



# ARTISTS CONNECTING IN TRANSITION

## Challenges of Artistic Practice in Exile: an equitable approach to the inclusion of displaced artists

Artists Connecting in Transition (ACT) is a unique cultural collaboration between artists and producers, centring on artistic practice and international exchange in the context of significant global challenges and inequalities around forced migration and displacement. Led by D6: Culture in Transit, ACT is supported by the British Council International Collaboration Fund and brings together D6 (UK), Fanak Fund (FR), MedeArts (JO) and artherelstanbul (TR) with artists in exile. Through a process of iterative development, Fanak Fund will lead on research to build the capacities of the project partners, their artists and the local cultural communities, sharing knowledge and fostering advocacy relating to working conditions and access to cultural rights.

### Research questions:

- What are the ethical and legal considerations when working with artists in exile?
- How do we sensitively develop sustainable models of support and care for artists in exile?
- Have we considered the wider context? How does concerted advocacy action and coordination around cultural rights feed into practice?
- Where do transversal themes of security, the media, social or environmental justice lie?

**Methodology:** ACT is practice-led and supports six selected artists to develop their work across studio spaces in Newcastle, Irbid and Istanbul. Three capacity-building workshops will take place in each city with the aim of connecting practice and international voices through the promotion and sharing of artistic production, the facilitation of public debates and networking. These diverse conversations will feed the research which will be publicly shared at the end of the project in Spring 2023.

**Main results:** ACT will support the practice of individual artists through residency opportunities, produce local and digital exhibitions of new art work produced by the six participating artists and give international visibility to their work. The partners will acquire new knowledge through collaboration informing their own organisational practices. A second phase of the project, ACT II will follow (pending funding).

**Conclusions:** ACT works locally to support artists with lived experience of displacement and shares the ambition to connect, learn, advocate and develop internationally.

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