



Initiatives of Change International Conference Centre, Caux, Switzerland

PROGRAMME SUPPLEMENTS – CAUX CONFERENCES 2008

Background

Renewal Arts is an international network of artists and arts enthusiasts from different disciplines, cultures and faiths who share the conviction that art can be a positive force for changing our lives, strengthening community ties and impacting the world around us. Our vision is to enable and inspire artists and lovers of art to play their part in creating a society that is just, generous and understanding.

Currently over 700 individuals from about 30 countries participate in the *Renewal Arts* network.

The *Renewal Arts* network aims to:

- Offer opportunities to artists and lovers of art to explore the arts as a catalyst for renewal
- Enable people from different cultures, faiths and walks of life to experience art's transforming power
- Create a safe space for artists to share with each other about their artistic and spiritual journeys
 - To encourage artists to present and produce events of artistic excellence.

Further information: www.renewalarts.net



Initiatives of Change

3 – 10 August 2008

Renewal Arts Forum 2008: Can Artists Help Mend a Broken World?

Programme Supplement (Version of 5 June 2008)

Introduction

Can artists, and those who are passionate about the arts, make a difference in times of war, violence, devastation and hunger?

At *Renewal Arts* we recognize that art can challenge and transform the way people think and behave – that is why we will be using the upcoming Forum to explore these questions together.

This is your invitation to journey with artists from different cultures and faiths in creative workshops, discussions and performances and to discover, along the way, how art can be used to help mend our broken world.

During the Forum you will have plenty of opportunities to share your experiences, to learn new skills, to explore your creative instincts, and return home with new “tools” to help you impact your community and the world around you.

This supplement is part of the general programme of the International Caux Conferences 2008, which can be downloaded at www.caux.ch/2008

Renewal Arts Forum 2008: Can Artists Help Mend a Broken World?

International Conference in Caux, Switzerland, 3 August (16.45) – 10 August (noon) 2008

Aims

The Renewal Arts Team will endeavour to inspire you to use art's transforming power to help heal brokenness in your community, to build bridges between cultures, to belong to something bigger that is all the richer for everyone's contributions.

Who Should Attend?

- Those who wish to meet other artists, watch performances, engage in conversations and participate in workshops that will leave you feeling motivated and inspired to create art.
- Those who desire to reaffirm the value of art in your life and the lives of others.

Previous Conference Participants Said

"...it was like attending a great banquet and not being able to sample all that was on the table!"

Renewal Arts Forum 2002 participant.

"Renewal Arts Forums have given me the opportunity to play outside Serbia, to feel hopeful that we Serbians can and do contribute to peace and arts in the world... I see my music as a way of serving others."

Svetlana Stojanovic-Kutlaca, Serbia

"At these Forums I can concentrate on my music without being in competition or needing to manage every detail. There's freedom in that. Touching people with music is a real gift – as they respond, I'm reminded of the wholesome perspective I love and refreshed with enthusiasm."

Alan George, Viola, Fitzwilliam String Quartet, UK

"I understand how Caux works – it is like a great big Maori meeting house where everyone helps each other and shares the work."

Aroha Crowchild, New Zealand & Canada

"I felt connected to so many people... A rapport with artists who have been so gracious and a rapport with those who appreciate the arts."

Pauline Warjri, India

Typical Daily Schedule

07.30 – 08.00	Reflections/Meditations
08.00 – 08.45	Breakfast
09.00 – 11.00	Workshops
11.15 – 12.30	Conversations – Plenary
12.30 – 13.15	Lunch
13.15 – 14.30	Free/Quiet Time
15.45 – 16.30	Refreshments
16.30 – 18.30	Artistic Encounters/Films
19.00 – 19.45	Dinner
20.00 – 22.00	Evening Programme
22.00 until?	Late Nite Films!

Meditations A time for quietness and reflection. Different styles of meditation will be offered to meet the varied needs of our multi-cultural and multi-faith participants.

Workshops Opportunities to explore week-long interactive workshops in numerous art forms – theatre, dance, music, visual arts, literary arts (for detailed descriptions see pages 3-4).

Conversations Every day the entire Forum convenes for interviews with artists, complemented with musical interludes followed by discussion and questions from all the participants.

Arts a la Carte In the afternoon there is a choice of hour long recitals, performances and seminars to engage the mind and spirit.

Artistic Encounters Our own variation on master classes offered by numerous artists involved in the ongoing activities of Renewal Arts.

Evening Programmes

A rich variety of performances spanning all art forms, presented either in the Caux Theatre or Great Hall.

Application, Costs, Visas

Please consult the main conference programme for the costs of participation and the application form. This can be obtained at the address below, or on-line at www.caux.ch/2008.

All *Renewal Arts Forum* participants are encouraged to contribute an additional CHF 75 to offset direct administrative costs to *Renewal Arts International*. This can be paid on arrival in Caux.

For those needing Swiss visas, please remember to apply at least ten weeks prior to the conference, i.e. before the end of April. For those travelling overland and needing visas, please remember to apply for a double-entry Schengen visas from one of the Schengen country embassies.

Contact and Further Information

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For information about the venue, the cost of participation and *Initiatives of Change*: Please consult the general conference programme downloadable at www.caux.ch/2008

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RENEWAL ARTS FORUM WORKSHOPS

1. EXPRESSIVE MOVEMENT & CONTEMPORARY DANCE – Shari Repasz (USA)

Expressing ideas through movement within the body's capacity. Being in tune with our bodies as we explore movement in reaction to our surroundings and ourselves. We will use the tools of movement, dance technique, physical expression as well as our personal and collective experiences to create a work or body of works together. Sessions will also incorporate Pilates & Stretch and Strengthen. Maximum 15 participants

2. MUSIC & CREATIVITY: Natural Elements in the Creation of Ideas and the Creative Music Ensemble – Ben Schwendener (USA)

Music, Natural Laws and Creative Expression; Understanding and developing ideas through musical composition and improvisation. Creative expression can be considered one of choice: elements or pre-established systems or methodologies. This workshop explores the concept of natural elements and objective principles as 'tools' used to bring ideas to fruition with The Creative Music Ensemble. Open to musicians on any instrument and at any level wanting to work with and create music for a diverse ensemble. Maximum 12 participants

3. ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY – Yousef Khanfar (Palestine/USA)

Photography is a language to express our feelings, capture the essence of an experience and create visual poetry that connects all of us. This workshop wishes to strengthen your abilities to see, capture powerful images, convey your feelings, design visual images to expand your imagination and refine your personal vision. We will deepen our confidence in all aspects of working with our photographic skills, using light, composition, exposures, editing, and sequencing to create evocative images and metaphors.

This workshop blends a photographic adventure with a soul journey. Our time is divided between immersing ourselves in photographing our daily life, engaging in stimulating photo discussions, and linking what you see and what you feel. Daily assignments put classroom techniques into practice and take advantage of the stunning light and colors of Caux. Participants leave at the end of this workshop with more dynamic images, a greater awareness of their strengths, new technical skills, and an enhanced sensitivity to light, color and design. Maximum 25 participants

4. RHYTHM & LIFE: African Drumming – Paul Agbih (Nigeria/Germany)

In nature there is Rhythm. If we can listen very carefully, there is rhythm in working and relaxing, in walking and talking, in the streets and roads, in the mountains, forest and seas. Discover your own feeling and trust for rhythm by learning how to play different West African percussions like Udu, Akwakwa, Agogo, Shekere, Ekpoko and of course Djembe and Sakara. You find your own rhythm and hold on to it yet with an open ear for the others, you play together like an orchestra. Although drumming is an individual work, the sound of it is much richer and finer when more people come together and play as a community. Maximum 12 participants

5. FROM CHAOS TO HARMONY – Therese Bellut (France)

Using original sound instruments, accessible to all in a relaxed and playful atmosphere... To create HARMONY WITH ONE ANOTHER and discover one's marvelous, potential and often unsuspected CREATIVITY... To learn to listen in depth while having fun, to put one's dreams, emotions and inner images into SOUND. DISCOVER THE MUSICIAN in yourself by simply playing like a small child. Playful communication with musical instruments. It is for everyone... playing music full of 'listening' and of respect. Maximum 12 participants

6. POETRY IN PERFORMANCE – Grazyna Canevall (Sweden)

In this workshop we work with poetry around the subject "The Broken World". We write our own material and explore the universal language of poetry. Then we work towards a poetic performance with the material we have written. Word, music and movement will interact with each other in this performance. Maximum 10 participants

7. IMPROVISATION FOR THEATRE – Elinor Johnsson-Commedia Gillet (Sweden)

Improvisational theatre is theatre without a script – everything is created in the moment. Through different exercises and games, we will train our spontaneity and learn how to use our imagination. It is all about being open to impulses from your partners and from the audience to create and develop different situations. Together we will build up small scenes and stories. You don't need special training to play with improvisation – everybody is welcome regardless of whether you have theatre experience or have never set foot upon a stage. It's just a matter of daring to jump into the unknown!

Maximum 15 participants

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RENEWAL ARTS FORUM WORKSHOPS

8. SOUL OF MAKING, COMMUNITY IN CLAY – Tasha Stevens-Vallecillo (UK)

The workshops proposed, shade under the umbrella of what I call dialogic social sculpture. Whereby art is happening to form a sculpture created through a dialogic process which echo's the essence of what is needed to "Mend Our Broken World". Different people with different cultural backgrounds, coming together for a common cause, speaking and sharing knowledge, communicating ideas, coming up with the best solutions. Creating clay visual representations of the solutions together through interacting sensitively, with one another, the material and myself. Maximum 12 participants

9. INSIDE OUT: Dramatic Workshop – Darren Raymond (UK)

Dramatic workshop where the ownership of language is at root. Using issues taken from classical, contemporary, new and original writing It allows it's participants to create brand new pieces of work through improvisation. It embraces young people from the community, those at risk of offending; those whose creative interaction may not have always been an easy option and those who THINK they can not act! It's FUN and TRANSFORMING. Maximum 15 participants

10. PAINTING FROM WITHIN – Gerd Ekdahl (Sweden)

The workshop begins with a meditation where we listen and share in the same impulse with which we paint. People who have never painted before in their lives can discover the hidden artist in themselves. Maximum 15 participants

11. PUPPET THEATRE FOR CHILDREN – Sara Solblomma and Morgan Tolsén-Commedia Gillet (Sweden)

Age: from 4 years old. A workshop for children where they get to build simple but very expressive puppets and make a little play.