

## Brexit at Ten: Hopes for the Arts and Humanities?

### Extended Programme

28–29 October, All Souls College and Mansfield College, University of Oxford

Please [register to attend the conference here](#).

2026 marks the tenth anniversary of the United Kingdom's referendum to leave the European Union.

A decade defined by political rupture, cultural disruption, and the slow unravelling of ties that had sustained creative and intellectual life across the continent. The consequences have been neither abstract nor confined: they have fallen most heavily on artists, educators, students, and cultural practitioners on both sides of the Channel. Musicians, visual artists, writers and filmmakers face severe restrictions on movement and collaboration; students no longer enjoy freedom of access to education across borders; and arts institutions on both sides have seen the networks and partnerships they depend upon contract sharply.

This conference brings together practitioners, legal experts, advocates and cultural leaders from across Europe and the UK — voices drawn from visual art, literature, music, publishing, museum practice, performing arts and human rights law — to take stock of what has been lost, to name what continues to be damaged, and above all to imagine and enact what can be rebuilt. It is a gathering not of mourning alone, but of practical purpose and shared resolve. The event is conceived as a space for honest reckoning, creative exchange, and the forging of new solidarities.

[The European Alliance of Academies](#) is a transnational network of art academies and cultural institutions across Europe, established to advocate for the freedom of the arts through new forms of cooperation and mutual solidarity. Founded in 2020 and now comprising over 70 member institutions across the continent, the Alliance has consistently stood alongside artists, writers, educators and cultural organisations wherever their freedom has been threatened. From Hungary and Slovakia to Serbia and Ukraine. It convenes conferences, launches open calls for residencies, supports cross-border artistic collaboration and speaks out collectively when cultural institutions or practitioners face political pressure or funding cuts. This conference on the impact of Brexit on arts and humanities collaboration is a natural expression of the Alliance's core mission: to keep European cultural life open, connected, and free.

In cooperation with the [Círculo de Bellas Artes \(Spain\)](#), [Akademie der Künste \(Germany\)](#) and [Royal Academy of Arts](#), all members of the European Alliance of Academies.

The conference will be hosted by **All Souls College** and **Mansfield College, Oxford**, institutions whose combined strengths in law, literature, humanities and public policy make them an ideal home for a gathering of this ambition and scope.

A selected panel is featured as part of the Alliance's flagship webinar series, ***Transformation of Cultural Policies***, co-hosted by The European Alliance of Academies, Círculo de Bellas Artes and leading European cultural institutions. The series is delivered within the framework of an EU-funded project, [Re:Create Europe. The Art of Resilience and Resistance: Empowering Artists and Cultural Professionals Tackling New Challenges in Europe](#), expanding the event's international visibility, institutional reach and long-term impact on cultural policy dialogue across Europe.

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28th October

Old Library, All Souls College

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|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:00–<br>09:30 | <i>Registration (Lodge, High Street entrance) &amp; Welcome Coffee/Tea (The Wharton Room)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 09:30–<br>09:45 | <p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Manos Tsangaris</b> — President of the European Alliance of Academies and the Akademie der Künste, Berlin</li> <li>■ <b>Marina Warner</b> — Writer, Professor of English and Creative Writing at Birkbeck College, Distinguished Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 09:45–<br>10:30 | <p><b>Look, Perchance to See: Reclaiming a Utopian Vision.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Esther Kinsky</b> — Writer, Literary translator</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Marion Döring</i> — Wim Wenders Foundation</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 10:30–<br>12:00 | <p><b>Panel: Living in Brexile: Estrangement, Art and Writing</b></p> <p>What does it mean for writers and artists, translators and scholars that the historic, lived connection with Europe has been severed? How does the political rupture affect the making of art, literature, and the pursuit of scholarship? Has the hunger to know one another been stifled? The contributors to this panel have long and varied knowledge of Europe; they will give their personal reflections on living in Brexile.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Patrick McGuinness</b> — Writer, Academic, Fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford.</li> <li>■ <b>A.E. Stallings</b> — Poet, Translator, Essayist, Oxford Professor of Poetry 2023-27</li> <li>■ <b>Jane and Louise Wilson</b> — RA, Artist Duo, Professor of Fine Art, Newcastle University and Keeper of the Royal Academy.</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator: Eliza Bonham Carter</i> — Curator &amp; Director of the Royal Academy Schools in London</p> |
| 12:00–<br>13:30 | <i>Sandwich Lunch and Group photo (The Wharton Room)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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13:30–  
15:30

## Panel: Barriers and Borders: Finding a Way Through

The decision to leave the EU purposefully raised many barriers, but it also laid many unforeseen obstacles in the way of artistic and intellectual exchanges and collaborations. What have been the consequences and are they insuperable? A publisher, a musician, an artist-philosopher and a film maker and historian will reflect on the effects on their different practices. They will describe their experiences, the stratagems to keep open the channels of communication and discuss what further measures are urgently needed.

- **Cécile Lee** — Publisher and Director of Les Fugitives
- **Emlyn Stam** — New European Ensemble
- **Eloise Fornieles** — Artist. British Academy postdoctoral fellow at the British School at Rome
- **Ian Christie** — Film historian and filmmaker

*Moderator: Iryna Yuferova* — Art Advisor, Cultural Strategist, National Academy of Arts of Ukraine

*\*This session will be streamed online as part of the [Re:Create Europe Webinar Series 2026](#).*

15:30–  
16:00

*Coffee/Tea Break (The Hall)*

16:00–  
18:00

## Café Climate-Café Channel:

Café Climate is an initiative of the Climate Group of the European Alliance of Academies and creates a space for open dialogue on the impact of climate crisis on everyday life, democracy, art and culture. In a relaxed café atmosphere, international experts, artists and the audience discuss various topics together at different tables:

**We particularly encourage students to join this “Café Channel”, but everyone is welcome to participate.**

### Table 1 A voyage to Antarctica

Remote yet crucial to the global climate system, Antarctica is a place most people will visit only in their imagination, perhaps through art, literature, or acts of making. What might such imaginative encounters make possible?

- **Katherine Collins** — interdisciplinary researcher at the University of Oxford and poet

*Moderator: Cécile Wajsbrot* — Writer, Translator. European Alliance of Academies Climate Group

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## Table 2 This Terrible Summer

A storytelling project documenting how extreme heat physically and psychologically disrupts our daily lives. Moving beyond climate statistics, we analyze personal narratives through three human lenses: bodily exhaustion, profound emotional distress, and shifting cognitive views of the future. Crucially, we investigate how this environmental trauma triggers affect displacement and collective anger, actively reshaping our socio-cultural landscape and fueling exclusionary political ideologies. Ultimately, the project reveals how climate crises act as internal catalysts, fundamentally rewriting our bodies, minds, and societies.

- **Jovana Popic** — Multimedia visual artist, PhD researcher in anthropology.  
European Alliance of Academies Climate Group

## Table 3 Art, Borders and a Changed Europe

How have Brexit and the full-scale invasion of Ukraine changed how we understand Europe and the possibilities for exchange across its borders? Starting from personal experience, we will explore how political change affects artistic work and international education. Looking at declining student exchanges and the barriers facing artists, we will ask who can still take part in European cultural life, who is increasingly left out. We will reflect on what solidarity across borders means today and how to sustain exchange and connected action amid growing uncertainty.

- **Susanne Clausen** — Artist, Professor of Fine Art at the University of Reading, Director of Reading International

*Moderator:* **Petja Ivanova** — Artist, Artistic researcher, Educator, Performer.  
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29th October

Sir Joseph Hotung Auditorium (Hands Building), Mansfield College

08:30–  
09:00

*Registration & Welcome Coffee/Tea (College Chapel)*

09:00–  
09:15

## Opening Remarks

- **Holk Freytag** — European Alliance of Academies

09:15–  
10:00

## Culture, UK and Europe: Hope in a Changing Landscape

Arts and culture are how we communicate across every kind of boundary, how we make sense of our world, and how we build new worlds. At a time when relationships between and within countries feel very unstable, Thangam will be outlining how culture always has and always will be the way through this

- **Thangam Debbonaire** — Author, Politician, Member of the House of Lords

*Moderator: Marina Warner* — Writer, Professor of English and Creative Writing at Birkbeck College, Distinguished Fellow of All Souls College

10:00–  
10:20

*Coffee/Tea Break (College Chapel)*

10:20–  
12:00

## Panel: Mobility, migration and rights: the impact of post-Brexit law on the arts and humanities

Migration is the most inflammatory issue in contemporary politics; freedom of movement- to work, to live, is an intrinsic right within the EU, and also provokes strong resistance in host communities. Brexit was in part a consequence of this widespread double antagonism to the 'stranger'. From the perspective of the law, human rights, languages, and history, the panel will consider the repercussions felt by researchers, educators, scholars, and discuss the prospects for coming generations and possibilities for the future.

- **Rana Dasgupta** — Novelist, Essayist
- **Jessica Simor** — Public and Constitutional Law lawyer
- **Neil Kenny** — Former Languages Lead, British Academy; Senior Research Fellow, All Souls College

*Moderator: Helen Mountfield* — Barrister practicing in administrative, human rights and equality law, Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford.

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12:00–  
12:15

## Final Remarks

- **Valerio Rocco Lozano** — Director of Círculo de Bellas Artes, Madrid.
- **Marina Warner** — Writer, Professor of English and Creative Writing at Birkbeck College, Distinguished Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford

12:15–  
13:00

*Sandwich Lunch (Old Hall)*

13:00–  
15:00

## Internal Meeting of the European Alliance of Academies

(Sir Joseph Hotung Auditorium, + hybrid participation)

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## Opening Remarks

**Manos Tsangaris** (b. 1956 in Düsseldorf) is a composer, drummer and installation artist who lives in Cologne and Berlin. From 1976 to 1983, he studied at the Musikhochschule Köln (Cologne University of Music) under Mauricio Kagel (composition, Neues Musiktheater/New Music Theatre) and Christoph Caskel (drums). Internationally, Tsangaris is considered one of the most important representatives of New Music Theatre. His works are regularly performed at festivals and events that include the Donaueschinger Musiktage (Donaueschingen Festival), the Wittener Tage für neue Kammermusik (Witten Days for New Chamber Music), the Belgrade International Theatre Festival (BITEF), the Musik-Biennale Berlin, the Biennale di Venezia, the Ultima Oslo Contemporary Music Festival, TonLagen – Dresden, Rainy Days Festival, Luxembourg, the Warschauer Herbst (Warsaw Autumn), ECLAT, Stuttgart and at theatre and opera venues in Cologne, New York, Mannheim, Dresden, Weimar and Berlin. In addition to musical compositions, he writes poetry and prose and creates installations and visual works.

From 2016 to 2024, Tsangaris and Daniel Ott directed the Münchener Biennale für Neues Musiktheater (Munich Biennale). In autumn 2024, he was commissioned by Wien Modern to perform the station theatre *Arnold Elevators* as part of “Schönberg 150”.

Teaching positions (et al.): appointment professor of composition at the Dresden University of Music Carl Maria von Weber (in 2009), visiting professor at the Norwegian Academy of Music, Oslo (2017–18). He founded the International Institute for Artistic Investigation (iike) in 2011 and conducts research in scenic anthropology. During the 2012–13 academic year, Tsangaris was an artist-in-residence at the Zurich University of the Arts. He gives courses and lectures worldwide.

Manos Tsangaris has received numerous awards and grants, including the Mauricio Kagel Music Prize from the Kunststiftung NRW in 2024. He has been a member of the Akademie der Künste's Music Section since 2009 and was its director from 2012 to 2021. In May 2024, he was elected president of the Akademie der Künste in Berlin. In doing so, he also took over the presidency of the European Alliance of Academies – a network currently numbering around 70 art academies and institutions in the EU, as well as in Norway and Great Britain, that stands up for freedom of the arts.

**Marina Warner** is a writer of cultural history, fiction and criticism. Her award-winning books explore myths, symbols and fairy tales. She has curated exhibitions, including *The Shelter of Stories* at Compton Verney (2025-2026), a show that explores the ideas in *Sanctuary: Ways of Telling, Ways of Dwelling* (2025). Her essays on literature and art are collected in *Signs & Wonders* (1994), *Forms of Enchantment: Writings on Art and Artists* (2018), and *Myth, Magic and Marvels* (forthcoming). She is Professor of English and Creative Writing at Birkbeck College, a Distinguished Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, a Fellow of the British Academy and an Honorary Fellow of the RA.

## Keynote: To Look, Perchance to See

**Esther Kinsky** is a German born poet, writer, and translator based in Vienna and Italy. She is the award winning author of numerous books of prose and poetry. A recurring theme of her writing is place and memory, and the ways landscape and place will bear and process traces of trauma, both natural and man made. Her most recent books in translation are „Rombo“, set in Friuli after the 1976 earthquake, and „Seeing Further“ set in rural Hungary.

**Marion Döring** started her professional career as a journalist. Between 1985 and 1988 she has worked as a press attaché for the "750 Years Anniversary Berlin 1987" and "Berlin - European Capital of Culture 1988". For 33 years she has been connected to the European Film Academy - since its foundation in 1988 and from 1996 until the end of 2020 as the Academy's director and producer of the European Film Awards. Since January 2021 she is a member of the Board of Directors of the Wim Wenders Foundation.

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## Panel: Living in Brexile: Estrangement, Art and Writing

**Patrick McGuinness** was born in Tunisia in 1968. His books include two novels, *The Last Hundred Days* (2011), longlisted for the Man Booker prize and shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award, the Gordon Burn Prize and the James Tait Black Prize, and winner of the Wales Book of the Year, the Writer's Guild Prize for Fiction and the Prix du premier roman étranger, and *Throw me to the Wolves* (2019), winner of the Encore Award; a memoir, *Other People's Countries* (2014), winner of the Duff Cooper Award and the Wales Book of the Year, and three books of poems, most recently *Blood Feather* (2023), shortlisted for the inaugural PEN/Heaney prize. He has also written a book about the Oxford behind the university city, *Real Oxford*, several academic books (most recently *Poetry and Radical Politics in fin de siècle France*, winner of the 2016 Gapper Prize for French Studies), and the translator of several books from French and Spanish, most recently, Gilles Ortlieb's *The Days Ration*, translated with Stephen Romer, winner of the Scott Moncrieff Prize for translation. In 2023, he was awarded the Prix Triennal du rayonnement des lettres belges for his contribution to Belgian literature.

**A.E. Stallings** is a poet, translator, and essayist. She is currently the Oxford Professor of Poetry. Her poems have been collected into *This Afterlife: Selected Poems* (2022), and appeared in several *The Best American Poetry* anthologies. She is a frequent contributor to *Poetry* and the *Times Literary Supplement*. Her most recent book, *Frieze Frame* (2025), is a brief history of poets and the marbles of the *Parthenon*.

**Jane and Louise Wilson** have been working as an artist duo in collaboration for over three decades since 1989, Their early works reflected on abandoned buildings to reveal a form of psychic architecture often imbued with the presence and ideology of the original occupants frequently exploring the mechanics of surveillance and including their research on biometrics, and FRT technology. Through carefully choreographed film installations, sound works and photography they have explored some of Europe's least accessible sites including a former Stasi Prison in former East Berlin, the British Houses of Parliament and the huge Star City complex in Moscow, a key site of the Russian Space Program. In 1996 they were awarded a DAAD artists scholarship in Berlin and Hanover. In 1999 they were nominated for The Turner Prize for their multi-screen installation *Gamma 1999*. The Wilson sisters have had held exhibitions in the UK and internationally in international group shows, including the Carnegie International (1999), Korean Biennial (2000),

Istanbul Biennial (2001), *Moving Pictures* at the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao (2003), and *Out of Time* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York (2006). Solo exhibitions have included *Suspending Time* (2010) at Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, *Tempo Suspenso*, CGAC, Santiago de Compostela; *The Toxic Camera* (2015) at Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester; *Conflict, Time, and Photography* (2015) at Tate Modern; *Sealander* (2017) at Focus Gallery, The John Paul Getty Museum; *Everything is Connected: Art and Conspiracy* (September 2018 – March 2019), The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. 'The Toxic Camera' Jane and Louise Wilson at Maureen Paley, London April – May 2022. 'Dreamtime TM' Jane and Louise Wilson, UCI University Art Gallery, Irvine, California, Jan-March 2023, "OUT OF THE BOX", Schaulager 9th June – 19th November 2023 Laurenz Foundation, Basel, Switzerland, ALTOGETHER Jane and Louise Wilson, 303 Gallery New York June 2025, 'Dendrophiles', Sculpture in the City, London June 2025, 'Performance of Entrapment' Bloomberg SPACE, London Mithraeum July 2025, Jane and Louise Wilson 'Countermeasures' February 6th – August 16th 2026, Skulpturenhalle Neuss, Dusseldorf, Germany. Jane Wilson was a former board member of DACS and former Tate Trustee. Louise Wilson is artist trustee of the New Curators and Chair of the Royal Academy Schools. Louise was a former board member of the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art. Jane and Louise are appointed as joint Professors of Fine Art at Newcastle University and Royal Academicians in 2018.

In June 2026 Louise Wilson (Jane and Louise Wilson RA) was elected as Keeper of the Royal Academy starting October 1st 2026.

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**Eliza Bonham Carter** is Curator & Director of the Royal Academy Schools in London, a position she has held since 2006, she previously Head of the Department of Fine Art at The University of Reading. Bonham Carter also taught at Loughborough School of Art and at De Montfort University. Bonham Carter was Trustee then Vice Chair of Camden Art Centre 2015 - 2024. She was a member of the Faculty of Fine Art at the British School at Rome (BSR), from 2007-11, a member of the Council of the BSR 2011-2022 and acting Chair of the Faculty of Fine Art 2021-2022. She served as Trustee to the Artists General Benevolent Institution and currently the Charlotte Bonham Carter Trust.

Eliza Bonham Carter studied Fine Art at Ravensbourne College of Art and Design and completed her MA at the Royal College of Art. She was the Abbey Major Scholar at the British School at Rome 1988-9 and has exhibited her work widely.

### Panel: Barriers and Borders: Finding a Way Through

**Cécile Lee** is a literary translator and the founder of the independent press Les Fugitives, which publishes award-winning contemporary French, English and American authors of fiction and narrative non-fiction, with a particular focus on women's voices in translation. As a commissioning editor and creative director for Les Fugitives since 2014, she has developed a critically acclaimed list of over 40 titles, including 30 in translation from French. Prior to this, she worked for several years as a bookseller, as well as for publisher John Calder, literary agent Judy Daish, and author and broadcaster Clive James. She is a postgraduate in English Literature and translation from the Sorbonne, Paris III, and holds an MA in modern French studies from Birkbeck College, University of London. A French national, she was born and grew up in Niort, Nouvelle Aquitaine, in a monolingual family. She lives and works in London, with her family.

**Emlyn Stam** is a violist, artistic director, curator and researcher whose work explores the relationship between historical memory and contemporary creation. Moving between early twentieth-century performance traditions and the music of today, his practice asks how sound carries cultural memory across rupture, loss and reinvention.

As Artistic Director of New European Ensemble, he develops projects that place new music in dialogue with literature, philosophy, politics and history, seeking forms of performance that connect artistic experimentation with wider cultural questions. His work as a performer and scholar is shaped by the conviction that contemporary music is not a break from tradition, but its most urgent continuation.

His current writing and recording projects continue this exploration, focusing on musical memory, interpretation, and the afterlives of European cultural traditions in the present.

**Dr Eloise Fornieles** is an artist and British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the The British School at Rome. Her current practice-led, fine art research explores the intersection of historical and contemporary expressions of political protest in Rome: ancient graffiti, the talking statues and contemporary transfeminist artists and collectives. These diverse practices are linked by the opportunities they provided for marginalized subjects to speak to power.

Fornieles has delivered papers at the Slade School of Fine Art, The Bartlett School of Architecture, Lucerne University of Applied Science and Art, The Hungarian University of Fine Art, The British School at Rome and Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Roma and was awarded bursaries for research at Yale University in 2020 and Newcastle University 2025. Fornieles recently published 'Artist Profile: Il Principe' for e-Flux Criticism and has extensive experience exhibiting and performing internationally in galleries, museums, project spaces and festivals. In 2022 Fornieles founded on-profit organisation Work in Progress Studios in Athens, Greece.

**Ian Christie** was vice-president and later president of Europa Cinemas, the EU-funded network of cinemas that prioritise screening European productions - from which the UK long benefited before Brexit. This engagement began while he was head of regional programming and distribution at the British Film Institute, 1976-93. Known for books on Scorsese, Powell and Pressburger, and early

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Soviet cinema, he is now Emeritus Professor of Film and Media History at Birkbeck, University of London, a Fellow of the British Academy and Visiting Tutor at the National Film and Television School. He was Gresham College's first professor in the history of film and media between 2017-21, with his lectures available online at [www.gresham.ac.uk/speakers/professor-ian-christie](http://www.gresham.ac.uk/speakers/professor-ian-christie).

Having scripted and co-produced *The Last Machine*, Terry Gilliam's 1994 series for BBC Television marking the centenary of moving pictures, he returned to production with an essay-film about Eisenstein in Mexico, *A Trip to Tetlapayac*, shown internationally at festivals in 2023 and *Voices from the Chorus*, about the fate of the early Soviet avant-garde, shown in Brussels and Bologna in 2026. [www.ianchristie.org](http://www.ianchristie.org)

**Iryna Yuferova** is a Berlin-based art advisor and cultural strategist working across European and Ukrainian cultural contexts. She advises the President of the National Academy of Arts of Ukraine and represents the Academy within the European Alliance of Academies. With a background spanning cultural institutions, contemporary art and international communications, her work focuses on cultural cooperation and the ways art and cultural institutions can sustain connections across borders and through periods of political and social transformation.

### Café Climate-Café Channel

**Dr Katherine Collins** is an interdisciplinary researcher based at the University of Oxford. With her longstanding collaborator, Dr Joanna Wheeler, she has curated artistic research encounters exploring the possibility of 'more-than-human' stories. Makers have engaged with entities such as ice, water, rock, scientific data and equipment, animal life, historical objects and technologies. She discusses this research in the article 'Towards a "wire-carrying current": the more-than-human and Antarctica', forthcoming in *Magma Poetry's* special issue *The Antarctic*.

With Wheeler, she is the author of *Story Making as Collaborative Artistic Research* (Policy Press, forthcoming 2027), a monograph about their practice that considers the material, social, and ethical consequences of collective making.

At the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing, she co-convenes the Southern Lives Network with Professor Elleke Boehmer. The Network brings together writers and scholars in the oceanic humanities, postcolonial and Global South studies, and polar studies to explore how the high southern latitudes are imagined through life-writing. In 2024, with Boehmer, she co-edited the essay collection *Life Writing and the Southern Hemisphere: Texts, Spaces, Resonances* (Bloomsbury Academic).

Her current project, *The Bone Words*, begins with an adult female humpback whale killed in a ship strike. Through poetry, artists' books, ink diffusions, asemic writing, and model-making, the works interrogate the concept of articulation as it applies to reassembling a skeleton and within language. Her poems have appeared in *Propel Magazine* and its subsequent anthology, *bath magg*, *The Rialto*, *Finished Creatures*, *Shearsman Magazine*, and *Anthropocene Poetry*, among others. In 2022, she won the Rosamond Prize with composer Christopher Cook, and in 2023 she was highly commended in the Plough Prize.

**Cécile Wajsbrot** was born in Paris in 1954. She is a writer and a translator., living both in Paris and in Berlin. A member of the Akademie der Künste in Berlin she co-founded the Climate Working Group at the European Alliance of Academies.

**Jovana Popić** is a Berlin-based visual artist and PhD researcher in digital anthropology and culture, born in Zadar, Croatia. She began her formal art studies at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade under the Serbian State Scholarship for Science and Art Talents. In 2006, she received the Friedrich Naumann Foundation Scholarship and later the President's Prize toward her master's degree under Rebecca Horn at the Universität der Künste Berlin. Other awards include the Sennheiser's Future Audio Artist Award, the MIA Milano photo award, the Ulrich and Burga Knispel Foundation award, and grants from the Trust for Mutual Understanding, the Goethe-Institut, the Karl Hofer Gesellschaft, the IFA Institute,

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the Kingdom of Norway, and various other artist residencies. Exhibited across Europe, the United States, and Asia, her current doctoral research bridges her creative practice with the Cognitive Dimension of Experience, exploring how human meaning-making and agency are transformed within immersive digital architectures

**Susanne Clausen** is a German/British artist and Professor of Fine Art at the University of Reading, where she is Artistic Director of Reading International. Trained at the Academy of Fine Arts Munich and the Slade School of Fine Art, London, she works across drawing, video, installation, and performance, frequently within the collaborative framework Szuper Gallery with artist Pavlo Kerestey.

She has worked and taught across Europe and beyond, including in Munich, London, Zurich, Helsinki, and Tokyo. With Dorothee Richter she co-founded the PhD programme in Curating at Zurich University of the Arts. Exhibitions include Kunsthalle Helsinki, Kunsthalle Wien, Kunstmuseum Thun, the Ludwig Museum Budapest, the Whitechapel Art Gallery, the ICA, and the South London Gallery.

Recent work has been made possible by European and international funding, including the EU's Culture Bridges programme in Ukraine, Culture Moves Europe, and a residency at the Milvus Artistic Research Center in Sweden. Her two-screen installation *Proxies* re-stages a German radio interview broadcast during the full-scale invasion of Ukraine as a filmed puppet performance, and has been shown in Miami, Kyiv, Knislinge, and Reading. In 2027 she holds the Abbey Fellowship at the British School at Rome.

**Petja Ivanova** is an artist, researcher, and performer from Bulgaria, working through her Studio for Poetic Futures & Speculative Ecologies. Her practice moves between somatic intelligence, planetary consciousness, and technological critique, cultivating new forms of knowing rooted in vulnerability, the spirit of the living world, and embodied care. Through installation, performance, and text, she asks: what if softness were a system of knowledge?

## Opening Remarks

**Holk Freytag** was born in 1943. He studied theatre arts and musicology in New York and Cologne. In 1975 he founded the Schlosstheater in Moers, Germany. From 1988 to 2001 he was artistic director of the Wuppertal theatre and from 2001 to 2009 he led the Staatsschauspiel in Dresden. He then took over the direction of the Bad Hersfeld Theatre Festival for five years. From 2017 to 2022 he was president of the Saxon Academy of Fine Arts. For more than a decade he led the directors group within the German Theatre Association. In addition to these assignments he worked as a stage director in many German theatres. In 1981 he was the first German director to work at the Israel National Theatre in Tel Aviv. For more than thirty years he taught at the universities of Düsseldorf and Dresden. He is a member of the German Academy of Performing Arts as well as the International Theatre Institut (ITI).

## Keynote Culture, UK and Europe: Hope in a Changing Landscape

**Thangam Debbonaire** is CEO of UK Opera Association, chair of the judges for Women's Prize for Non-Fiction 2026, CEO of Red Frock Ltd, which provides strategic advice for arts and culture organisations and businesses and a Labour Peer. She has a particular focus on the political economy of arts and culture.

## Panel: Mobility, migration and rights: the impact of post-Brexit law on the arts and humanities

**Rana Dasgupta** is a British novelist and essayist. He is the author of "Solo" and "Capital: A Portrait of Delhi in the Twenty-First Century." His latest book, "After Nations: The Making & Unmaking of a World Order" offers a global history of the nation-state, and a diagnosis of the large-scale transition engulfing the world today. He is the recipient of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, the Windham-

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Campbell Prize, the Prix Émile Guimet de Littérature Asiatique and the The Ryszard Kapuściński Award. He lives in France.

**Jessica Simor KC** is a leading public law and human rights barrister with over thirty years' experience at the intersection of UK constitutional law, European law and regulatory policy. She has appeared in landmark cases before the UK Courts, European Court of Human Rights and Court of Justice of the European Union, including the major litigation surround Brexit and the referendum and has worked in the European Commission and the

Strasbourg Court. A founding member of Matrix Chambers, Consultant Editor of Human Rights Practice and an active participant in the 'Remain' campaign, she brings a uniquely informed perspective on the legal, constitutional and regulatory consequences of Brexit ten years on.

**Neil Kenny** is Professor of French at the University of Oxford and Senior Research Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford. He has collaborated with many stakeholders on initiatives and policy recommendations designed to increase the uptake of language-learning in the UK across all sectors of education. Much of this work has been through the British Academy (where he was Lead Fellow for Languages 2017-23). His own research focuses on early modern French literature, on which he has published widely.

**Helen Mountfield KC** is Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford, and a founder member of Matrix Chambers. In 2016, she was leading counsel for the "People's Challenge" interveners in the "Article 50" challenge in the Supreme Court, which established that parliamentary authority was needed if the government was going to take Britain out of the EU. Unfortunately, parliament passed the Brexit legislation anyway.

## Final Remarks

**Valerio Rocco Lozano** has been the director of Círculo de Bellas Artes since 2019, is a doctor in Philosophy and professor at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, where he was Vice Dean.

He researches the influence of the Roman world on modern political ideologies and has published *La vieja Roma en el joven Hegel* (The Old Rome in Young Hegel).

A co-founder of several journals, he is Task Leader of the European research project FAILURE.

He is member of boards and councils of institutions such as Fundación Banco Sabadell and Teatro Real, among others.

He is a Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy and of the Order of Arts and Letters of France.

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