

Art, Fascism and Democracy: The Politics of Division versus the Politics of Inclusion

The civil war in Spain was seen as a European war against fascism and foreshadowed WWII. What lessons can we learn from the Spanish Civil War in relation to standing up to fascism particularly in view of the attacks on democracy and human rights that we are witnessing today?

This project tells the stories of artists and activists who supported democracy and freedom and stood up against fascism in a time of war. Using theatre, film and political activism, organisations from four different countries across Europe work collaboratively to reflect on the ending of the Spanish Civil War as a key turning point in European history. Using creative processes of theatre, film and on-line digital resources the project explores the effects of fascism on the lives of ordinary people and what happens in society during and after civil war when totalitarianism and fascism takes over and free speech, democratic processes and civil rights are denied.

Twenty stories of resistance are gathered, five each from Spain, Ireland, Germany and Italy, all linked to the Spanish Civil War and the fight between fascism and democracy, promoting a remembrance of a shared European history. The stories are used to inspire and create a Democracy and Freedom book, theatre workshop model and performance.

Enjoy performances and workshops exploring stories of resistance from artists and activists who stood up against fascism during and after the Spanish Civil War. Engage in a Democracy and Peace international symposium and public debates on how to prevent the growth of fascism and intolerance in society, exploring how to recognise a 'scapegoat' and deconstruct the discourse leading to exclusion and marginalisation. The project brings people together to explore contemporary democratic achievements in Europe today and the role European solidarity can play in promoting civil rights (including freedom of speech and the right to vote), free media and open debate which are indispensable elements of democracy and peace

The project is supported by Europe for Citizens programme and the partners are: **IFESCOOP, Valencia, Spain**; Smashing Times, Dublin, Ireland; University of Hannover, Hannover, Germany; and Consorzio per la Formazione l'Innovazione e la Qualita, Pinerolo, Italy.