

PRESS RELEASE

home  
is where  
we start  
from la  
maison est  
là où tout  
commence

***Contemporary Artists and Migration  
in French-speaking Switzerland and elsewhere***

On February 19, 2025, the NGO **ART for The World** will present a remarkable contemporary art exhibition titled "**Home is Where We Start From**" at the Geneva museum Maison Tavel (MAH).

This event is supported by the Canton and City of Geneva, the Swiss Federal Office of Culture, IOM/the International Organization for Migration, the Loterie Romande, the Leenhardt Foundation, and more and organized with the collaboration of MAH, FCAC, FMAC, the Geneva galleries Fabienne Levy, Wilde, Xippas, and Francesca Cortese Gallery (Milan), Chantal Crousel Gallery (Paris), Mennour Gallery (Paris), as well as the participation of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

The project brings together around thirty first- and second-generation immigrant, refugee, and expatriate artists living in French-speaking Switzerland and internationally. Through themes of migration, development, and the interconnection between the local and global, the artists transform their personal experiences into universal narratives. Their work explores the concept of home, as both an intimate and transcendent anchor.

Inspired by the poem by African American writer **Nayyirah Waheed**:

*"My mother was my first country. The first place I ever lived,"*

the exhibition highlights the journeys and works of Swiss artists such as **Clara Alloing, Anna Barseghian, Marie José Burki, Marisa Cornejo, Fabiana De Barros, Anjesa Dellova, Vanna Karamaounas, Elisabeth Llach, Keiko Machida, Maria-Carmen Peringeiro, Mai-Thu Perret, Carmen Perrin, Alexandra Roussopoulos, Davide-Christelle Sanvee, Vivianne Van Singer**, and others. International artists like **Marina Abramović, Mona Hatoum, Kimsooja, Ekene Emeke Maduka, Silvina Der-Meguerditchian, Shirin Neshat, Rosana Palzyan, Iris Sarah Schiller, Zineb Sedira**, and **Maria Tsagari** also joining this ambitious artistic project.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a book of interviews with the artists, conducted by **Nakhana Diakite Prats**, a Malian art critic based in France, and published by Silvana Editions. Through these conversations, the author explores the notion of "home" in the context of migration and interculturality, creating a fascinating dialogue between local roots and global influences.

- **Opening:** February 19, 2025, at 6 PM
- **Venue:** Maison Tavel (MAH), Rue du Puits-Saint-Pierre 6, 1204 Geneva
- **Duration:** February 20 – August 31, 2025

**International Women's Rights Day – Special Event**

To mark **International Women's Rights Day**, on **Saturday, March 8, 2025**, Carouge/Geneva will host a special day of:

- **Performances, debates, and concerts**, celebrating the resilience and creativity of women artists
- **Workshops** with the artists and migrant women's associations, centered around **Fabiana de Barros' "Cultural Kiosk"**
- **Film screenings** on the exhibition's themes, curated by **Alfio Di Guardo**, director of Cinéma Bio, in the presence of filmmaker **Kantarama Gahigiri**
- A **free concert** by diva soprano **Vardhui Khatchatryan**.

On **Sunday, March 9, 2025**, workshops and film screenings will continue at the Cultural Kiosk and Cinéma Bio, highlighting the video works of the participating artists.

This project is directed by **Adelina von Fürstenberg**, an independent curator and producer, founder of the Centre d'Art Contemporain in Geneva and the NGO ART for The World. Her career has been marked by numerous prestigious accolades, including the **2008 Cultural Event Label** by the Council of Europe for the film *Stories on Human Rights*, the **Golden Lion** for Best National Pavilion (Armenia) at the **56th Venice Biennale in 2015**, and the **Meret Oppenheim Grand Prize** from the **Swiss Federal Office of Culture in 2016** for her contribution to the arts.

### **About ART for The World**

Founded in Geneva in 1996 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, **ART for The World (AFTW)** is recognized for its role as a catalyst for change, curating art as a vehicle for social awareness. Through traveling exhibitions and film productions, the NGO addresses issues related to Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, often in collaboration with various UN agencies and Swiss cultural institutions.

Among the NGO's emblematic projects are collective exhibitions such as **Playgrounds & Toys**, **Food**, and **Aqua**, showcased worldwide, as well as solo exhibitions of **Robert Wilson** and **Marina Abramović**. In parallel, AFTW has produced over 50 award-winning short films from 2008 to 2022, often aired by **EBU/Eurovision**, addressing crucial topics such as Human Rights, the Environment, Climate Change, and Biodiversity.

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