



FEZ GATHERING

# ANNUAL REPORT

THE SIXTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL  
GATHERING OF ARTISTS IN FEZ.

October 5th-8th, 2023



# 2023



# STHZNZOO

01.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE 6TH EDITION  
OF THE FEZ GATHERING 2023**

02.

**HIGHLIGHTS AND PERFORMANCES**

03.

**ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS**

04.

**PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

05.

**WORKSHOPS**

06.

**MUSIC CONCERTS AND PERFORMANCE**

07.

**PHOTOGRAPHY RALLY**

08.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUTURE PLANS**

09.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR FEZ GATHERING  
VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRIBUTORS**

## About the FEZ GATHERING

A dynamic, Fez-based event consisting of exhibitions, discussions, and workshops and other activities that bring together artists from Morocco and the international community. It offers a global platform for participants to discuss and explore the role of art in a modern world. The Fez Gathering is organized by the Fez Art Lab, supported by many partners.

## ABOUT THE 6TH EDITION OF FEZ GATHERING "GENTRIFICATION, ART, AND CULTURAL HERITAGE"

During its sixth edition in October 2023, the Fez Gathering focused on how art is used to address current challenges related to gentrification during various panels, art installations, performances, and events. The multi-day, public event focused on the function and potential of art and culture to transform urban spaces without displacing communities and institutions often associated with gentrification, while also strengthening and supporting existing artistic communities. The event offered space for intergenerational dialogue, highlighting the contemporary Moroccan art scene, and promote emerging young Moroccan artists, particularly within an ancient city like Fez.

This edition of the Fez Gathering aimed to evoke debate that goes beyond discussing “art for art’s sake” among other factors, such as whether the arts are shaping and being shaped by the external forces of exchange, cultural heritage, markets, and religions through an exploration of how art serves as a bridge that crosses into a possible future.

## ABOUT FEZ

For centuries, Fez has bridged economic, intellectual, cultural, social and spiritual differences between the “East” and “West,” as well as between “North” and “South.” The city of Fez in Morocco is a UNESCO world heritage site. It is the home of Al-Qarawayyin, the oldest functioning university in the world. It was the spiritual homeland of intellectuals such as Leo Africanus, Ibn Khaldun and Ibn Battuta. In present times, annual international cultural events such as the Fez Festival of Sacred Music and the Fez Festival of Sufi Culture, as well as the presence of new thinkers, contemporary artists, innovative artisans, and scholars, are new milestones in the important cultural role of Fez in the region.

# 20 ARTISTS PARTICIPANTS

Local, National and International participation  
Morocco, Germany, USA, Argentina, Poland, Italy, France

We were privileged to host a diverse ensemble of over 20 talented artists, each bringing a unique flair to Fez Gathering. Hailing from various fields including visual arts, academia, and pedagogy, these creative minds converged to weave a rich tapestry of expression. From seasoned professionals to emerging talents, the artist participants played a pivotal role in shaping the vibrant and dynamic atmosphere of the festival.



**ABDELHAMID BELAHMIDI**  
Photographer, Morocco



I was very impressed with the Fez Gathering event. The quality of the speakers, their technical expertise, as well as their thought-provoking and idea-stimulating human approach, were the great strengths of this event

**SOFIA MELLINO**  
Experienced Media Art Professional- Argentina



I will keep those 82 hours in Fez forever in my heart.

# HIGHLIGHTS

FEZ GATHERING  
**HACKATHON**  
 4TH - 6TH OCTOBER 2023  
 EUROMED UNIVRSITY, FEZ



## Hackathon of Hope and Innovation

The Fez Gathering Hackathon stands as a beacon of solidarity and innovation, responding to the recent earthquake that struck Morocco. In the wake of this devastating event, a collective of academics, scientists, innovators, and students from the Euro-Med university are converging, united by a shared commitment to lend a helping hand.

Through their ingenious solutions and creative endeavors, they are charting a course towards recovery and rejuvenation. The Fez Gathering Hackathon arena is being transformed into a sanctuary of hope and inventive spirit, where every idea, activity, and creation acts as a vessel for positive transformation.

Attendees and participants of the Gathering Hackathon are not merely spectators, but active partners in the journey towards healing. Their contributions provide tangible assistance to those affected by the earthquake. This event stands as a poignant testament to the fact that, in the face of adversity, unity and innovation possess the power to mend even the deepest wounds. Through their collaborative efforts, this Hackathon and its participants are creating a path towards a brighter future for Morocco and its incredibly resilient people.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## FEZ GATHERING HACKATHON 4TH - 6TH OCTOBER 2023 EUROMED UNIVERSITY, FEZ



# ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS

- PANEL DISCUSSIONS
- EXHIBITIONS
- WORKSHOPS
- CONCERTS
- PUBLIC PROGRAMS

[WWW.FEZGATHERING.COM](http://WWW.FEZGATHERING.COM)



## EVENT LOCATIONS

- ALIF RIAD, 6 DERB DRISSI, BATHA, FEZ MEDINA
- KAN YA MAKAN CENTER, BAB SEMARINE, FEZ
- MAISON POP, 3 DERB COHEN, BATHA, FEZ MEDINA
- UNIVERSITÉ EURO-MÉDITERRANÉENNE DE FÈS (UEMF), FEZ
- NOJOURM FEZ CENTER, 16 IMPASSE HRICHI, EL HAMIYA, DOUH, FEZ MEDINA

# PANEL DISCUSSIONS

## About the Panel Discussions:

“Gentrification, Arts, and Cultural Heritage”

This year’s gathering aims to explore the pivotal role of art in addressing the pressing challenges surrounding gentrification. The event will feature a diverse array of panels, thought-provoking art installations, captivating performances, and engaging activities.

Our overarching goal is to examine how art and culture can be harnessed to positively impact urban spaces, all while ensuring the preservation of communities and institutions vulnerable to the effects of gentrification. We seek to fortify and uplift existing artistic communities, rather than displace them.

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**GENTRIFICATION, ARTS, & CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**FRIDAY, 6TH OCTOBER, AT 5:00 PM**

**NOJOUR FEZ CENTER, 16 IMPASSE HRICHI, EL HAMIYA, DOUH, FEZ MEDINA**

**ZINEB BENJELLOUN**  
AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR - MOROCCO

**MERIAM GHANDI**  
ARCHITECT - MOROCCO

**HICHAM LAHLOU**  
DESIGNER - MOROCCO

**ANN SCHOMBURG**  
ARTIST - GERMANY

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**GENTRIFICATION, ARTS, & CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**SATURDAY, 7TH OCTOBER, AT 5:00 PM**

**NOJOUR FEZ CENTER, 16 IMPASSE HRICHI, EL HAMIYA, DOUH, FEZ MEDINA**

**PR. WAFAE BELARBI**  
DIRECTOR OF EMADU - MOROCCO

**HAMZA EL FASIKI**  
ARTISAN AND AUTHOR - MOROCCO

**MOHAMMED HAMDOUNI**  
PHD RESEARCHER - MOROCCO

**PHILIP KOJO METZ**  
ARTIST - GERMANY

**2 PANELS DISCUSSIONS**

**8 PANELISTS**



# PANEL DISCUSSIONS



# WORKSHOPS

FEZ GATHERING  
5TH-8TH  
OCTOBER 2023

**FRIDAY  
6  
OCTOBER  
10 AM**

**CREATIVE WORKSHOP**

**SEQUENTIAL  
STORYTELLING**  
BY  
**PHILIP KOJO METZ**  
ARTIST - GERMANY



Explains ways of storytelling and strategies of developing a body of work that can be both presented or archived in conventional contexts.

1. Learn about principles of storytelling through art and images
2. Experience Philip's own Process of Storytelling
3. "The more personal you become, the more general you are"
4. "The more general you become, the more personal you are"

Special Feature: Public: what does this have to do with anything? Art & Context!

Space is limited.  
To sign up, please send an email to [fezgatherings@workshop@gmail.com](mailto:fezgatherings@workshop@gmail.com)

FREE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

FEZ GATHERING  
5TH-8TH  
OCTOBER 2023

**FRIDAY  
6  
OCTOBER  
2PM**

**CREATIVE WORKSHOP**

**URBANISM AND  
DESIGN THINKING**  
BY  
**GIORDANA QUERCETO**  
ARCHITECT - ITALY



Design thinking, in response to the challenges posed by globalization, has evolved to embrace a more holistic approach. It goes beyond the requirements of individual development, the balance between growth and social equity, identifies means to change, but challenges prevailing ideas to integrate its positive impacts. The focus is on building inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development that caters to the needs of all residents. By striking a balance between progress and equity, cities can create vibrant, resilient, and livable urban spaces where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. In addition, the workshop will explore ArcGIS software as a design thinking tool, encouraging participants to create transparent urban spaces.

Space is limited.  
To sign up, please send an email to [fezgatherings@workshop@gmail.com](mailto:fezgatherings@workshop@gmail.com)

FREE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

FEZ GATHERING  
5TH-8TH  
OCTOBER 2023

**FRIDAY  
6  
OCTOBER  
3PM**

**CREATIVE WORKSHOP**

**CYANOTYPE  
WORKSHOP**  
BY  
**CARINA HOMMEL**  
ARTIST AND ART EDUCATOR - GERMANY



Cyanotype is an old photographic technique from 1842 to produce blueprints.

In this workshop you can learn how to create your own photographic paper and how to expose them to create your own blue prints with sun.

Space is limited.  
To sign up, please send an email to [fezgatherings@workshop@gmail.com](mailto:fezgatherings@workshop@gmail.com)

FREE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

FEZ GATHERING  
5TH-8TH  
OCTOBER 2023

**SATURDAY  
7  
OCTOBER  
3PM**

**CREATIVE WORKSHOP**

**DRAW YOUR CITY**  
BY  
**ZINEB BENJELLOUN**  
AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR - MOROCCO



In "Drawing your City" artist Zineb Benjelloun will draw inspiration from the existing city of Fez, showcasing its rich history, traditions and modernity. Participants will contribute to crafting a new cartography of the city, highlighting both existing and emerging urban forms, exploring the historical, social, and cultural fabric, symbolizing the harmonious coexistence of tradition and contemporary life.

Space is limited.  
To sign up, please send an email to [fezgatherings@workshop@gmail.com](mailto:fezgatherings@workshop@gmail.com)

NOUJOU FEZ CENTER, LE WAPASSE BRICH, D. HAMIRA, FEZ GATHERING

FREE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

FEZ GATHERING  
5TH-8TH  
OCTOBER 2023

**SATURDAY  
7  
OCTOBER  
10:30 AM**

**CREATIVE WORKSHOP**

**PROJECTED MEANING,  
EMBODIMENT  
AND MEMORIES  
WITHIN OBJECTS**  
BY  
**ANN SCHOMBURG**  
ARTIST - GERMANY



"Projected Meaning" as a workshop theme, invites participants to a journey into the intersection of art, memory, and the sense of place. The exercise will explore how we perceive history and experience interaction with objects and places and how they reflect our existing narratives. The "Projected Meaning" exercise invites participants to explore the intricate connections between memories, objects, places, and artistic/cultural experiences. By drawing from the past and projecting meaning onto tangible forms, attendees discuss their personal narratives and the power of creative interpretation.

Space is limited.  
To sign up, please send an email to [fezgatherings@workshop@gmail.com](mailto:fezgatherings@workshop@gmail.com)

FREE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

FEZ GATHERING  
5TH-8TH  
OCTOBER 2023

**SATURDAY  
7  
OCTOBER  
7PM**

**CREATIVE TALK**

**VIDEO  
MAPPING**  
BY  
**SOFIA MELLINO**  
AUDIOVISUAL PROFESSIONAL - ARGENTINA



During her time in Fez, Sofia Mellino will guide you through the creative process of VIDEO MAPPING, from her experience and artistic approach, artistic techniques for the production, the creative workflow, the technical difficulties that she should have had to overcome, and a theoretical & Creative Mapping, and how it was applied both in the real world and the 3D Virtual World of the Immersive Reality.

Attending the event with the preparation of the audience and press in Arabic.

NOUJOU FEZ CENTER, LE WAPASSE BRICH, D. HAMIRA, FEZ GATHERING

FREE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

FEZ GATHERING  
5TH-8TH  
OCTOBER 2023

**SUNDAY  
8  
OCTOBER  
3PM**

**CREATIVE WORKSHOP**

**MOROCCAN  
GEOMETRY**  
BY  
**HAMZA EL FASIKI**  
ARTISAN & AUTHOR - MOROCCO



Using a Compass, Divider and Ruler, we'll learn how to draw a variety of geometric ornaments original to Morocco. In Morocco, the art of geometry is applied to so-called "Zajir" and it remains the "art of straight lines". Each Moroccan ornament and each geometric shape carries a specific cultural meaning and a story. This workshop will unfold these, unfold traditions and will shed light on the cultural perspective.

Space is limited.  
To sign up, please send an email to [fezgatherings@workshop@gmail.com](mailto:fezgatherings@workshop@gmail.com)

IL GIARDINO DI IBN ARABI  
CONFRATERNITA' ISLAMICA, 05010 PERUGIA

FREE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

7 workshops

140 participants

Workshops hosted by artists from:  
Morocco, Germany, Italy & Argentina

# WORKSHOPS



# EXHIBITIONS

GENTRIFICATION, ARTS, AND CULTURAL HERITAGE”  
COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION 5TH TO 8TH OF OCTOBER

This collective exhibition features works created by international, national, and local artists in the artistic fields of photography, illustration, printmaking, and other media. Curated with a focus on “Gentrification,” the exhibition aims to inspire dialogue and examine the connection between gentrification, art and cultural heritage. By extension, this collection provokes critical thought into how art could act as a positive vehicle into a variety of possible futures related to cultural heritage.

## 9 ARTIST

## 3 SITES

EXHIBITIONS HOSTED BY ARTISTS FROM:  
MOROCCO - GERMANY - USA - FRANCE - ITALY - POLAND

FEZ GATHERING  
5TH-8TH  
OCTOBER 2023

Collective Exhibition  
"Gentrification, Arts, and Cultural Heritage"

OPENING  
THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2023  
7 PM | ALIF RIAD, 6 DERB DRISSI, BATHA, FEZ MEDINA  
8 PM | MAISON POP, 1 DERB COHEN, BATHA, FEZ MEDINA

ARTIST PARTICIPANTS:  
@ ALIF Riad  
• Abdelhamid Belahmidi, Morocco  
• Carina Hommel, Germany  
• Hamza El Baciri, Morocco  
• Benslimane Chadia, Morocco  
• Michela Fanara, Italy  
@ Maison Pop  
• Ahmed Bennani, Morocco  
• Sal Sidner, USA  
• Ewa Potocka, Poland  
• Benjamin Bêni, France

CONTINUES DAILY 4-6 PM  
THROUGH OCTOBER 8TH

American Language Center | La Maison POP



# MUSIC CONCERTS AND PERFORMANCE

FREE AND OPEN TO GENERAL PUBLIC

FEZ GATHERING  
5TH-8TH  
OCTOBER 2023

THURSDAY  
**5**  
OCTOBER  
7:30PM

**MUSIC CONCERT**  
FREE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

**ISSAWA FUSION**



In celebration of the 6th edition of the Fez Gathering, we cordially invite you to join us for an evening of music with the renowned Issawa Fez band. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.  
For more information, please contact [fezgathering@gmail.com](mailto:fezgathering@gmail.com)

LIF RIAD, 6 DERB DRISSI, BATHA, FEZ MEDINA

FEZ GATHERING  
5TH-8TH  
OCTOBER 2023

SATURDAY  
**7**  
OCTOBER  
8:30 - 10 PM

**MUSIC CONCERT**

**DJ SET LUNE & SOLEIL**  
BY THE FASSI COLLECTIVE MACRO.SOUNDS



**PARTICIPANTS**  
ALAE, FAOUZI, COLD NUGGETS

Space is limited.  
To sign up, please send an email to [fezgathering@gmail.com](mailto:fezgathering@gmail.com)

WAISON POP, 1 DERB COHEN, BATHA, FEZ MEDINA



# OPENING PERFORMANCE



# PHOTOGRAPHY RALLY

A photo-based adventure that asks groups of participants to explore the Medina by matching target locations with the photos we provide. It aims to familiarize people from different corners of society with Fez, and break down the social barriers between the old and new. It is not hard to feel as though you are in a time machine when you gaze through the narrow lanes and derbs at something ordinary, but new.



# PRESS REVIEW



[aujourd'hui/ 6eme-rencontre-internationale-annuelle-dartistes-de-fes](#)

[Insecret / Fes-accueille-sa-6aeme-édition-de-la-rencontre-internationale-annuelle-d--artistes](#)

[Magzoid Fez Gathering 2023: Art, Gentrification, and Cultural Heritage Converge in Morocco](#)

[Albayane / La-Gentrification-au-coeur-des-debats](#)

[FNH/ La-6eme-Rencontre-internationale-annuelle-d-artistes-de-Fes-du-5-au-8-octobre](#)

[Hespress/ فاس تستضيف اللقاء الدولي السنوي للفنانين](#)

[Assafir/ ستضيف مدينة فاس، خلال الفترة من 5 إلى 8 أكتوبر الجاري، فعاليات اللقاء الدولي السنوي السادس للفنانين](#)

[media15/ فاس تستضيف اللقاء الدولي السنوي للفنانين](#)

[Lodj.ma/6eme-edition-de-la-rencontre-artistique-annuelle-de-Fes](#)

[Msn/ La gentrification au cœur des débats](#)

[eurome/ .ecole-euromed-darchitecture-de-design-et-durbanisme-presente-la-6eme](#)

[Alousboue/ فاس تحتضن اللقاء الدولي السنوي للفنانين](#)

[Morocoworldnews/ fez-gathering-explores-arts-role-in-preserving-cultural-heritage](#)

[Fes-gentrifizierung-kunst-und-kulturelles](#)

## INTERVIEWS AND VIDEOS



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLtFhpyFiww&feature=youtu.be>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Nlvemaxq6g>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5law4qupuY>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t12wH38UGR8>



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wq7QxxuB\\_3k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wq7QxxuB_3k)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKxCCQwgZyW>



# ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR FEZ GATHERING VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRIBUTORS



WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO THE REMARKABLE INDIVIDUALS WHOSE UNWAVERING DEDICATION AND SELFLESS CONTRIBUTIONS MADE THE FEZ GATHERING A RESOUNDING SUCCESS. SPECIAL THANKS TO :

- PAULINE MOLLER
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- WAFAE BELARBI
- MANSOUR HOUSNI
- AYOUB LOUIZI
- ASSIA JABBOURI
- EL OTHMANI ZAKARIA
- RADOUANE ED-DAOUY
- MOHAMMED GHBOUCHI
- MAYSOUN BOUMGHIT
- MARIAM MONTASSIR
- JIHAN HOUKOUMI
- ABDELMOUGHIT BOUDRESSA
- AYOUB HANIN
- KARIM BENJELLOUN
- IKRAM BECHLAH
- MOHAMED LAOUISSI
- MOHAMED ASSGMANE
- FATHI FAKIR
- IDRIS EL KHALFI
- ANAS EL KASSIMI



WHOSE PASSION, COMMITMENT, AND HARD WORK HAVE LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK, TURNING OUR SHARED VISION INTO A REALITY. TOGETHER, WE CREATED AN EVENT THAT NOT ONLY CELEBRATED COMMUNITY BUT ALSO INSPIRED POSITIVE CHANGE. THANK YOU, FOR YOUR INVALUABLE SUPPORT – YOU ARE THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE FEZ GATHERING.

**UPCOMING**

**7TH EDITION OF THE FES GATHERING**

**EXPLORES THE INTERSECTION OF ART, CULTURE, AND WATER PRESERVATION**

**FEZ GATHERING'S 7TH EDITION DIVES INTO THE THEME OF WATER:  
NAVIGATING A NEW ERA OF PRESERVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS**

**2024**

**UPCOMING**

## **HIGH-LIGHT FESTIVAL**

International Light Festival of Fes. First light festival in Fes that highlights the beauty and artistic environment of the city.

2024

# SUPPORTERS AND DONORS

The Fez Gathering wouldn't have been possible without the invaluable support of our supporters and donors.

## INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



## HOTEL AND RESTAURANT PARTNERSHIPS



## MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS



## Organised by: the FezArtLab

FezArtLab, established in 2019, is a non-profit organization dedicated to curating culturally innovative projects that resonate with the Fassi cultural landscape, serving the local community by promoting art as a vehicle for education, and facilitating artistic and cultural collaboration. We have a large network of local partnerships and supporters, and have connected over 300 artists through national and international projects, including exhibitions, public programming, private events, and socio-economic initiatives. An example of our initiatives is the International Artist Gathering of Fez, which is now in its 7th year. The event includes panels, exhibitions, breakout sessions and informal social activities which provide opportunities for the public to engage with artists and artistic work. The event includes partnerships with local schools, cultural centers and community institutions in order to promote art education and art awareness among young Moroccans.



FEZARTLAB