



UNESCO-Aschberg programme
for artists and cultural professionals

Parallel Session 12: “Cartooning for Peace and Democracy: Artistic Freedom and Freedom of Expression at the Tip of the Pen”

3 May 2019, 14h-15h30

Venue: African Union HQ, Small Conference Room 2

Addis Abbeba, Ethiopia

This event is supported through the Aschberg Programme for Artists and Cultural Professionals

Recent years have seen an increasing level of skepticism towards journalists and media. Has this attitudinal shift affected cartoonists around the world? Cartooning for Peace and UNESCO bring together cartoonists from Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Ivory Coast, Malaysia, South Africa and Sudan for an open discussion about the nature and role of their profession in 2019.

As “barometers of freedom of expression”, these panellists will shed light on the interrelated concepts of freedom of the press, freedom of expression and artistic freedom, specifically in electoral contexts.

Live drawing and projection of drawings from all over the world, allowing for a lively and interactive exchange, will accompany the session.

See [Media Advisory](#) Cartoonist for Peace

Speakers/Moderator



Xavier Gorce (France)

Xavier Gorce is an independent press cartoonist who has worked for a wide range of newspapers and magazines such as *Témoignage Chrétien*, *Passages*, *Enfants Magazine*, *CFDT Magazine*, *Talents*, *Phosphore*, *L'événement du Jeudi*, *Elle*, and *Bon Voyage* since 1986. He began a daily collaboration with *lemonde.fr* in 2002. His famed series *Les Indégivrables*, a short comic strip featuring penguins that comment on current affairs, have been published regularly in *Le Monde* and other media outlets. Gorce also produces illustrations for publishing. His work focuses on preserving the vibration, purity and intensity of the primal movement.



Lars Refn (Denmark)

Lars Refn is a Danish press cartoonist. Born in Valby, a suburb of Copenhagen, he graduated from the Skolen for Brugskunst, the Copenhagen School of Arts and Crafts in 1980. Driven by his deep interest in political satire and prolific cartoonist, he has been a press cartoonist since 1980 and has worked for a large number of newspapers, magazines and digital media, focusing in particular on the relationship between people and technology.

Lars Refn is also part of the editorial staff of the satirical magazine *SPOT*. He was president of *Danske Bladtegnere*, the Danish federation of press cartoonists, from 2013 to 2019



Brandan Reynolds (South Africa)

Brandan Eugene Reynolds (Brandan) is South Africa's most prolific editorial cartoonist. He has been drawing the daily editorial cartoon for the national newspaper *Business Day* since 2002, and he also contributes a weekly cartoon to the *Sunday Times* and *the Business Times*. He attended St. Columba's High School in Athlone, Cape Town, and graduated in Graphic Design from the Ruth Prowse School of Art in Woodstock, Cape Town in 1991. He drew editorial cartoons to *The Weekend Argus*, *The Sunday Independent* and *the Sunday Tribune* until 2017 and *Rapport* until 2018. He was made a member of the international organization *Cartooning for Peace* in 2014 and is also a member of *Cartoon Movement*. He lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Alaa Satir (Sudan)

Alaa Satir is a Sudanese cartoonist from Khartoum, graduated in architecture from the University of Khartoum. She currently works as graphic designer, illustrator and cartoonist. Her visual art is often used by various offices and NGOs Her first personal exhibition (2017), addressed topics like feminism, social media and politics. She also took part in an exhibition for women's right and gender-based violence in March 2018 and launched a brand named Planet.B in June 2018.



Zohoré (Côte d'Ivoire)

Currently *Cartooning for Peace* ambassador for, Lassane Zohoré (Zohoré) became the cartoonist for the column *Le sourire du jour* in the Ivorian daily newspaper *Fraternité Matin* in 1985. Several newspapers, including *Courrier International* and *Jeune Afrique*, solicited his talent. International institutions and NGOs such as *Reporters Without Borders* have also often used his cartoons as part of awareness-raising campaigns.

Beside his work as a cartoonist, Zohoré co-founded the journal *Gbich!* with Illary Simplicite in 1999, of which he has been the Publishing Director since its creation.

Author of various comic books, he is also the president of *Tâche d'encre*, the association of press cartoonists and comic strips of the Ivory coast, and of *Coco Bulles*, the International festival of press cartoons and comics in Côte d'Ivoire. He is the second Vice President of the *Press Publishers of the Ivory Coast Association (GEPCI)*.



Zunar (Malaysia)

With his slogan, “How Can I be Neutral, Even My Pen Has a Stand”, Zunar exposes corruption and abuse of power committed by the government of Malaysia through his art. He faced nine charges under the archaic *Sedition Act* until 2018, and was subject to a travel ban and possible 43 years imprisonment. The previous Malaysian government had banned five of his cartoon books on the ground that their content was “detrimental to public order.” Charges against

him were dropped following a change of government.

Zunar was the only Malaysian to be selected by *Amnesty International* for their biggest annual international campaign, “Write for Rights (#W4R) 2015”.

He won the *Cartooning for Peace* International Press Cartoon Award in Geneva (2016), the Courage in Editorial Cartooning Award 2011 by *Cartoonists Right Network International (CRNI)*, the Human Rights Watch Hellman/Hammett Award (2011 and 2015) and the International Press Freedom Award from the *Committee to Protect Journalist (CPJ)*, in New York (2015).



Yemsrach Yetneberk (Ethiopia)

Originally trained as an architect, Yemsrach Yetneberk runs an illustration based company with her brother, called *Laughing Gas Design* in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Yetneberk considers cartoons an entertaining way to teach the public about a particular topic, to convey a message, and to create awareness about domestic or foreign issues that can appeal to all ages by using satire and humor to point out issues not always heard.

She has a deep desire to see her Ethiopian culture illustrated and animated before she flies to mars for good.



Emeline Wuilbercq, Journalist, France Afrique (France, Moderator)

Emeline Wuilbercq is a French journalist based in Addis Ababa since 2015 as a correspondent for *Le Monde*. Her articles have appeared in *GEO*, *TV5MONDE* and *Jeune Afrique*, among other publications.