

SOLIDARITY LOOM

Weaving a Global Network of Engaged Creatives

in a world of rising authoritarianism

virtual series January-June 2026

YOUTH, ART, AND ACTIVISM

January 22

10 am EST | 12 pm BRT | 4 pm CET

4 pm WAT | 6 pm EAT | 6 pm AST

8:30 pm IST

REGISTER at:
www.impactart.org

IMPACT

TRANSFORMING
CONFLICT WITH ARTS
AND CULTURE

ARC

Artists
at Risk
Connection

**HORIZONS
PROJECT**



DahTeatar



**IMAGINING
PEACE**

THE SESSION FLOW

5 minutes

Welcome and Introduction

Armine Avetisyan, Cynthia Cohen (IMPACT)

60 minutes

STORIES OF CREATIVE RESISTANCE AND ARTIVISM

Katarina Drenjanin (Serbia), Benjie B. Kitay (Philippines),
Esther Mwikali (Kenya), Dom Holmes (USA)

20 minutes

DISCUSSION IN SMALL GROUPS

Reflecting on how the stories relate to other contexts

30 minutes

EMBODIED INTEGRATION OF POLITICAL CONTEXT, RESISTANCE, AND SOLIDARITY

Facilitated by Zoya Sardashti

5 minutes

WRAP UP AND CLOSURE

KATARINA DRENJANIN

Visual Artist (Serbia)

I was born in Belgrade, Serbia, in 2001 and grew up in the nearby city of Obrenovac. I later returned to Belgrade to attend the Philological High School in the French department, and went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in Painting at the Faculty of Fine Arts, where I am currently completing my Master's studies.

Over the past year, my practice has focused on art objects, installations, video performances, and drawings developed as part of a series titled Home, which explores emotional, physical, and psychological experiences of home, family, and relationships. Alongside my studies, I have participated in workshops and projects in performance and visual arts, deepening my interest in body memory, shared knowledge, and collective perception. I am especially drawn to community-based work, using art to create spaces for dialogue, reflection, and collective engagement.



BENJIE B. KITAY

Performance artist (Philippines)

Benjie B. Kitay, also known as "Pipoi," is a theater actor, facilitator, playwright, lighting designer, and director. He is the former President and current Property Manager of Youth Advocates Through Theatre Arts (YATTA) and a member of the D'Salag Collective.

He co-wrote DAGIT, a play on child trafficking in the context of the climate crisis, staged at the Asian Youth Theatre Festival in Singapore and later toured across the Visayas and Mindanao.

He also wrote and directed Saving the Blue, advocating for marine ecosystem protection, which premiered in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, in 2019, and has written radio scripts promoting child rights and environmental protection. Benjie believes theater can change lives by telling real and relevant stories that invite people to recognize their role in social issues and become part of the solution—one stage at a time.



ESTHER MWIKALI

Trauma Counsellor, Educator, Human Rights Defender (Kenya)

As a Trauma Counsellor, Paralegal, Civic and Development Educator, and Human Rights Defender, I empower communities and advocate for social change. I believe in the power of youth and art to drive transformation - as a young woman in Nairobi's informal settlements, I support artists using art to stand against authoritarianism at justice centres. When I'm not working, you can find me on the court playing catch ball



DOM HOLMES

Musician, cultural organizer (USA)

Dom Holmes is the Director of Culture and Community at RuralOrganizing.org, where he leads work at the intersection of community building, engagement, and cultural strategy. With over a decade of experience, he has designed and led programs that have reached hundreds of thousands of people nationwide, moving communities from participation to meaningful action.

His work focuses on supporting rural communities with limited resources, using innovative and equitable engagement models to build sustainable, connected capacity. Central to Dom's approach is the belief that arts and culture are essential to community building—strengthening shared identity, civic life, and resilience, especially in challenging times.



ZOYA SHOJAE SARDASHTI

Performing artist, educator, researcher

Zoya Shojaee Sardashti is an Iranian American performing artist, educator, and researcher working between The Hague, Laguna Niguel, and Seoul. They are the founder of Home Soil Projects, a transdisciplinary platform for participatory performance and arts-based peace education supporting communities navigating migration, displacement, and social exclusion.

Grounded in devised theatre and dance, Zoya's practice integrates embodied reflection with feminist and postcolonial theory, generating personal and collective narratives through collaborative, arts-based research. Their work has been presented internationally at venues including Liebig 12 (Transmediale/CTM Festival), the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace, Museion Atelier, Mare Culturale Urbano, and Teatro La Compagnia, as well as in group exhibitions in San Diego.





WWW.IMPACTART.ORG
INFO@IMPACTART.ORG
@IMPACTARTORG

