
INTERFACES

The important moments we shared in Cyprus.

It is with very heavy hearts that we left Harmony House in Cyprus. Funnily, my first thought was how



kitsch that name was, but the people, the experiences, the exchange, charged its meaning with a new energy.

Last July, my partner and I spent two weeks at the European University in Cyprus, for an artist residency aimed at redesigning our workshops for the next academic year. We succeeded in that, but what struck me was our enrichment as human beings.

I knew very little about Cyprus, its occupation, culture and food - and I also thought it was much closer geographically. Since then, we shared trips, dinners, discussions and, yes, beers, with the locals and came to terms with a reality of European refugees, which I would have never imagined so close. I was shocked.

Friends and tourists join us at the market in central Lefkosia, to tinker with our inventions.

Reaching out to people, showing, sharing, teaching became ever so important, to create those cultural bridges that we so desperately need.

Familiarity and understanding are key to broadening ones views and opinions, resulting in tolerance. The so called ‘put a face to a name’ is a game changer, as inconvenient truths cannot be easily ignored: it is my friend who lived through that, your wife, his father, etc.

Thankfully, we had a great opportunity to reach out to people, through our practice. We were given a wonderful space, an abandoned market in the centre of Lefkosia, where we showcased our DIY electronics. Colleagues and friends came along, but it was when the teens from the streets joined, that it started to matter. Shy at first, then curious and engaged, they came in waves, bringing in their friends, for a music experience they never had before.

With some broken English, I shared a nice moment with a young Bulgarian builder, who came to the country as an uneducated teenager and started working right away. “I want to find my path, like normal people” he said. I shared my story, and my pursuit of learning through sharing. We had a very nice, honest exchange, and I like to think that we learnt a lot from each other.



The fridge library - possibly the simplest, yet most effective way of sharing. Lefkosia, just outside the old city

“I want to find my path, like normal people”

It is because of meetings like this one, that I keep traveling, trying to discover people’s brilliance, and use my expertise as a tool of sharing. We must bring art to the people, in the streets, the shops, to the non-art spaces.

The cultural bridges which we can create are stronger than the most forward-thinking policy, because they are based on human sharing. Each trip bursts and boosts our bubble, each person we meet contributes to our lives. Personally, I went from not having a passport in 2013, to writing this blog from Thailand, part of a 2-month tour. The world is within reach, and its richness is beyond our most prosperous forecast. We need to bridge, move and keep sharing - people are brilliant.