



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Cultural rights and artistic creation in public space

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This MOOC takes a closer look at the relationships forged with local residents, audiences and, more generally, the people that artists encounter in the spaces they use.

Creative contexts are evolving, public space is changing, and so are the ways in which artists use it. We've seen it recently, as health and safety restrictions have led to many changes in how artists work in public space.

Today, many artists are wanting to reinvent the way they relate to the people around them. They also want to be part of ecological transitions and on a wider scale, democratic transitions.

Cultural rights offer a range of questions to help them take on these new goals.

You are an artist, cultural operator or more generally a player involved in public space. You know how complex it can be to work in these spaces and to be in touch with the local residents. This MOOC gets you to explore a number of issues:

How do you develop participatory approaches that take into account the diversity of individuals and communities?

How do you write and design a project based on a complex environment?

How do you design your creation as a moment in the life of a shared public space?

Many artists are looking to reinvent their relationship with spaces or with the people with whom they work. Public space is also a political space in which the artist has a part to play, and holds a place with or among the other people who act in or occupy the public space.

It's not just about works of art that come and go. There is a form of relationship in these spaces that offers something for a brief moment, but which will leave a trace, a memory, or which will at least bring out some form of narrative.

Creating a public space is also a way of making forms visible and highlighting them, of inhabiting these public spaces. There are lots of different ways of inhabiting public space, whether for people from different communities, different backgrounds, and different social statuses. Public space is obviously a complex place, but it demonstrates the need to be with others, and thesis where the question of acting and creating a public space is important.

FAI-AR supports future generations of artists.

For me, opening up artistic creation to the question of inhabiting a territory, of working with it, is something that some people are already doing, but still requires a lot of bridge-building between the traditional production-creation-distribution model, and territorial initiatives.

As we can see today, public spaces are changing and evolving, sometimes rapidly with no turning back. Creating a public space, means considering these spaces in all their aspects, in all their possibilities.

As we saw with COVID, overnight, public spaces closed. The same goes for security issues. What will tomorrow bring when it comes to democratic issues? Public spaces can't just be seen as spaces for creation. They are also political spaces that prompt us to consider the others with whom we work, act and share these spaces.

Public spaces are about the need to be with others, and this is what the artist takes on, or tells the story of, in the way they create in these spaces.

Today, young companies and artists are working with production-creation-distribution models that are based on traditional cultural policy models, but which are showing their limitations in terms of distribution, production and aesthetics in general.

On the other hand, there are so-called «territory-based» projects, which today are sometimes imposed more than desired, and are sometimes ill-suited and poorly considered in the commissions they are given.

For me, the challenge is to reconcile these two worlds. One is the question of inhabiting a public space, of seizing the political dimension of a public space. And the other is the work of an artist to express it through issues and forms that are subject-specific, artistic, literary and dramaturgical.

It's the link between these two fields that seems important to me and where I think that cultural rights can support and accompany these approaches.

This MOOC is an invitation to seize cultural rights so that you can develop your own tools, your own individual and collective resources for navigating this changing world.