# KOSMICA Journeys

#### A Space Mission to reconnect with our home: the Earth

Refugee Shelter at the Tempelhofer Feld, Berlin



KOSMICA JOURNEYS IS A NEW EDUCATIONAL AND CREATIVE PROGRAM DIRECTED AT VULNERABLE GROUPS MADE UP OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES AROUND THE WORLD. THROUGH A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES, KOSMICA JOURNEYS OPENS THE INVITATION TO REFLECT ON OUR PLACE WITHIN PLANET EARTH AND OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE.

### BACKGROUND

In KOSMICA we use the outer space vantage point in order to generate new perspectives that contribute to searching for solutions to the urgent challenges we face today. Through six years of KOSMICA activities, we have carried out festivals, events and projects with artists and space professionals in diverse parts of the world.

In the spring of 2017 we began a new programme to support those who have left their homes behind: KOSMICA Journeys. Through this effort, we designed and executed a series of workshops for refugees sheltered in the former Tempelhof airport in Berlin along with the organisation Hangar 1. During a whole month, this shelter was transformed into a space laboratory where children and young people coming from countries like Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq worked on a space mission to find and discover Earth from a different viewpoint.

Currently, through our team in Mexico, KOSMICA seeks to take these contents to other migrant groups. We believe outer space, besides inspiring and offering a black canvas to write our future, is also a territory that can help us leave aside those divisions we have mapped out on Earth in order to unite and support each other mutually.

### GOALS

### The goals of the KOSMICA Journeys activities are to:

- Reflect on the theme of migration from a social, cultural, planetary and space focus

- Share creative tools for the human development of migrants and refugees

- Empower the creativity of these groups through cultural and artistic activities

- Debate migration of life at a universal level

- Discuss ideas about the migration of human beings to other planets

- Question the notion of space, overview effect, and borders within the Earth



*"From space we do not see any border, only a single planet..."* 

- Alexander Gerst, Astronaut

Refugee shelter at Tempelhofer Flughafen, Berlin.

## WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

The conceptual axis of KOSMICA Journeys consists on the creation of a space mission made up of different stages through various workshops. The number of sessions, duration and participant ages will be adapted according to each collaboration. The list of modules that make up KOSMICA Journeys is as follows:

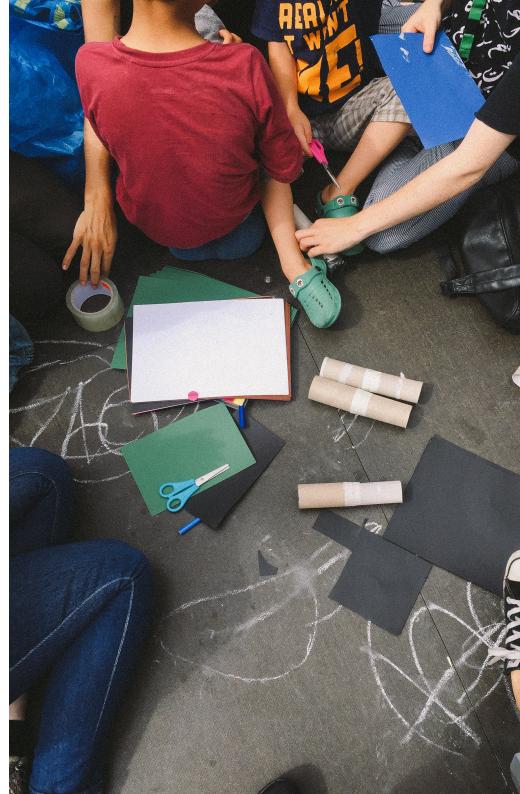
PLANET EARTH What will we take from this planet?

SPACE MIGRATION To Mars: Our next destination

THE EARTH AND US Designing a universal flag

THE FLIGHT Flying machines

EARTH WITHOUT BORDERS Overview Effect



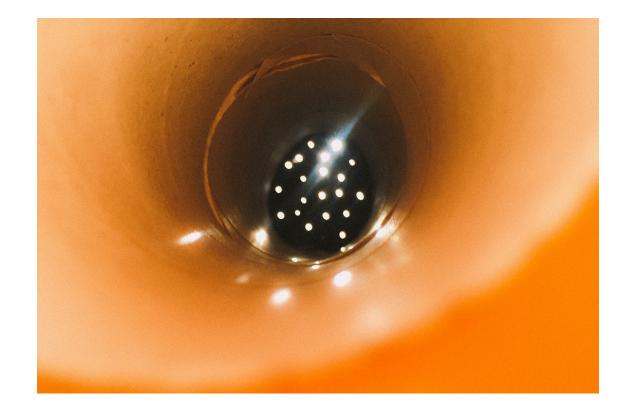
#### PLANET EARTH What will we take from this planet?

This workshop begins with a personal reflection of those elements that are most memorable from Earth to each participant. In case we left Earth for outer space, what would we take from our planet so we wouldn't forget it? This way, terrestrial kits will be built for our space trip. This activity is an exercise to reflect on our home on Earth and our relationship to it.



#### SPACE MIGRATION Our next destination: Mars

This workshop is designed to reflect on the social, physical, and scientific-technological implications of inhabiting other planets. The emphasis is the human exploration of Mars, soon to happen. Participants are invited to reflect on this topic through a visual activity. Each participant in the workshop must make a space migration plan, justify it and put it up for debate in order to enrich the vision as a team. The results can be shown in the form of a drawing, graphic, object, performance, video or sound.



#### THE EARTH AND US Designing a universal flag

Space flags have been a symbol of space colonisation and territorial appropriation. What universal flag could represent Earth and its inhabitants as a whole? In this workshop, different proposals for space flags will be created through pondering on belonging and universality at the same time.

During this workshops, the participants will design their own space flags. These could be created through design software or manually through drawing, collage, sewing and painting.



#### THE FLIGHT Flying machines

This workshop invites participants to think of the flight of migrating birds and the way this has inspired humans to create objects to fly. There will be a historical revision of artefacts invented for this end as well as the poetics of flight.

Within this workshop we will also explain the principles of hydro-propulsion. To do this, we will build water rockets and launch them during this session. Participants will be invited to create their own flight mechanism as well. The results can be shown in the form of a drawing, graphic, object, performance, video, etc.



#### EARTH WITHOUT BORDERS Overview Effect

In this workshop, we will ponder on the concept of the Overview Effect, which describes the shift in awareness many astronauts have reported while viewing Earth from space – a perspective from which all borders disappear.

The workshop will conclude in a meditation session, in which every participant will be guided to visualize Earth from space.

At the end, participants will be invited to share the experience of the meditative practice through drawings, graphics, objects, performances, videos, literature, etc.



#### **Other Activities**

#### Lectures

Lectures by space experts can be programmed within KOSMICA Journeys to support the rest of the activities. An example of this is a talk with the astronaut José Hernández who would give an autobiographical presentation of his life as a migrant and space explorer.

#### Film Cycles

KOSMICA has executed an array of space film cycles with themes such as feminism and space diversity, indigenous cultures in space and artists in orbit. It is possible to curate a selection of movies and video artworks that support the contents of each session.



### **BEHIND KOSMICA**

#### Nahum - Director and Founder

Nahum is a renowned artist and musician based in Berlin. He is the chair of the IAF Committee of the Cultural Utilisation of Space, where he was recognised for his achievements with the IAF Young Space Leader Award in 2014, and has been appointed one of the curators of the digital arts biennial TransitioMx in Mexico City.

Currently he is the director of the first space mission in zero gravity by Mexican artists in collaboration with the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Russia.

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#### **Contact KOSMICA**

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