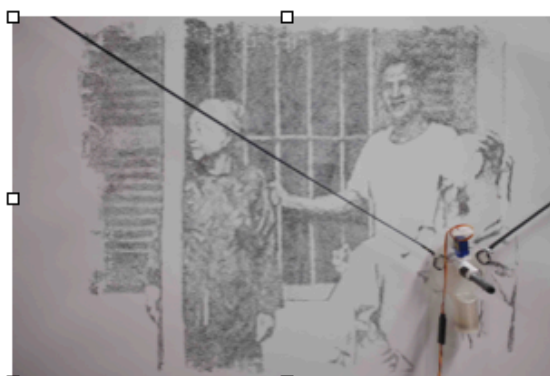




Press contact: Berta Corredor  
berta.corredor@openearthfoundation.org  
+32 (0)478093622

## « REOPENING BOXES: Take 1 »



**What:** REOPENING BOXES Opening of the Exhibition & Talk

**When:** Thursday October 8th

6-7 pm Talk

7-8 pm Opening & Reception

**Where:** LaVallée, Rue Adolphe Lavallée 39, 1080 Bruxelles\*

(\*Parking available)

### **About REOPENING BOXES exhibition**

Following its objective of boosting cultural exchanges, Open Earth Foundation, organised during this summer at LaVallée, the Residence Program 'REOPENING BOXES'. It was a challenge, since the severity of Covid-19 had imposed several restrictions to mobility. Nevertheless, there were dozens of applicants. Art needs to breath, art needs space and visibility.

Stephan Balleux, Belgian visual artist and teacher at the Royal Academy of the Arts of Brussels leaded a pluri-disciplinary team to screen applications and choose the beneficiaries and now



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curates the exhibition. *"The first residents who exhibit in this opus of "REOPENING BOXES - Take 1" were those able to make themselves available out of confinement in Belgium, and yet these artists have one thing in common: they have an artistic practice which help us to look at the world with other codes, with other conceptual tools and especially from another position,"* states Balleux.

Reopening Boxes!' residency was developed together with *LaVallée* and *The Gabarron Foundation* and counted with the collaboration of *The Spanish Embassy in Brussels*, *The Instituto Cervantes*, *Martin's Atelier* & *The International Yehudi Menuhim Foundation*

Since the Covid situation is expected to improve, the selected artists will have the possibility of exhibiting their work in 2021 in Spain hosted by *The Gabarron Foundation*.

### « REOPENING BOXES: TAKE 1 » TALKING WITH THE ARTISTS

Before the Opening of the exhibit, OEF and LaVallée will organise a short debate focused on the future of the creative sector. Artists, associations, and institutions will converse with the public about the difficulties that creators have experienced during the confinement, the role that culture plays to help us through the crisis, and how best to confront the uncertainty and shape the future.

#### SPEAKERS:

1. **Claire Ducène**, member of the FAP - *Federation des Arts Plastiques*;
2. **Pedro Velázquez**, Deputy Chief of Division *Creative Europe*;
3. **Gerardo Salinas**, Theatre Director and programmer at *KVS Theatre* (TBC)

#### MODERATORS:

1. **Stephan Ballieux**, curator of the residence program and exhibition
2. **Angel Carro**, Founder of Open Earth Foundation

### « REOPENING BOXES: TAKE 1 » THE EXHIBITION

Open Earth Foundation and La Vallée are happy to announce the opening of the exhibition of the final artistic work of the four artists selected: **Saddie Choua**, **Bertrand Jeannelle**, **Stefano Moras**, and **Thy Nguyễn Truong Minh**. Each of them brings their own special focus to the work in artist residency. However, their creations and interaction are also proof that creativity goes very well with conviviality and good humor. The exhibit will last till October 11st

#### About Saddie Choua

Sadie is a freelance filmmaker/writer/artist. She studied Sociology at the VUB (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) and graduated with the interesting paper '*Crazy mothers from here. How do Moroccan mothers deal with the problems their sons have with the police*'. She has lived in Portugal where she worked about '*Social exclusion in Europe*'. She has TV studies and has been Intercultural



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Coordinator at De Pianofabriek (Brussels), academic researcher at VUB and Kuleuven, and founder of radio Kifkif. She is now working on the documentary "The Pussy Riot Guide to Feminism" & the book "The Feminist Guide to Pussy Riot," among other projects.

Her project at La Vallée: *"More than a year ago I started to make work about the psychophysical trauma caused by racism. The installation's point is the herbal book by the Machelen-born botanist Rembert Dodoens. I am developing a new herbal book with attention to the trauma caused by racism. I rework Dodoens' herb book by making an edition with plants, recipes and all kinds of tips for health and trauma processing. In La Vallée I am working on an extra edition (video/collage) with attention to the suffering caused by the Covid 19".*

### **About Bertrand Jeanelle**

Bertrand studied at DNAP Art School at Nancy and has a *Painting Master's Degree* from ARBA (Brussels) He defines himself: *"Graduated and worker, I practice painting. Currently I am working to study the utility of the projected shadow for the use of pictorial comprehension. I like the possibilities offered by the expression of representation by playing with the constraints of flatness. It is with this logic that I naturally turn to the representation of the visible and my environment. I represent my work desk, it's most reach and banal of painter"*

### **About Stefano Moras**

Visual artist Stefano Moras was born in Pordenone in 1985. Attained his diploma in Informatic Science. He graduated in *Visual Arts and Performative* disciplines in 2012 (Venice). In 2009 was assigned with Erasmus bursary for the *University of Applied Science* in Lahti, Finland. In 2014 he took part in Progetto Borca residency, in Cadore, collaborating with Gianluca D'Inca' Levis and, from 2012 to 2014, in *AiR programme atKAT-sugar Refinery Art Village* in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Currently he works and lives between Venice and Brussels.

His artwork: *"When I moved to Brussels I decided to continue my pictorial practice inspired by the dynamism of color in its forms and materials trying to undermine the idea of support. I chose to work with waste materials from both the painting itself and the world around me by changing my vision of the creative process, reprocessing the painting and its material. Over time, in fact, color has increasingly become a matter related to physical space rather than its support".*

### **About Thy Nguyễn Truong Minh:**

Thy Nguyễn Truong Minh was born in Brussels in 1982. Painter, drawer but also computer programmer, the questions that drive him concern the artistic practice in its postcolonial cultural contexts and the observation of the notion of identity. Since his childhood he has been travelling back and forth between Belgium and Vietnam. He graduated in visual arts at the *École de Recherche Graphique* in Belgium, and he is currently pursuing a Master's degree in *Graphic Design and Experimentation*. He is co-founder of *Máy xay sinh tố*, a transcultural artistic laboratory established between Brussels and Ho Chi Minh City. His parents transmitted to him a part of their culture of origin, the language and the Vietnamese way of life, while the different institutions and the street instilled in him a certain Belgian identity.



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Thy about his V-Plotter project: *"This is a first step of an art research in progress. The building of the plotter machine was the main goal. It consists of many parts: electronic devices, 3D-printing of the components, data collection, text generation, coding of the entire process. The content is created with a dramaturgical piece in mind: how to unroll a drawn and narrative robotic performance in time. But also, is thought the concept of a series of machines working in parallel, among finished artworks. And finally, the creation of an exhibition space that reveals the complexity to transcribe and decipher information throughout the media stratification"*

*"I don't understand a word, I just collect data is a digital installation artwork series. It's about a machine that is drawing and writing. During this robotic narrative performance, it will use machine learning, 2D positioning and monologue to spit stories about us humans. It has read texts about our violent colonial history and our perception of otherness. It contains glitches, non-logical things, absurdities and it will definitively reveal something from us. It talks about the disrespectful and impossible way to impose universality through domination."*

## **About the Open Earth Foundation**

Open Earth Foundation (OEF) is a non-profit Belgium-based organization fostering sustainable development and solidarity through art and education. It was created in 2017 by Ángel Carro, who believes that Art is a language that transcends borders and cultures. By its activities, OEF promotes and upholds the universal values of inclusion, tolerance and equality.

OEF aims at broadening access to arts and education to less privileged and marginalised groups, in particular youth. The foundation believes that sustainable benefits will come from incorporating creativity into education programs and thus, it supports artists engaged in projects with children and schools.

In addition, OEF supports cultural exchanges between and within regions. *"Covid 19 restricted movements across borders and pushed us to launch Reopening Boxes to support artists living in Brussels. However, the work of the 4 artists shows how much Brussels is a cosmopolitan city and that you can travel around the world through art while being in confinement"*, said Angel Carro

The foundation seeks to partner with regional, national and international institutions and foundations to build institutional alliances and long-lasting transnational bridges through culture and development. OEF hopes to be able to support in 2021 new residencies programs with both artists residing in Belgium and artists living and working abroad.