practice experiences on reconciliation and remembrance processes. Fellows are equipped with knowledge, practical skills, and access to international networks, enabling them to create change in their home countries as well as to contribute to academic discussions on historical dialogue. Since 2012, the Robert Bosch Stiftung selects and supports six fellows each year.

www.bosch-stiftung.de/historicaldialogue



Film Prize of the Robert Bosch Stiftung for International Cooperation

Each year, the Stiftung issues three Film Prizes for cooperation between young German and Arab filmmakers (members of the Arab League) to realize a joint film project. The prizes are awarded in the categories short animation, short fiction film, and short or feature length documentary. One example is the German-Lebanese Animated Documentary Film: “Clean Up the Living Room We’ve Got Visitors Coming”. Beirut is a city stuck in a vicious cycle of reconstruction and struggling to bury its murky past. People who disappeared during the Lebanese Civil War resurface to assert their enduring presence, unleashed by a vagabond that falls on their traces and bothers to scratch the surface of representation and new ideals.

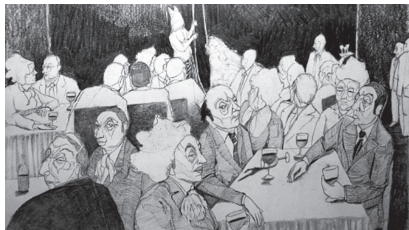
www.filmfoerderpreis.bosch-stiftung.de



Grenzgänger: Crossing Borders

The Grenzgänger program provides international research grants to authors, filmmakers, and photographers who address current social issues in their work and who seek to reflect their impact on different cultures and societies. The aim of the program is to support the creation of publications that refute commonly held stereotypes, inspire dialog and promote mutual understanding. For her work Ukraine Series artist Johanna Diehl explored former synagogues in Ukraine. Many were destroyed during the German occupation or diverted from their original purpose during the Soviet regime. Renowned Ukrainian author Yuri Andrukhovych wrote literary miniatures for the book.

www.bosch-stiftung.de/grenzgaenger





School Bridge Europe

Understanding the historical motivation for the European project is not always easy for young people born long after the beginnings of European integration. Within the “School Bridge Europe” program, high-school students meet peers from up to 13 other countries and dive into European history together. During an intense project week they jointly discover common traits in topics like culture, economy or human rights. Remembrance serves as a basis upon which participants then discuss the future of Europe with inspiring and influential figures. The development of European awareness through this unique experience is a crucial element for the development of an active European citizenship.

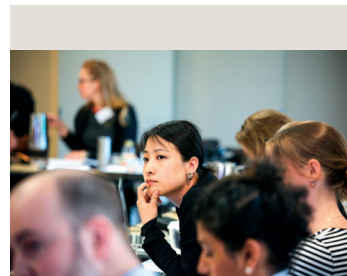
www.schulbruecke-europa.de



Global Governance Futures – Robert Bosch Foundation Multilateral Dialogues (GGF)

GGF brings together young professionals from different sectors and various countries to look ahead 10 years and recommend ways to address key global challenges such as global health and transnational terrorism. Since you have to know the past to understand the present and to plan for the future, memory cultures form the basis for a society to address future global challenges. Over the course of 18 months, they collaborate and engage in challenging discussions, meet with leading experts and policymakers, and develop scenarios and policy suggestions for effective and accountable global governance.

www.ggfutures.net



The Lectureship Program in Asia

The Robert Bosch Stiftung's Lectureship Program supports German-speaking graduates and young professionals who teach German as a foreign language and carry out educational projects at universities in Asia (China, Korea, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia). Memory culture plays an integral part in the classroom setting as German language students are often interested in the country's history. Thus, the lecturers themselves regularly combine their educational projects with the topic of memory cultures.

www.boschlektoren.de



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