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European Souvenirs: a live cinema performance, remixing old and shaping new European memories

Five young media-makers have been delving into audiovisual materials from leading European archives to create European Souvenirs – a live cinema performance that will premiere on 6 October 2012 in Amsterdam.

European Souvenirs takes us on a trip through time and history, combining different cultural expressions as well as disciplines (music, animation, video art, dramaturgy, photography and film). Travel and migrants, nomads, tourists and souvenirs are the guiding elements that shape their journey.

Selected because of their outstanding experimental artistic profiles, the European Souvenirs artistic team – Karol Rakowski (PL), Barış Gürsel (TR), Farah Rahman (NL), Malaventura (ES) and Noriko Okaku (UK/JP) – have set about remixing culture and contributing to a new vision of Europe that is completely different from representations found in the mainstream media.

Over the past few months, the artists have taken up residencies in Seville and Istanbul, where they have prepared the groundwork for their performance and started building up the materials frame by frame. In August and September, they will join residencies in Warsaw and Amsterdam, where they will hone their existing skills and learn new ones during master-classes from leading artists such as Toni Serra (artist), Silvia Nanclares (writer), Filastine (musician) and Chris Allen.

The artists are working with audiovisual materials from leading European institutions that have opened up parts of their archives for this project: Eye Film Institute (Amsterdam); OVNI Archives (Barcelona) and Filmoteca de Andalucía (Seville); Samamihuis (The Hague); Digital National Archive (Warsaw); SALT (Istanbul); and the British Film Institute (London).

European Souvenirs is curated by the Seville-based organisation ZEMOS98 and initiated by the European Cultural Foundation's Doc Next Network. It will premiere at ECF's Imagining Europe event on 6 October 2012 in De Balie in Amsterdam. For the live cinema performance, footage will be projected and re-mixed on stage, supported by live music. The exact shape and form of the performance is under wraps until the opening night – but we would like to invite you to come and experience these souvenirs for yourself!

You can find out what the five artists have been up to by visiting europeansouvenirs.eu!

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