



**EUROPEAN FORUM
FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

Connecting People to Restore Just Relations

PRESS RELEASE

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THE ART OF JUSTICE, SOLIDARITY AND REPAIR
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FESTIVAL ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE RELATED ART WORKS TAKES PLACE FOR THE FIRST TIME

2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the European Forum for Restorative Justice. It was founded in small Belgian town, Leuven and today it is the largest network organisation in Europe promoting restorative justice. To celebrate its birthday the organisation created REstART, an online art festival that is first of its kind, bringing together high-quality art works that explore restorative justice and their creators.

Restorative justice is an increasingly recognised way of addressing crime and other conflicts. The surge of the different art works (films, documentaries, theatre productions) in the recent years demonstrate the growing social attention around injustices and the search for adequate answers to them.

REstART gathers the most remarkable initiatives: it will showcase award winning movies and documentaries on restorative justice and serious harm, a stage production with formerly incarcerated performers from the US, a book presentation questioning the rituals of the traditional justice systems, a comic strips workshop, photo exhibitions, and a piano concert. Participants can join the live online meetings with the artists, activists and practitioners involved in the productions. The contributors of the festival comes from ten different countries, and three different continents.

Due to the pandemic the entire programme will take place online. Participation is free of charge, the organisers welcome donations that support the event.



HIGHLIGHTED ART WORKS (SELECTION)

For the detailed programme please check the Festival's internet page: <https://www.euforumrj.org/en/REstART>

2020 The Meeting / Alan Gilsenan (Ireland)

Feature film based on real events

The film is based on a real restorative justice meeting which took place between Ailbhe Griffith and the man who, nine years earlier, subjected her to a horrific sexual assault and left her seriously injured and fearing for her life. The film was directed by Alan Gilsenan with Ailbhe playing herself in the reenacted story.

[More information →](#)

JustUS / Motus Theatre (USA)

Documentary theatre

Motus Theater worked with formerly incarcerated leaders to develop autobiographical monologues about the criminality and injustice within the criminal justice system.

Monologues cover themes as diverse as racial profiling, inequity in the bond/bail system, human rights abuses in prison, the criminalisation of substances abusers, and the systemic racism and poverty that pushes young people into illicit economies because they are shut out of legal opportunities.

[More information →](#)



JustUS

The Worst Thing / Desireena Almoradie (USA – Germany)

Documentary

The film *The Worst Thing* (German title: *To Germany, With Love*) follows the restorative justice journey of Kathleen Pequeño, aided by restorative justice facilitator Annett Zupke. In the film, Kathleen travels several times to Germany to engage in dialogue with former members of the Red Army Faction (RAF), a violent leftist group responsible for her brother's murder. The film shows restorative justice practices in action, specifically focusing on surrogate dialogues.

[More information →](#)

Notes on a Murder / Peter Vermeersch (Belgium)

Book presentation

One morning Peter Vermeersch received a letter informing him that he had been randomly selected for jury service. What seemed to be a straightforward case of robbery soon turned out to be a much more complex affair. Before he knew it, Peter found himself in the depths of the Palace of Justice in Brussels, confronting questions about the true circumstances of a murder, having to deal with the rituals of justice and a shy, unrevealing suspect.

[More information →](#)



HIGHLIGHTED ART WORKS (SELECTION)

One Day After Peace / The Parents Circle (Israel – Palestine)

Documentary and photo exhibition

Robi Damelin is the mother of David, an Israeli soldier who was shot by a Palestinian sniper. Together with other Israeli and Palestinian parents who lived a similar experience because of the war between the two nations, she joined the Parents Circle - Families Forum (PCFF). Robi is the protagonist featured in the International Prize winning documentary "One day after peace", where she travels to South Africa, wondering if the means used to resolve the conflict in South Africa, particularly with the Truth and Reconciliation Committee, can be applied to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Robi and Laila Alshiekh, another member of the PCFF, also propose to exhibit the photo project "The Presence of the Void" made by ten Palestinian and Israeli bereaved women seeking to photograph the presence of their lost loved ones, and to give voice to the absence.

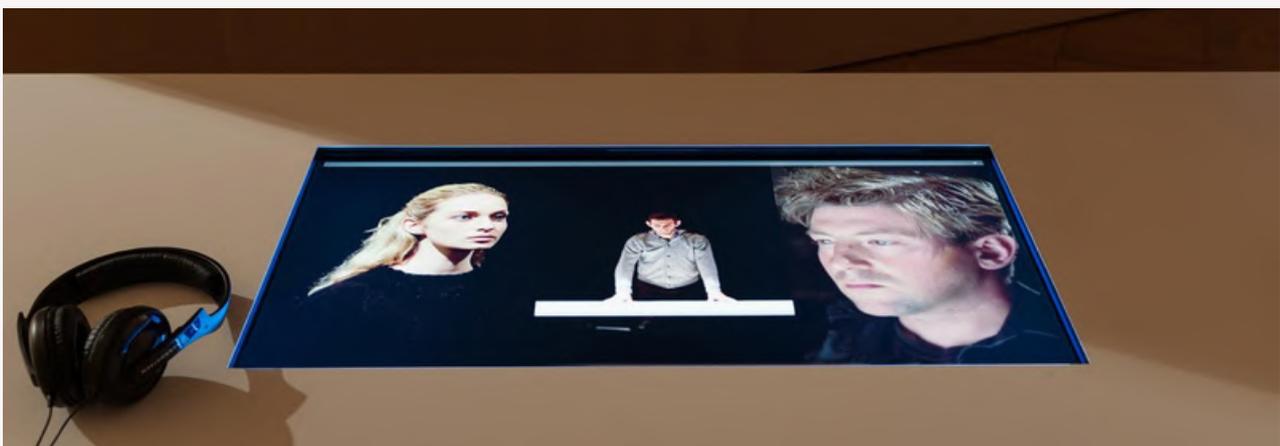
[More information →](#)

Inside the Distance / Sharon Daniel (USA)

Multimedia, interactive documentary

The interactive documentary "Inside the distance" stages re-enactments about restorative justice encounters as described by victims, offenders and mediators. It explores the position of each party and the many ways in which these positions are fluid. The project was developed by professor and artist Sharon Daniel in cooperation with a series of Belgian partners who gave her access to victims and offenders who participated in a restorative justice process in order to conduct her research project.

[More information →](#)



Inside the Distance





EUROPEAN FORUM FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Connecting People to Restore Just Relations

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Restorative justice is an approach of addressing harm or the risk of harm through engaging all those affected in coming to a common understanding and agreement on how the harm or wrongdoing can be repaired and justice achieved. It can be applied where people experience harm in society, in organisations, in schools, in families and in the justice system. Restorative justice is recognised and promoted by policy documents of international institutions, such as the European Union, Council of Europe and the United Nations, and it is embedded in the national legislations of several European countries. Restorative justice has demonstrated its effectiveness in addressing the underlying causes and in generating solutions to many contemporary social problems; building and repairing social relations, generating mutual understanding between antagonistic individuals or groups and strengthening personal responsibility to respect the feelings, needs and values of others.

EUROPEAN FORUM FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The European Forum for Restorative Justice is the largest European professional network on restorative justice. It counts more than 400 members, including 80 organisations, working on restorative justice practices, research and policy in Europe and beyond. Since its establishment in 2000, the organisation offers support to implement and develop restorative justice through trainings, consultancy, research, advocacy, policy developments and events. Find their publications and more information at www.euforumrj.org.

RE^START
FESTIVAL

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