

ENGAGE

Public school for Social Engagement in Artistic Research

curated by Viafarini in collaboration with Sunugal
VIR Viafarini-in-residence, Viafarini DOCVA Fabbrica del Vapore and other places in Milan

under the Patronage of Comune di Milano
with the collaboration of Assessorato Educazione e Assessorato Politiche Sociali
with the collaboration as social ambassadors of FabriQ - Incubator for Social Innovation of Milan City Council
with the contribution of Fondazione Cariplo

Milan, 11 - 20 October 2017

ENGAGE is a training and research program, curated by Viafarini in collaboration with Sunugal, addressed to Italian and international artists, inviting them to spend a **period of one week residency / workshop in Milan between 11 - 20 October 2017**, in dialog with local social and creative mediators, aiming at **researching and experimenting** innovative ways of **interaction between art practices and social sphere**.

ENGAGE relies on the collaboration of **Sunugal** (Milan/Dakar), organizations for intercultural dialogue and cooperation; of **leading European and international institutions** in the field of contemporary arts and culture – **Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten** (Amsterdam), **Akademie Schloss Solitude** (Stuttgart), **Delfina Foundation** (London), **Residency Unlimited** (New York City), **ISCP International Studio & Curatorial Program** (New York City), **Futura Projects** (Prague), for the communication of the Open Call.

ENGAGE is a **Public School**, an educational format already tested at an international scale, based upon the **horizontal and non-hierarchical interaction between artists, community and cultural mediators**, encouraging communities to **take part in the planning and reconfiguration of the urban environment**, so as to create new knowledge and networks of collaboration.

ENGAGE project is based upon the role of **artist as driver for social innovation** and **socially engaged practices**, able to foster **intercultural dialog, mutual understanding and social inclusion** among people from different cultures and backgrounds in Europe.

The Public School **invites artists** whose practice implies **interaction with urban communities**, as well as **research-based practices studying contemporary collective imaginaries**. Artists interested in understanding the implications of the great change under way: from an artistic as well as social, political and anthropological point of view, interested in **fostering communication between diverse fields of knowledge**: from science to religion, from economy to politics, so as to overstep the self-reference of art-based discourse, aiming towards the creation of alternative models of public action.

*The project aims to the creating new strategies capable of making visible and intervening in issue linked to transcultural dialogue and **social and urban exclusion and vulnerability** such as:*

- **gender oppression**;
- **racism and xenophobia**;
- **discrimination and oppression based on religious belonging**

ENGAGE Public School involves also **sociocultural operators**, able to bring to the working committee the needs expressed by their respective urban communities. The Public School let the artists work according to the **report for social interaction** presented by the operators for social innovation, who facilitate the **dialog between artists and local communities**.

The workshop, that takes place from 11 until 20 October, is **coordinated by Viafarini team: Patrizia Brusarosco, PhD Simone Frangi, Giulio Verago, Mihovil Markulin, Giulia Brivio**.

ENGAGE Public School involves artists/teachers and Professors of the educational institutions of Viafarini network, from **Fine Arts Academies** to **Universities**, from **Art Schools** and other **High School**.

_ **During October and November 2017** artists draft **proposals for artistic interventions to be realized in Milan**, according to the needs expressed by local communities during the workshop;

_ **From December 2017 until April 2018** ENGAGE evaluate the possibility for the proposals to be produced;

_ **In May 2018** all the interventions and proposals are part of a **show to be inaugurated in Milan**.

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Viafarini is a creative incubator and platform for visual arts, collaborating with other renowned organizations in Milan, in Italy and abroad. Viafarini has been founded in 1991 as non profit organization for contemporary art, when this concept was new to Italy.

Nowadays Viafarini is renovating its mission: starting from the idea of a creative incubator aiming at the professional training of emerging artists within the art system, it is shifting toward the idea of an agency for the creation of networks of collaboration between artistic research, private commission, entrepreneurship and the social environment. Viafarini's know-how about documentation, art consultancy, production, residency, education, communication and exhibition services are put at disposal for interdisciplinary collaboration projects.

Sunugal is a social and cultural association founded by a group of foreign (mostly Senegalese) and Italian citizens, with the core aim of fostering the exchange between Italy and Senegal; therefore it works as a network in Italy as well as in Africa, as a bridge between immigrants settled in Italy to their families. The two core operation fields of Sunugal are: In Italy to provide the wider audience with a source of reliable information about the South of the World and to support the population of extra european immigrants; In Senegal to facilitate exchange initiatives between the North and the South of the World; to support the social and economical development of immigrants' home countries. Sunugal is partner of Mascherenere Association theater workshop, aiming at disseminating the culture of African and other non European countries in Italy through shared cultural values and creative disciplines such as theater, dance, music, sport and other activities fostering dialog and mutual understanding.