

Fragments

3 European biographical fragments
inspire a poetic odyssey on our continent

European cultural project coproduced by five artistic organizations in five countries
- France, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden -



Fragments

What we believe

Deep inside
buried inside us
Fragments of our shared history
Are surviving and shaping us

When two people feel strangely connected to each other, it is because surviving fragments are understanding each other from the inside, beyond skins, beyond stories or representations. Fragments of us understand each other, strangely understand each other: fragments still extinguished, carefree, which we must revive.

Trying to discover what is connecting us with a fragmentary approach is a way to choose poetry instead of journalism, emotion instead of understanding, and dare to face reality rather than its representation. This is certainly why Novalis (whose book "*Fragmente*" is famous) writes: « *Poetry heals the wounds inflicted by reason* »

Let's face it: our Europe is fragmented. First because it has been built on the debris of war. Then, because of its specific nature : an amalgam of consistent minorities. No people in Europe stands for a majority, and this is an unprecedented situation in the world! Our nations are fragments of Europe, our stories are fragments of the European narrative.

Our common history is
unspeakable to who wants to say it entirely
elusive to who wants to seize it entirely

We wish to
Feel rather than grasp
We hope for
The emotion of Europe rather than its understanding

European construction has been done without the peoples, because it is difficult to deal with fragments. Yet things in us are understandable. Fragments of us, mysteriously, know each other. From that we want to be moved, crossed, pierced!
Maybe to be European is something to feel
Beyond our skin, feel something
Maybe there is nothing to understand.

What we will do

From 3 stories of the second world war, 3 stories shared by 3 artists, European biographical fragments, we will design performances, shape a photographic exhibition, and produce a movie. The 3 personal stories will ground all our writing, and European artists will strive together at each levels.

Under the artistic direction of Matthieu Loos, artists will travel trough Europe on the adventurous paths traced by the 3 stories, and aim their artworks to revive the emotion of Europe, fragmented in us since the pains of the war. Fragmented, but surviving.

3 stories of the second world war

Story of Matthieu Loos - *French actor* :

Alsace is annexed by the Third Reich between 1940 and 1945. At the end of the war, young men are incorporated by force in the German army. Charles Loos is one of those soldiers named «Malgrè-nous» («Despite Us»). Back in Strasbourg in October 1944 for a military leave, he is celebrating the 18th birthday of his sister Alice, grandmother of Matthieu Loos. He hesitates to go back to Russia ... the allies have liberated Paris and are already walking towards the East. To avoid any risk for his family, he refuses to desert and finally returns on the Russian front. On November the 22nd 1944, the very day Strasbourg is liberated, he dies in Latvia.

Story of Mats Karlsson - *Swedish musician* :

Swedes live the Second World War guided by their neutrality policy. Germans, allied with the Finns, occupy Norway and Denmark. Surrounded by war, Sweden puts its soldiers at borders, facing an inflow of refugees! Thus in Värmland, the young Werner Karlsson, future father of Mats Karlsson, controls a few kilometers of the Norwegian border. During 2 years, accompanied by a single dog, he oversees his border portion by bike. A few years after the war, the man and the dog accidentally meet each other on a sidewalk. Instinctively, the animal leaves his new family and jumps on his old master for an epic reunion.

Story of Maja Dekleva-Lapajne - *Slovenian performer* :

Slovenia is invaded by Germany in 1941, with all the rest of Yugoslavia. In Ljubljana, the Dekleva family participates in the resistance movement against German oppression. As a doctor working in the liberation front, Marija 'Mima' Dekleva, grandmother of Maja Dekleva-Lapajne, is quickly captured and deported to Auschwitz. She is six months pregnant. Refusing to give birth in captivity, she asks co-prisoners to jump on her belly for a wild abortion. Rescued from the camp, she will later give birth to Maja Dekleva-Lapajne's father.

3 odysseys revive past survivals

« *Who never leaves his pond,
His heart sinks.* »

Tao Li Fu (Jean-Pierre Siméon)

In 1942, Marija 'Mima' Dekleva was deported from Ljubljana in Yugoslavia to Auschwitz in Germany.
Maja Dekleva-Lapajne will travel from Ljubljana in Slovenia to Auschwitz in Poland.
She will feel how she will feel, and we will write a show.

In 1943, Werner Karlsson left Stockholm for the Värmland in Sweden.
Mats Karlsson will travel from Stockholm to the Värmland in Sweden.
He will feel how he will feel, and we will write a show.

In 1944, Charles Loos returned from Strasbourg in Germany to Skuodas in Lithuania.
Matthieu Loos will travel from Strasbourg in France to Skuodas in Lithuania.
He will feel how he will feel, and we will write a show.

since always there is what drives us since this very morning

That very morning, when a rooster soberly announced the break of day, the wind did not blow, we heard an almond blossom, and Henri Bosco, returning from Morocco in his dear Luberon, wrote abruptly: "Maybe peace is more than happiness? "

Educate for Peace: That's what we want to do in theater.

Our guidelines are engraved since always on the school pediment: to be curious about others, to enjoy uncertainty, to inhabit the world with poetry, or the other way around.

a peace strategy

Warriors forge a strategy to defeat their enemy.

In the same way, in order not to fight, we need a peace strategy.

A strategy not to fight:

This is our absurd struggle.

Peace is not the simple absence of war, it is a shared process in search of equity and social justice. It is not the sleepy state from which one fires violently to fight, and to which one returns after the defeat - there are only defeats. Peace is an uncertain march, a continual maneuver, a collective adventure.

If we need to develop a strategy, it is in order to be sure that this adventure will never bore us.

Live in peace

I believe

I do not know but

I do believe that

Strive together

Is equivalent to

Live in peace

Not living together, no. Striving together.

Strive together:

Our strategy to

Live in peace



**ou
l'inverse
peu
importe**

Europe is a theater of peace

Our old Europe has as many countries as Asia, the largest continent in the world (five times larger in number of inhabitants and surface area). As a result - it makes sense - the density of countries is five times higher in Europe than in Asia: nearly 5 countries per million km², compared to only 1 in Asia. By its size, our continent would be rather comparable to Oceania, which however has 4 times fewer countries, 20 times less inhabitants ... To make it short, Europe is an assembly of many countries on a small surface, a juxtaposition of many crops on a very small territory.

In this respect, the European experience is fascinating! For those who question the ability of human being to strive together, our continent is an exciting field of exploration, a prodigious source of study.

Europe is a theater.

Cradle of Western culture, woven from the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations, inspired more recently by the Enlightenment or the French Revolution, Europe was also the unfortunate theater of two world wars. Between confrontations and political, intellectual and religious complicities, the history of our continent deeply informs us about ourselves.

For 60 years, Europe has built up itself, volatile: Geographically it is persuaded, Politically it seeks itself, Culturally it shivers.

For 60 years, Europe has been a theater that produces complicity.