

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **The European exchange project “In Between Out” brings Outsider Art from Berlin, London and Denmark together**

Galerie ART CRU Berlin, Berlin's only gallery exclusively supporting art by people with psychiatry experiences and mental health issues is the coordinator of the two-year European Outsider Art project In Between Out.

In Between Out is a collaboration of artists, studios and arts professionals from the participating countries. About 30 participating artists will work on the topic of “circles”. The participating partners are: Galerie ART CRU Berlin, Germany, The Other Side Gallery, London, UK, GAIA museum for Outsider Art, Randers, DK and Atelier Galeria Pinella (agp) of PINEL e.V. Berlin, Germany.

The project is funded by the EU Commission (Leonardo/Grundtvig Long Life Learning). The partner organisations and the participating artists meet every 4-5 month to share practice in the either Germany, Denmark or UK.

For the first time marginalised artists get an opportunity to be creatively inspired and encouraged through workshops hosted by international partners and alongside the experience of travelling. The workshops, exchange of experience and introductions to different European cultures will lead to a European exhibition.

The first meeting of all participators takes place at the Gaia Museum, Denmark 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

The aims of the project, which started in January 2011, are to encourage a long term European partnership and development of transnational networks of Outsider Art. The project's main emphasis is placed on the collaborative working process of the participating artists. They meet over a period of 24 months for intercultural workshops in Berlin, Copenhagen and London. It's a unique opportunity for the artists to develop their potentials. Get inspired by the surroundings of each of the host towns. The artists can also exchange their knowledge and experiences as artists with disabilities and/or psychiatry background and create new artworks together. Supporting the exchange of knowledge and collective artistic practice, the project opens up new intercultural perspectives for marginalised artists.

#### **The Programme**

At the end of January 2011 initial workshops (topic: “Circles”) started in Berlin, London and Copenhagen. End of March the partners visit the GAIA Museum in Copenhagen for a workshop. In May London's The Other Side Gallery is expecting visitors from Berlin – Galerie ART CRU, and Atelier Galeria Pinella – to present the project together at Impact Art Fair. In October Galerie ART CRU invites to inspiring trips through Berlin's art scene and Atelier Galeria Pinella hosts workshops in their own photo studio. The last workshop will bring the partners to London's Other Side Gallery in March 2012. The project ends with a final exhibition at GAIA Museum of the created works in May 2012 which will travel to Berlin in June 2012.

## Partners

**Galerie ART CRU Berlin** is Berlin's only gallery for so-called Outsider Art since 2008. The term (introduced in 1945 by painter Jean Dubuffet as "Art Brut") refers to art by people with psychiatric diseases or mental disabilities. The gallery's main focus is to reduce the distance between established art and Outsider Art. Furthermore it aims to interconnect the artists and their scenes. Being located at the Kunstthof on Oranienburger Straße, the gallery doesn't just present works by people with disabilities right in the centre of the art scene, it also increases a public visibility. Galerie ART CRU Berlin is carried by the non-profit federation PS\_ART e.V. Berlin (network of different institutions) led by Alexandra Gersdorff-Bultmann and her son Nikolaj Bultmann.

**The Other Side Gallery** was constituted in 2004 and registered as a charity dedicated to creating opportunities for marginalised/outsider artists in response to the need of exhibition space and aiming to fill gaps in provision. It collaborates with organisations providing arts activities for adults who use mental health services, people with physical disabilities, learning difficulties and other groups that are disadvantaged or excluded from society (including: homeless people, refugees, substance mis-users, offenders and ex-offenders). It is currently working with 20 organisations across London and has over 220 member artists.

The **GAIA Museum for Outsider Art** collects, exhibits and communicates art made by people on the fringe of normality. It's the museum's belief that Outsider Art not only opens up to new ways of understanding and experiencing art but also encourages the viewer to reflect on human differences from new perspectives. GAIA Museum is an independent cultural organisation and currently employs 34 people with various degrees of disabilities in the museum shop, cafe, creative workshop, framing workshop and in the day-to-day running of the gallery.

### **PINEL initiative for psychic diseased**

The Atelier Galeria Pinella (agp) was founded in 1997 and consists mainly of people with psychiatric experiences and people who work in psychiatry. More than 100 artists have already participated in various projects and created works such as paintings, calendars, jewellery, ceramics, sculptures and even two solar clocks. For In Between Out the atelier invites to its very own photo-studio.

### **For further information and images please contact:**

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