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**Engaging with Communities
through Performative Interventions in Public Spaces**

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Engaging with Communities: Creative Pedagogies"
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– Abstract –

The Pecha Kucha slides present excerpts from crossover arts projects in public spaces, which since 2009 have been, and are still being, carried out as field studies in European and Asian cultural spheres by students from various disciplines and various universities. The specific challenge for the participating persons is the unpredictability of location-specific and community-related situations. Going "into the field" without knowing what will happen requires openness and flexibility, a willingness to become involved in the unknown; it also requires reciprocal interest, in the original sense of the word (from the Latin roots *inter*, "between", and *esse*, "to be"), a special kind of alertness in an "in-between" situation. On the basis of these fundamental dispositions, the field studies explore the question of how encounters in communities in various cultural spheres can be initiated and shaped through performative interventions.

The space in which crossover arts projects are developed in a joint process with the participants is **Lab Inter Arts (LIA)**, an international platform for project development in the field of performative arts, headed by Helmi Vent. The locations of the field studies selected for this Pecha Kucha presentation include foyers of buildings, streets and department stores in various large cities, as well as parks and river landscapes.

Change makers create and are created in a process of interaction that has its own dynamic. At the practical level of encounter, the performative interventions generate sound pieces, singing, dances, sculptures, moving images, texts. At the level of communication and reflection, they generate new forms of communication and discourse as well as new questions. At the creative level, they generate performative improvisations and compositions. And if, beyond all this, a project leads to new processes of thoughtfulness and reflection, if changes in previous customs and behaviors on the part of the participating persons become perceptible in a new transcultural community practice, then the performative interventions have been "worthwhile".

To sum up LIA's community practice, its discourses, evaluations of audiovisual documentations and supplementary textual studies: It concerns the creation of spheres of experience that foster community-building and relationship-building through crossover arts (not only in institutions of education) for people of all ages, origins, genders, and religions; it involves finding meaning in such relationship-building experiences to promote a thoughtful co-existence of groups of people in their respective specific life contexts. Not least, it generates insights and realizations that make it possible for arts-oriented community practice – as in the case of the Lab Inter Arts projects presented – to be seen as a part of cross-cultural living on our planet.