

Rooting Futures

Young cultural workers in rural areas

EDN Atelier

November 4–5, Rovereto (Italy), hosted by Oriente Occidente

What does it mean to be a young cultural worker — curator, producer, choreographer, or emerging artist — operating in rural and peripheral areas today? How can we open up new spaces, opportunities, and forms of empowerment for those who choose to work in the contemporary dance field outside of metropolitan centers?

The Atelier will create a shared space to exchange experiences, address challenges, and experiment with new approaches to working both locally and transnationally. Co-designed by a group of young professionals from EDN member organizations, the programme combines discussions, workshops, and embodied practices, inviting participants to reflect together while learning from each other.

At the heart of the Atelier are four thematic focus areas that respond to some of the pressing needs of young cultural workers in rural contexts:

Building alliances between artists and institutions, grounded in trust and reciprocity.

Finding a common language to communicate artistic practices across different contexts — from funders to communities.

Engaging local communities as active partners and sources of inspiration for artistic research.

Creating and maintaining peer networks, locally and internationally, to foster solidarity and growth.

Balancing structured moments with open conversational spaces, the Atelier aims to slow down the fast pace of cultural work and make room for listening, exchange, and collective imagination. Together, we will explore how to deeply root our practices in local realities while remaining open to global connections.

Schedule:

November 4th - Oriente Occidente Studio

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| h. 9.00 - 9.30 | Slow check-in |
| h. 9.30 - 11.15 | Welcome by EDN, Oriente Occidente and the curatorial group To break the ice: introductions leaded by 'Funmi Adewole |
| h. 11.15 - 11.30 | Coffee break |
| h. 11.30 - 13.00 | OPTION 1 _ Workshop on storytelling: how to articulate one's practice in the cultural and creative field by 'Funmi Adewole OPTION 2_ Online workshop on conversation as a performative form to engage local communities by Samara Hersch |

lunch break (possibility to eat all together)

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| h. 14.30 - 16.00 | Lab on mapping desires and artistic identity as a starting point for forging local and international alliances by Silvia Bottioli |
| h. 16.00 - 16.15 | Coffee break |
| h. 16.15 - 18.00 | One-on-one conversations between artists and cultural operator (leaded by young curatorial group) - intro, one to one, final wrap up |

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: dance performance *EPIPHANĪA. Mi rendo manifesta*
by Abbondanza Bertoni at Teatro La Cartiera

November 5th - Oriente Occidente Studio

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| h. 9.00 - 9.30 | Warm Up |
| h. 9.30 - 10.00 | Coffee break |
| h. 10.00 - 12.00 | Conversional space: open space technology to share experiences, reflect on what emerged in the previous day, allow new ideas to bloom (national and international guests TBC) |
| h. 12.00 - 12.30 | Sharing practice |

lunch break (possibility to eat all together)

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| h. 14.00 - 15.00 | Close up and final feedback on the Atelier |
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