



Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures
Fondation Euro-Méditerranéenne Anna Lindh pour le Dialogue entre les Cultures

مؤسسة أناليند الأورو-متوسطية للحوار بين الثقافات

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The Cross Border Arts Project in Lebanon, Israel and Palestine Begins

On 16 July 2007, four Euro-Mediterranean artists - **Florence Aigner**, photographer, Belgium; **Said Ait El Moumen**, dancer, Morocco; **Isabel Andreu Roglà**, video artist, Spain; **Secil Yaylali**, visual artist, Turkey - and their coach, **Marianne Cosserat**, Belgium/France, began a month-long journey to one of the most difficult conflict areas in the world. They will travel to Lebanon, Israel and the Gaza Strip in an endeavor to explore the possibility of using artistic expression as a means of dealing with memories of conflict and war, on the first anniversary of the Summer 2006 War.

The Cross Border Arts Project is part of the **Build a Bridge Campaign**, launched by the Anna Lindh Foundation in the aftermath of the Summer 2006 War during which hundreds of people died and thousands were left without shelter and basic provision. While humanitarian aid to war-stricken areas generally attempts to meet material needs, our campaign focuses on a different kind of reconstruction, using artistic expression to reflect in a subjective way the situation of a society coming out of a major conflict, but as well to encourage social engagement, and to bring psychological relief.

In each country the four Euro-Mediterranean Artists will meet local artists, setting up workshops with local youth and communities affected by the military operations in the area. At the end of the project, the produced work will be presented during an event open to the general public. Special thanks to the local coordinators in the three countries: the Goethe-Institut Beirut in Lebanon, Oranim Academic College of Education in Galilee, Israel, and General Union of Cultural Centres in Gaza, Palestine.

One of the final outcomes of this ambitious project will be an international exhibition on the work of the Cross Border Arts Group, which will tour from Italy to France and the United Kingdom in autumn 2007 and winter 2008.

The partners involved in this project are: the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue Between Cultures; Literature Across Frontiers (United Kingdom); Solidarité Laïque (France); Goethe Institute Beirut (Lebanon) and Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto (Italy).

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