

Exhibition **HALF A SQUARE METER OF FREEDOM**
Cultural program **VOICES FROM PRISON**

From October 17th to December 12th 2014,
150 works of art created in the prisons of all continents will be shown to the public at dorothy's gallery, *American Center for the Arts*

As Ambassadors : the Iranian photographer **REZA** and the French cartoonist **BERTHET ONE**.

A collection gathered by Art and Prison, Germany

Co-organizers Art et Prison France

In Collaboration with Carceropolis

And the support of Ensemble contre la Récidive and The Koestler Trust (GB)

At a time when prison is often present in the news, especially with the implementation on October 1st 2014 of the penal reform in France, the exhibition « Half a Square Meter of Freedom » casts a universal and innovative light on prisoners and on prison and illuminates the multifaceted cultural program revealing the challenges facing the world of prison.

« If you let this artwork impress you, your outlook on the prison system will change. »

Mr. Nettersheim, German Justice Ministry

HALF A SQUARE METER OF FREEDOM

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN PARIS THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF ART CREATED IN PRISON,
TO BRING A NEW LOOK ON CONFINEMENT

Access the artwork following [this lien](#)

150 works of art – 150 destinies

This collection is unique by its size, its artistic quality and its geographical diversity.

Further to two international art contests, organized by the German not-for-profit, Art et Prison e.V., 250 paintings, drawings and sculptures were selected by a jury of artists among the 1000 artworks sent by incarcerated women, men and juveniles. It was very well received when exhibited at the German Justice Ministry in Berlin in April 2013.

More than 40 countries from all continents are represented: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, France, Germany, Greece, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Korea, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States...

Giving a voice to those who are never mentioned

Constrained in a closed world, those prisoners choose to express their emotions through art. They reveal to the public their fights, their fears, their loneliness, and their dreams underpinned by spirituality and hope.

Thanks to art, they are able to believe again in an improbable future. These works of art remind us that they are people like the rest of us, with talent, humor, and skills that they can contribute to society. The awakening of

their creativity allows them to escape from their confined situation and to bring a new meaning to their life. Public recognition of their work helps them regain self-confidence and believe that they can successfully reintegrate society.

VOICES FROM PRISON

A MULTIFACETED CULTURAL PROGRAM WHICH CHALLENGES OUR VISION OF PRISON

For the detailed cultural program follow this [lien](#)

« **Voices from prison** » proposes to the public an exchange on the universal theme of confinement from a unique point of view: the artistic expression of prisoners from all over the world.

While prison is characterized by its opacity and its silences, this series of events is a unique opportunity to question the role given to it by society and to discover the emerging analyses on prison and possible alternatives to prison.

Painters, designers, musicians, photographers, poets, film directors, cultural workers, architects, writers, sociologists, criminologists, representatives from the prison and justice systems, volunteers... will examine how confinement affects self-esteem and the prisoner role in society after his release.

During these various events, a panel of speakers will review what are the stakes for reinsertion, alternative sentences to confinement, and the fight against re-offending around a central issue: the room for humanity in the world of prison.

Themes et Speakers

Social Issues

// **Which form of expression in prison? The role of art – An outlook beyond borders. November 7th 2014**

Peter Echtermeyer, founder of Art & Prison in Germany, prison chaplain.

David Gussak, professor at the University of Florida, writer, art therapist.

Tim Robertson, chief executive of The Koestler Trust which has been exhibiting artwork from prisons for 50 years .

Arnaud Gaillard, sociologist, film director, university professor, writer.

// **Can prison lead to an architectural project ? October 30th, 2014 TO BE CONFIRMED**

Christian Demonchy and Bruno Michel, architects.

Grégoire Korganow, photographer.

// **Alternatives to confinement– November 20th 2014**

Pierre Victor Tournier, researcher, university professor, demographer specialist of prison population

// **Love, intimacy, sexuality November 26th 2014**

Arnaud Gaillard, sociologist who wrote “Sexuality in prison. Desires under constraints” (Editions Max Milo).

// **Do prisoner have rights ? The role of the General Controller of Prisons. December 4th 2014**

Cédric de Torcy, controller within the French General Control for Prisons

// **Women in prison December 5th 2014**

Franck Balandier, writer, former head of reinsertion and Education (SPIP° for the Paris area prisons, director of the movie « Sidamour : Barbara chez les femmes »

Audrey Chenu, writer, author of “Girlfight”, former prisoner who is now a school teacher.

// **Dance in prison - Chairs incarcérées : une expression de la danse en prison December 6th 2014**

Sylvie Frigon, criminologist, University professor at Ottawa University and at Carleton University

Claire Jenny, choreographer, “Point Virgule” dance company.

They wrote together « Chairs incarcérées : une expression de la danse en prison »

// **Policies to help prisoners December 11th 2014 TO BE CONFIRMED**

Fédération Justice et Citoyens

Testimonies

// **Rédemption October 24th 2014**

Karim Mokhtari, co-writer «Rédemption, Itinéraire d'un enfant cassé» (with Charlie Carle at Editions Scrinéo), former prisoner, speaker, social activist with people in difficult situations, ambassador of the not-for-profit organization Carceropolis.

// **Art saved my life November 14th 2014**

Berthet One, cartoonist, former prisoner, cultural worker in prisons, ambassador of the exhibition

// **Commitment and photography November 13th**

Reza, Iranian, spent 3 years in prison under the Shah, architect, world renown photographer, whose work combines social commitment and photography

// **Monte Laster DATE TO BE CONFIRMED**

American artist working with people in difficulty in the Paris outskirts, founder of F.A.C.E. (French-American Creative Exchange),

Artistic Performances

// **Poetry** : How to speak about confinement ? Texts written by poets behind bars (Genet, Apollinaire, Rimbaud...)
December 10th 2014

Franck Balandier, writer

Students from *Conservatoire national supérieur d'art dramatique et de l'école Auvray-Nauroy*

// **Show from the creative workshops of “Le vent se lève” November 27th 2014 DATE TO BE CONFIRMED**

Le Vent se lève, will present a show based on one of the exhibited artwork.

Concerts / Roundtables

// **Rap and Slam : To bring words into prisons November 15th 2014**

Verbal Sarrazin, rapper and slammer, creator of the show P.R.I.S.O.N.S and author of the book « Prison Slam »

// **Music in prison November 21st 2014 2014 TO BE CONFIRMED**

Philippe Hersant, **composer**, and *Anne-Marie Salé*, (Festival de musique de Clairvaux).

Julien Sallé, director of « Or, les murs » on the Clairvaux prison.

Jacqueline Salmon, photographer

Communiqué de presse - Jeudi 25 septembre
Dorothy's Gallery - Art et Prison France - Carceropolis



Private opening, with the Media on October 16th 2014 from 16h to 21h

Dorothy's Gallery, 27 rue Keller, 75011 Paris

More information

<http://dorothysgallery.com/art/programmation-culturelle-les-voix-de-lunivers-carceral/>

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