

Brexit at Ten: Hopes for the Arts and Humanities?

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

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.

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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.

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.

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

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28th October. All Souls College

09:00– 09:30	Registration & Welcome Coffee/Tea
09:30– 09:45	Opening Remarks • Manos Tsangaris — President of the European Alliance of Academies and the Akademie der Künste, Berlin • Marina Warner — Writer, Professor of English and Creative Writing at Birkbeck College, Distinguished Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford
09:45– 10:30	Look, Perchance to See: Reclaiming a Utopian Vision. • Esther Kinsky — Writer, Literary translator Moderator: Marion Döring — Wim Wenders Foundation
10:30– 12:00	Panel: Living in Brexile: Estrangement, Art and Writing • Patrick McGuinness — Writer, Academic, Fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford. • A.E. Stallings — Poet, Translator, Essayist, Oxford Professor of Poetry 2023-27 • Jane and Louise Wilson — Artists. Professors of Fine Art, University of Newcastle Moderator: Eliza Bonham Carter — Curator & Director of the Royal Academy Schools in London
12:00– 13:30	Sandwich Lunch

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13:30– 15:30	Panel: Barriers and Borders: Finding a Way Through • 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 <i>*This session will be streamed online as part of the <u>Re:Create Europe Webinar Series 2026</u></i>
15:30– 16:00	Coffee/Tea Break
16:00– 18:00	Café Climate-Café Channel: We particularly encourage students to join this “Café Channel”, but everyone is welcome to participate. Table 1 A voyage to Antarctica • Katherine Collins — interdisciplinary researcher at the University of Oxford and poet Moderator: Cécile Wajsbrot — Writer, Translator. European Alliance of Academies Climate Group Table 2 This Terrible Summer Jovana Popic — Multimedia visual artist, PhD researcher in anthropology. European Alliance of Academies Climate Group Table 3 • Susanne Clausen — Artist, Professor of Fine Art at the University of Reading, Director of Reading International Moderator: Petja Ivanova — Artist, Artistic researcher, Educator, Performer. European Alliance of Academies Climate Group

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29th October. Mansfield College

08:30– 09:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee/Tea
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 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
10:20– 12:00	Panel: Mobility, migration and rights: the impact of post-Brexit law on the arts and humanities 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.
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

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