THE ILYA & EMILIA KABAKOV FOUNDATION PRESENTS

THE SHIP OF TOLERANCE

SEPTEMBER 3RD RIVER THAMES OCTOBER 13TH

« Human beings are members of a whole,
In creation of one essence and soul.
If one member is afflicted with pain,
Other members uneasy will remain.
If you've no sympathy for human pain,
The name of human you cannot retain. »

Saadi, Persian poet, 12th century
THE MISSION - CONNECTING CHILDREN THROUGH ART

The Ship of Tolerance is an art project created by leading contemporary artists Ilya and Emilia Kabakov to build bridges and foster dialogue between cultures.

Since 2006 the project has been built in different locations around the globe, sparking conversations on tolerance and respect between participants and visitors, inspiring reflection, astonishing viewers and bringing joy to those involved.

Each interaction of The Ship of Tolerance brings together local art institutions, schools, NGO’s and local authorities to collaborate on a program of workshops to improve tolerance, dialogue, inclusivity and create positive change in the community.

In our ever more diverse and global societies it has proven to be a tremendous platform for change in the lives of thousands of children.

Focusing mainly on children ages 6 to 18, The Ship of Tolerance offers an educational program designed to discuss tolerance and diversity among cultures, races and ideas.
THE CONTEXT - CREATING A DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY AND RESPECT IN “THE MELTING POT”

The Ship of Tolerance is produced in London by Art, Action, Change in partnership with Totally Thames. The Ship will be installed on the river Thames, next to the Millennium Bridge, a symbolic destination, allowing it to be viewed by thousands of people walking on the shoreline or crossing the bridge everyday.

We aim to highlight the importance of water as a natural element, making life possible and uniting people.

“London is a Beacon of Tolerance, Acceptance and Diversity”
Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London

The river Thames at the heart of London is the symbol of the most international and ethnically diverse capital in the world, the cradle of the development of Great Britain.
London is a melting pot of 270 nationalities, where 300 different languages are spoken.

The Ship of Tolerance brings together children and adults from all backgrounds and creates lasting conditions for encounters, dialogue, reflection and understanding. The project brings children and families together beyond their differences. As a result the sense of belonging thrives in each community.

The program is run by local art instructors in schools, hospitals, foster homes, refugee centres, art institutions and children’s organisations.

Children act as ambassadors of Tolerance. 3000 children from schools, charities and after-school programs will be reached to participate in these educational workshops in the U.K.

During the workshops, children create paintings reflecting their ideas of Tolerance and send their messages to the world. 78 drawings are selected for the ships sail and the remaining ones become part of an exhibition dispersed around the city both in public spaces and art venues.
THE SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

“Since wars being in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed”
UNESCO Constitution

We can acknowledge our differences but realize they are superficial. We can appreciate differences but focus how we can contribute to society

Orliana Morag, The Ship of Tolerance Youth Ambassador

Schools

We work with state schools and private schools across London and beyond, targeting age groups: 5 to 8 / 8 to 11 / 13 to 17 and beyond.

The outreach is made through our various partners. The Mayor of London website will make our program available for teachers from the London Curriculum webpage.

The project begins with an outreach to school-children to discuss the meaning of Tolerance and the benefits of being exposed to different cultures, races, and ideas. Teachers will study this topic with their classes for the duration of a semester. Simultaneously our partners will run workshops, talks and events around the topic of Tolerance. At the end of a semester, several days of workshops will be held by our art instructors, during which children of all ages and backgrounds will gather, mingle, and paint the pieces of sailcloth.
Children are encouraged to share their vision and skills to express their personality, and see similarities in their dreams of Tolerance.

Sessions start by watching a video of the Kabakovs addressing the children, who are then invited to discuss the sketches they have prepared in class and talk about their messages on Tolerance. Their painted messages will be sewed together to form the sail of the Ship. Others will be exhibited in locations around the city in collaboration with our partners as well as the River Thames.

Children will be encouraged to produce videos, write poems and participate to music and live theater performances. By working together, children learn about respecting different cultures, religions, traditions, while appreciating how they differ from their own.

This experience of dialogue and sharing is crucial at a time when our societies are forced with issues of migration and growing religious rift.
BUILDING THE SHIP OF TOLERANCE WITH YOUNG APPRENTICES

Along with the school programs, children have the opportunity to view the ship’s construction and meet the carpenters who will be building the boat. Throughout construction, workshops are held for apprentice carpenters to expand their knowledge of the trade and contribute towards the creation of ship. The entire process takes between 3-4 weeks, and during that time, hundreds of visitors can view the construction, learn about the project, and be inspired by its message. Made of bamboo, wood, and silk, the design of the vessel has been guided by ancient aesthetic, which carries a message of universal goodwill, friendship and hope.

The Ship is 20 meters long, 5.5 meters wide and has an 11 metre mast. Artist assistants working together with apprentice carpenters and volunteers all come together to build the ship. The sail is made up of 178 individually painted pieces of canvas created by local Children, and will be illuminated after dark.
WORKING WITH NGOS AND INSTITUTIONS

Creative thinking and shared learning are key to social change. We are building a network of cultural institutions and social organisations working in the areas of education, mental health, identity, and ecology, to promote positive change for individuals and communities. Our program will engage young refugees and vulnerable children.

Our partners include: Greater London Authority, Amnesty International, The British Red Cross, All Change Arts, The Serpentine Gallery, The Foundling Museum, Whitechapel, The National Gallery Serpentine; Plastic Pollution Coalition, Phillips ...

We partner with children organisations around the U.K, among which Amnesty International and the British Red Cross who will engage its London and Kent based youth groups, associated with their program, “Surviving Thriving”, a partnership with the Refugee Council and UpRising, funded by players of People’s Postcode Lottery. The project runs in Birmingham, Bedfordshire and Leeds.

It provides 11-to 25-year-old refugees and asylum seekers with life skills, advice, mental health support and leadership opportunities necessary to rebuild their lives and thrive in the U.K.
THE RIVER THAMES: OUR CONNECTION TO THE OCEANS AND THE WORLD

We are developing a holistic program to foster the feeling of oneness between communities and environment.

The river is crucial to our quality of life and the economic growth of the city. But it needs our attention and protection.

Children and their families will be invited to participate to workshops and events to understand the many challenges we face - from plastic litter, heavy metals, oils to lost of biodiversity - to keep our river clean and healthy. Londoners can take action.

A series of workshops will explore how the river connects us to the Oceans and the world.

TAKING ACTIONS

- Clean ups
- World Ocean Day, June 8th 2019
- World Clean Up Day, September 15th 2019
- Summer Program : day trip to explore the wildlife of the Thames
LAUNCHING THE SHIP OF TOLERANCE

The ship’s launch is the project’s climax. Beautifully lit, the ship creates an atmosphere of joy and celebration for participants, including children, supporters, friends, local community leaders and the general public.

A series of events are held onsite and around town in collaboration with our partners, participating schools, cultural institutions and social organisations.
The Kabakov Foundation has established its children's concert as a highlight of the Ship of Tolerance program, conveying the message of respect, dialogue and healing through the arts.

A concert featuring young talented musicians, will be held on the opening weekend of the Ship of Tolerance in September 2019, young musicians will travel from all over the world to take part to the performance and join local gifted young peers. The concert is comprised of two parts: Western classical music in the first half, followed by children and adolescents performing traditional music and dance from their own countries.

Each year, new performers join a core group of prodigies who have grown up performing at the Ship of Tolerance concerts at each iteration. Among the talented youth who have performed with the project over the past 11 years are:

- Joseph Morag, acclaimed by the New York Times for his “gorgeous tone,” and “physically expressive cues”, as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral violinist.
- Orliana Morag, graduate student from LaGuardia High school of Art.
- Vladislav Tishyn, a student from the Dnipropetrovsk Academy of Music, recognize as a creative talent whom has won many prizes performing in solo with his xylophone.

- Sophie Sun, graduate student at Juilliard.

- Riko Higuma, a highly sought-after piano collaborator performing with the world's leading artists.

- Apollina Baratieri di San Pietro, attending Thomas Battersea primary school in London where she is senior chorister.
Children4Change is a touring platform created by Art, Action, Change founder and The Ship of Tolerance producer Nadja Romain and Ellen Comberg Chair of the Advisory Board Global Female Leaders. It provides a space in which children have the opportunity to be heard on the same level as adults leaders in their field, and discuss today's most pressing issues.

The aim is to shy away from a society in which children are talked about, but rarely talked to, and instead work towards building a better future by listening to the voices of those who will live in it.

During the opening weekend of the Ship of Tolerance in London, Children4Change will host a day of panel discussions and workshops on Environment, Personal Well-Being, Ethnic Diversity and Disruptive Technology.
IMPACT AND LEGACY - BUILDING A SENSE OF A BELONGING AND TOGETHERNESS

"Children are much easier to convince to be united, to accept 'the others' than adults. They don't have problems with each other, they have such an open, trusting mind. For their safety and for their future we must rethink our positions toward each other. We do hope that The Ship of Tolerance will help to archive those goals."

Emilia Kabakov

The Kabakov Foundation has successfully in the past offered children the opportunity to pursue a dream and engage in an artistic career – notably by making possible the training of young musicians and dancers in the US and Cuba after the Ship of Tolerance was brought to Havanah.

Art, Action, Change has an experience of bringing together philanthropists, artists/projects, institutions and corporations, to collaborate together to create change.

The Kabakov Foundation and Art, Action, Change create together with our partners and friends opportunities for children to enroll in programs at children organizations and cultural institutions. Providing access to internships, tuitions and fellowships.
SAILING AROUND THE WORLD

In 2005, the inaugural Ship of Tolerance was built in an oasis in Siwa, Egypt, to engage children and young adults in an active discussion surrounding tolerance in their daily lives. Participants were given vivid exposure to different cultures and ideas, while creating personal, and often thought-provoking works of art.
The Kabakovs recreated the project for the Venice Biennale and celebrated this city’s unique relationship with the sea, ancient international ties, and rich culture.

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The Ship was the launched in the United Arab Emirates during the Sharjah Biennale. The Ship of Tolerance was a particularly influential piece given the complex issues facing the region and the fact that children had limited exposure to painting due to local religious customs and traditions.

The project was unveiled in conjunction with Miami Art Basel, soon followed by the Havana Biennale. It was the first project of this scale by American artists to ever been allowed by both the Cuban and the American governments.

And for the first time American children where bought directly from the US to Cuba to give a join concert with children from the Havana.

2010 The Ship of Tolerance visited Zug, Switzerland where it had various stopped around the lake, before being given a permanent place in th Canton of Zug, where it serves as a venue. The Zug region, whose residents belonging to over 140 different nationalities, illustrates how it is possible for people of widely differing cultures and patterns of living to coexist peacefully together, and hence provides a suitable setting for the Ship of Tolerance.

2011 The Ship stopped in Rome in collaboration with Art, Action, Change. The project was made possible through local authorities, the Ministry of Education, The Prime’s Minister Office, The Academia di Belli Arti, Pontificia Universita Lauramense and Musei Vaticani. The concert was held at the prestigious Auditorium Ara Pacis.

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2013 It was presented in Brooklyn, NYC as part of the 17th annual DUMBO Arts Festival

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2017 The Ship stopped in Rome in collaboration with Art, Action, Change. The project was made possible through local authorities, the Ministry of Education, The Prime’s Minister Office, The Academia di Belli Arti, Pontificia Universita Lauramense and Musei Vaticani. The concert was held at the prestigious Auditorium Ara Pacis.

2018 The Ship of Tolerance was last installed in Rostock, Germany.

It then moved to Capalbio in Marema, near Rome where it was set at the famous Tarot Garden created by Nikki de Saint Phalle.
Globally recognized as being the premier artists to have emerged from the Soviet Union, are major figures of the international art scene. Their work is regularly exhibited in leading international museums, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington DC, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris and the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg.

In 1993 they represented Russia at the 45th Venice Biennale with their installation ‘The Red Pavilion’. In 1995, they received the prestigious ‘Ordre des Arts et des Lettres’ medals awarded by the Ministry of Culture of France, and Commandors as 2014.

The installations of Ilya and Emilia Kabakov have consistently attracted the attention of the art world. In 2008, they were awarded the Praemium Imperiale, known as the ‘Nobel Prize’ of the art world, by the Imperial House of Japan.

In 2017, they were honored with a retrospective at Tate Modern in London.

“London is one of the most vibrant and diverse cities in the world with different communities, religions, languages, cultures, traditions, even faces. But despite being all in one small part of the world, relatively speaking, they disagree on so many issues. In reality the degree of separation is extremely high and we would like to bring the idea of tolerance, of necessity for being together in our difficult and highly problematic time.”

Emilia Kabakov
Art Action Change is a charitable organisation created to research and support current thinking on how culture and the arts play a pivotal role in redefining human societies in this moment in time. We bring together artists, thinkers, scientists, social workers and philanthropists to act and foster solutions for our future.

Our projects aim at cultivating democratic dialogue in an effort to resolve the most pressing issues of societies today, in areas such as migration, mental health and wellbeing, access to resources, technology, conservation and biodiversity. Our approach is holistic and intersectional so that these subjects are addressed in relation to each other.

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We believe the arts foster our cognitive skills and have a major role to play in solving today’s biggest issues. As positive change starts by education we focus on children’s initiatives. Working towards a bright future with the one who will live in it.

Nadja Romain is a creative producer and artistic director driven by a passion for thought provoking concepts, cross disciplinary projects and intersectional dialogues. Nadja has collaborated with leading contemporary talents in her career spanning journalism, curating, film production and strategic consulting in the cultural sector.
TOTALLY THAMES

Totally Thames is an annual celebration of the River Thames with a creative and diverse program that inspires, connects and enthralls throughout the month of September.

The month-long program runs along the 42-mile stretch of the Thames through working collaboratively with artists and local communities. The festival aims to spotlight the river with spectacular art, champion a diverse, sustainable and creative riverfront as well as to inspire the next generation of river ambassadors.

-Audience of 1 million
-27K Social Media Followers
-42.5k Newsletter Subscribers
-100 Events Across September
-178 Engaged Organisations
-645K Yearly Website Views
SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

• EDUCATION AND REFUGEES PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT

Clara Dublanc is the founder of Itinerant Works. The company produces projects, films, events and public programmes that communicate what happens when people migrate. Clara works in collaboration with artists, activists, NGOs, filmmakers and academics.

• VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM

Camille Lesourd graduated from the University of Southampton in Fine Art and Montessori Center International in Pedagogy. Camille has worked intensively with children transmitting her passion for art and has a strong interest for art therapy.

Ludovico Barattieri di San Pietro, is a student at The American School in London. His two main passions are the environment and football. Ludovico has volunteered with The Blue Marine Foundation that works to enable marine conservation to happen fast and effectively. He also volunteers in a temporary shelter for children. Ludovico is an Ambassador of Project Zero that fights for Ocean’s protection.

River Blake lives in Miami, Florida. As an Ambassador of Tolerance since 2010, River has worked with children on several iterations of the project to help them define their concepts of Tolerance and to depict these concepts on the sail. Along with Orliana, River presented the Ship of Tolerance project at TedX Youth in Miami, Florida in 2014 when he was just 10 years old.

Elsie Luna is a 10 years old UK/Colombian/US climate activist, writer, podcaster. She has interviewed politicians in her podcast series "Hear, Hear! The Politics Podcast for Young People in the UK". Elsie was short-listed for one of The Climate Coalition's Green Heart Hero Award.

YOUNG AMBASSADORS

Throughout the year the Ship of Tolerance Ambassadors participate in talks and events in schools, during which they share their stories, experiences, and journeys around the world with the project. They are essential in the development of the social engagement program.
Joseph Morag is acclaimed by the New York Times for his "gorgeous tone," and "physically expressive cues," has performed extensively as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral violinist. Joseph is a student of Aaron Rosand, under the prestigious Dolan Prize awarded by Columbia University, and the recipient of several prestigious awards including the first prize at the New York Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition. He performed at the opening of the Ship of Tolerance since his childhood.

Orliana Morag is a student at the University of Chicago, a soprano and orchestral player. Orliana has travelled extensively to speak to young people about and overcoming prejudice and bias through collaboration in music and art. Orliana presented the project on TEDX Talks in Miami and New York.

Lilly Platt is a 10 year old international environmental champion leaving in Holland. Through her efforts with her initiative Lilly’s Plastic Pickup she has reached international media attention. Lilly is an Ambassador of Plastic Pollution Coalition, HoW, World Cleanup Day and Children’s for Change. Lilly has been asked by Dr Jane Goodall to work with her and her Plastic Pollution Project. She is recognised has one of the most top influencers tackling plastic pollution.

AMBASSADORS

Princess Alia Al Senussi - Art patron, VIP Representative, Art Basel, Founding member of the Tate Committee for Middle Eastern and North Acquisitions
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sofia Baratieri Weinstein is a Digital Brand Consultant, Executive Committee member and Patron of the BFC Fashion Trust UK and Co-founder of the Italian Camera della Moda. Sofia has been a long time supporter of The Ship of Tolerance which she brought to Venice together with the Ilya and Emilia Kabakov Foundation.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sylviane Destribats is the Founder of The NDL Foundation which focuses mainly on supporting the education of women and children through projects worldwide.

Aladin Aladin - Artist, Professor and Strategic Consultant

Martha Abbruzzese - Director of Philanthropy Alan Howard Family Office

Sarah Bailey - Executive Brand Editor, Porter Magazine

Mollie Dent Blockenhurst - Director Future Pace

Jacaranda Caracciolo - Art Patron

Aaron Cezar - Director Delfina Foundation

Marie-Laure de Clermont Tonnerre - Founder Spirit Now London

Ellen Comberg - Chairwoman of the Advisory Board, Global Female Leaders

Sophie Djorkaeff - Photographer

Xenia Geroulanos - Director Thaddeus Ropac

Maria Kastani - Fashion Entrepreneur

Maria Mattsson Louguinets - Head of Developpement Bonhams, Art Patron

Marina Nubo - Cosmetic Designer

Isabella Prata - Mentor and Consultant in Innovation and Sustainably, Member of the United Nations committee for refugees

Laurence Vandenborre - Founder, Director The Red Pencil Humanitarian Mission
Aladin Aladin has parallel experience over several decades of working with young people at risk of violence. His projects have featured at Manifesta, the ICA, Venice Biennale, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London 2012 Cultural Olympiad, to name but a few. As ‘Strategic Counsel’ he has advised the leadership of clients ranging from LVMH, the UK Department of Environment [DEFRA], London Design Festival’s sustainable ‘Greengaged’ initiative, to Citibank and more.

Mark Bennett is co-founder of Cause2create [the platform/festival/hackathon for collaboration and problem solving between the creative industry and the non profit sector], non executive director of Future Planet and co-founder of independent creative agency HeyBigMan.

Peter Gardom is a principal of TGAC one of the world’s leading cultural exposition designers. TGAC have worked on the London Olympics, the Millennium Dome, Ashmolean Museum Oxford, Penn Museum, Titanic Gallery and are advising World Expo 2020 Dubai.

Manick Govinda was a co-founder and principal for many years of ArtsAdmin the UK’s influential agency supporting independent and experimental arts. Prior to that he had many years’ experience of community development and community arts work in inner city London, including anti-racist initiatives.

Whitney Iles is founder of the violence and peace research enterprise Project 507 which specializes in work with young people in prisons and in the community – including parallel practice in Chicago.

Ksenija Kuzmina is Programme Head of Design Innovation at Loughborough University London in the Olympic Park and previously had the same role at Cranfield University’s. She is a world-leading practitioner of Service and Sustainable Design and on institutional collaboration in the design arena.

Camelia Muldermans is Learning and Impact Manager at Coin Street Community Builders, on the South Bank of the River Thames. She has 15 years’ experience of working with young people at risk. She is also a former artist-in-residence at South Bank Centre.

Rebecca Swift is an independent artistic associate/Creative Director closely affiliated with the integrated, community-based arts company Entelechy Arts – the UK Arts Council’s national lead partner on cultural inclusion. She has consulted and delivered workshops across Europe and the Nordic region and in the UK her work has driven major festivals along the River Thames.

Steven Vuong is a physicist awarded First Class at UCL and now currently on a Master’s Degree in Data at King’s College London. He is a former intern at IBM’s prestigious Deep Blue programme and has long experience of peer youth mentoring as well as a drugs counsellor to young people.
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The National Gallery

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