



borderline offensive: laughing in the face of fear

Borderline Offensive is a transnational and transdisciplinary artistic platform, exploring how art & humour contribute to intercultural dialogue, social integration, and peace within and beyond Europe.

We employ art, participation, and playful attitudes as tools for non-violent activism and creative transgression, in the fight against fear, populism, and existential anxiety.

We open situations of dialogue between natives, newcomers, oldtimers, and outsiders, starting from the shared absurdities and obscenities of life that make us laugh, together.

We laugh in the face of fear, and we want YOU to join us in celebrating the joys of life without becoming bitter and broken.

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Borderline Offensive: laughing in the face of fear was an official war against fear, at the service of artistic research and art-based societal development that took place between 2017 and 2021.

European and Middle Eastern artists explored issues of migration, sociological contact zones, intercultural conflict and dialogue, collective identity-building, and community cohesion in contemporary Europe through new artistic creations.

Humor and participatory arts were employed to guide interaction, dialogue, and cooperation between migrant and host communities, inviting people to share knowledge, respect and laugh together, at the same things and at themselves.

The main military operations undertaken were:

2017 Building the #BorderlineOffensive community and its Manifesto

2018 Transnational artistic residencies for artists from Europe, Turkey and the Middle East

2019 Production and touring of #BorderlineOffensive artworks

2020 COVID-19 pandemic = Tactical retreat + procurement of cyberwarfare ammunition

2021 Arranging the #BorderlineOffensive Festival and Assembly.

The Arsenal (a.k.a. Artistic Projects) used in theatre of war is presented here. The Arsenal and the Borderline Offensive mercenaries are available for further combat. Any proceedings are processed outside of the accounting of the global military–industrial complex.



Museum of Real History

2019, Ivana Satekova, Zoukak Theatre Group and Abduljabbar Alsuhili Mixed media exhibition and lecture-performance presenting the ridiculous conspiracy theories by racists and populists as if they were the absolute truth. "An insult to society's collective intelligence", quoting the terrorist-refugee-artist curator and his accomplices (you included).



Paper Puppet Poetry

2019, SKART collective

A collective story-making experience for young audiences, to create and perform their own stories of migration by crafting paper puppets and cardboard scenography. DIY improvisation, done whenever and wherever, the experience can expand into animation documentary, spoken word, choir singing, artivism and stage magic;)



The Long Heavy Road

2019, Darinka Pop-Mitic and Nalan Yırtmac

The laugh-out-loud, laugh-not-to-cry, ironically-sad (or just sad) anecdotes from the road told by migrants, with migrants and for migrants. Through collectively-made low-fi street fanzines, stencil and alternative e-publishing, these stories are shared with the European readership in a publication continuing the great Western tradition of street newspapers. Each issue made by a different, ever-changing, editorial team.



Three Migrants in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Smuggler)

2019, Petko Dourmana

Video installation, role-playing, and investigative performance that paraphrases scenes from the comic classic "Three Men in a Boat" by Jerome K Jerome, but now concerning three migrants being smuggled across a border river in a pitch dark night. Only observable with night-vision devices used by border patrol guards.



Gaming in the Face of Fear

2020, Salam Al Hassan and Isaak Kraft van Ermel

Video game prototypes co-designed and co-created in an intercultural process. Single- and multiplayer, focusing on strategy, role-play, and social deduction, you will be asked to deconstruct stereotypes and make hard choices as an unaccompanied minor, a smuggler, or a European migrant fleeing to the Middle East.



The Migrant's Illustrated Guide through European Corruption

2021, Museum of Corruption

Digitally distributed undergroupd publication, gathering original artworks reflecting on experiences of personal or institutional corruption: from bribing yourself forward during the journey to the Schengen area and legality, to how European funding is captured by local cronies for illicit enrichment. For quick learner migrants or slow learner euroskeptics.



New Releases

2021, Nadir Sönmez

Experimental online performance (video), from original micro-theatre play. Pushing the sexual tension between European and non-European mindsets, the literary glance of the Ocident at the refugee crisis is parodied in a conversation about an unpublished erotic fiction between a Turkish academic and a Middle Eastern refugee.



We, The People!

2021, Divadlo Na Perone and Sytze Schalk

Interactive, theatrical social play, about an imaginary country holding its first democratic election amidst times of (climate, economic, migration) crises. The audience becomes the citizenry, and their choices will influence the fate of the country, as well as what happens in the play. We, the people, don't care about left or right, we just want the government to solve our problems!



Stateless Stamps [Remix]

2021, Khaled Jarrar

An interactive performance that requires you to act! and become part of a philatelic intervention reflecting about human rights, statelessness, global communication, and the notion of nation-state. Correspond with stateless stamps, create your own, or propose them to your national post office.



I Hate Theatre, I Love Pornography

2020, Zoukak Theatre Collective

Theatre performance, filmed for online streaming. Available only as contraband smuggled virtually by the creators. The story is a ride through the hottest stories from the Middle East, catered and served specifically to satisfy the needs and expectations of our beloved "Western" and English-speaking audiences.



Wildfire Artivism Actions

2021, Sanne Boekel, Ida van de Lee

Participatory artivism interventions, designed as part of a grassroots campaign for humane refugee and migration policies in the Netherlands. Action Kieswijzer distributes hacked election posters that place campaign slogans against the background of the current situation in the refugee camps. Action Home for All invites bystanders to re-draw reality, drawing migrant children in a new home. action













































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