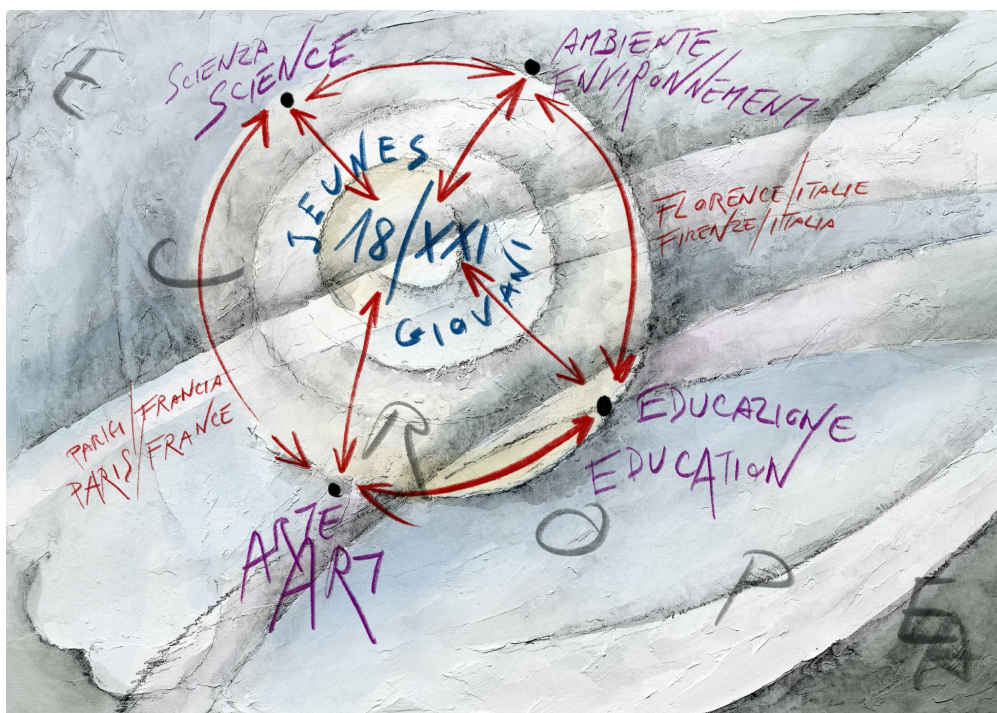


# EUROPEAN CHARTER

18xx1

For a Europe of Culture



The pillars of the 18-XX1 Charter

Graphic design: Teatro della Pergola

AS PEOPLE SAY  
WHEN THE MOON CHANGES;  
THE NEW MOON HOLDS THE OLD ONE  
ALL NIGHT IN HER ARMS.  
*Looking for the Old and New, Bertolt Brecht, 1951.*

## PREAMBLE

Celebrating the coming of age of the first children of the XXIst century: this was the essence of the first version of the 18-XX1 Charter written in 2018 at Théâtre de la Ville by a group of artists, scientists and philosophers from all generations. At the dawn of the twenties of the XXIst century, this text was born from the awareness of a shared global context: the climate emergency, the migratory stakes, the rise of extremism...

The upheaval caused by the COVID 19 crisis led us to update this initial version and to complete it by taking into account issues, which have profoundly changed our relationship with health, science and the future, and questioned our common capacity for solidarity. In response to the isolation and uncertainty caused by this context, the 18-XX1 Charter offers the hope of a collective dynamic. In order to work against borders, whether physical or mental, between disciplines and between people, and to invent new actions to travel together through this unprecedented period in history. Today, the role of culture, art and the artist is essential to keep the social link alive, to develop the forces of imagination, and to make collective and individual resilience possible. It is time to consider that this pandemic can be an accelerating factor for new choices and commitments.

In response to the temptations of isolation, 18-XX1 is an invitation to build, invent, question, through the power of culture and art, a common, human territory, to fully enter the XXIst century and bring generations together around the issues of our time.

It is an appeal to everyone's imagination, to young people, artists, researchers, philosophers, and the cultural, educational, scientific and academic institutions.

It is an invitation to carry out projects with and for the generations of the XXIst century.

18-XX1 is a bridge between art, science, health, environment and education.

A bridge between places, cities, countries and languages, in all the diversity of cultures.

A bridge between the XXth and the XXIst century.

A bridge between generations.

The 18-XX1 Charter is a shared and evolutive text, reflecting the dynamics of the project. Since its first version in 2018, the Charter has been translated into English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Greek and Portuguese. It has been read and shared in the great amphitheatre of the Sorbonne in Paris, but also in Florence in 2019, in Lisbon, Rome, Bucharest... In the coming months, we would like to invite young people and cultural institutions in other cities of Europe and the world to discover and contribute to the 18-XX1 Charter.

## 1. FOR THE YOUTH OF THE XXI<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

18-XX1 takes as its symbolic starting point the coming of age of the first children of the century, born after 2000. It is an invitation to invent projects with young people, to generate a dialogue with the generations born in the XXI<sup>st</sup> century. Such an initiative seems all the more essential as the health crisis has severely affected the younger generations, cut off from a large part of their sources of creativity, links and contacts, and hindered in their professional, cultural and artistic projects.

## 2. THE THEATRE AS A PLACE OF TRANSMISSION AND SHARED KNOWLEDGE

The 18-XX1 Charter was born in a theatre: a place of resources open to the world, a place of memory and transmission. It invites us to share everyone's languages, imaginations and cultures. To echo the universal language of arts and sciences. To bring together different generations around creative projects building bridges across geographical and cultural borders. 18-XX1 is based on a belief: the possibilities of new links offered by culture, its power to enrich and transmit through interaction with others. 18-XX1 is not limited to theatres; all cultural venues, schools and universities in France, Europe and the rest of the world are welcome to join.

## 3. A EUROPEAN CALL

As nationalisms grow with alarming vigour and conflicts threaten the European and world peace, the 18-XX1 Charter is driven by the desire to promote a Europe of youth, a Europe of culture and arts, and an alternative to economic approaches. A Europe that would not exist without its multiple relations to the world, proud of its plurality and rich in its diversity. The Charter contributes to the emergence of a positive European citizenship by involving the youth of the XXI<sup>st</sup> century, primarily concerned by the future of the European space, built by its founders to establish a lasting peace. The 18-XX1 projects tell other stories, other visions of a free, open and welcoming Europe, rich from its diversity.

The place of the artist is therefore essential. In essence, theatre is a collective art form and a way of showing otherness. The European actor is not only an interpreter, he is a transmitter, bringing works to life by sharing them and inscribing them in the memory of audiences. Poets, authors, European artists and troupes travelling to perform works in their original languages are the vital forces behind the creation of a European imagination, necessary for maintaining peace and finding common answers to the great challenges of the century.

## 4. AT THE SCHOOL OF THE XXI<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

Education is the key issue of the XXI<sup>st</sup> century. Curiosity along with the desire to explore and understand must be shared by all, at all ages. The 18-XX1 Charter seeks to build bridges between new generations, artists and teachers to encourage the evolution of

schools and universities, and give a central place to artistic, scientific and cultural education. The partner institutions of the Charter do not only consider educational institutions as places of vertical transmission, but also as springboards to stimulate and encourage creativity. The 18-XX1 projects with schools aim to develop the children's taste for works of art, scientific knowledge and reading; to awaken their curiosity and their critical sense; to develop new spaces for the expression of their imaginations. The universities, schools and research partners of 18-XX1 are committed to integrating the plurality of knowledge and experimentation generated by the students through projects designed to encourage imagination, enterprise and creation.

## **5. BRINGING TOGETHER ARTS & SCIENCES - CURIOSITY & EXPERIMENTATION**

Experimentation, curiosity, openness to mistake making are necessary means to apprehend and understand reality. Scientific discourse and method are essential for building the XXIst century. 18-XX1 intends to link scientific and artistic practices. In 2015, the astrophysicist Stephen Hawking addressed his wishes to humanity: "Through physics, I have sought to answer the biggest questions. But there are other challenges, other big questions waiting to be answered, and for that we need a curious, engaged new generation that understands science [...] We are all time travellers, moving together into the future. But we must work together to make the future a place we want to visit. [...] I am well aware of the precious value of time. Seize the moment. Act now.

The 18-XX1 Charter encourages the intersection of views and skills. It calls for the creation of cross-disciplinary projects highlighting the plurality of approaches and methods, which vary according to cultures and generations. In this way, cultural, scientific or medical institutions will be able to create new spaces for dialogue and encourage a convergence of visions. Thus, at the end of this global health crisis, we will have learned, reflected, exchanged and created.

## **6. ART & HEALTH**

The 18-XX1 Charter encourages links with the world of health, to work on the emergence of new forms of solidarity based on our ability to think together about care and attention to others. After two years of the pandemic, it is essential to develop poetic and solidarity-based artistic actions with patients and caregivers, who have been hit the hardest.

Bridges can be built between cultural and educational institutions and hospitals. Between artists, doctors and their patients, to bring art and culture into the patient's room, to develop a different and complementary way of listening to medical analysis, to encourage the liberation of emotions in the difficult moments that occur over the course of a treatment.

This Charter calls on cultural and health establishments to think together about new ways of acting, creating, and putting imaginations into action, to rethink their respective practices, so that new forms of care and support for illness, suffering and old age emerge.

## 7. CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

1.5°C. This is the global warming threshold which could be reached by 2030, according to the latest IPCC report. Action by all of us to preserve the environment has never been so crucial.

The XXth century witnessed the first signs of our planet's limits. Today, the climate threat is firmly rooted in our collective imagination and will profoundly change our way of life. It is a major concern for the new generations that are aware that they are living on credit on a breathless planet. This reality of the century is at the origin of essential individual and collective commitments, particularly among the new generations. The disappearance of numerous living species, global warming, natural disasters and the appearance of unknown viruses are at the heart of researchers' and artists' concerns. 18-XX1 invites anyone who wishes to become an ambassador to take these major issues into account in the construction of projects and to make them a priority for their institutions.

## 8. GENDER EQUALITY

Equality between women and men is a fundamental right and must be a pillar of the XXIst century. The 18-XX1 Charter urges to make this equality a priority, and to recognise that it cannot be achieved without a sustained and profound political and cultural struggle within institutions. This strong commitment, which is the only way to deconstruct stereotypes in the long term and effectively fight against the inertia of individual and collective mentalities, must involve concrete action: constant vigilance in all areas, particularly when hiring and promoting, awareness-raising and educational activities, and regular assessments of figures to measure and correct bias.

## 9. FROM ONE CENTURY TO THE NEXT: HERITAGE, TRANSMISSION, MEDIATION

The XXth century has its share of darkness and light. It has seen two world wars and abominable genocides. Many peoples have fought for their independence and were freed from colonial dominations. Great discoveries have been made in the field of technology, to improve human living conditions, in the field of science, to increase our knowledge of the universe, our environments and ourselves and, of course, in the field of the arts. 18-XX1 is founded on the principles of memory, transmission and knowledge of this individual and collective history. It makes the past resonate with the present, in order to understand the future.

Institutions must go beyond the simple transmission of knowledge and reflect on the practical conditions of an essential work of memory. Whether artistic, scientific or cultural, mediation work must enable the general public to reappropriate the contents, to create meaning and, in the long term, to take part in the initiatives themselves. The Charter's partner institutions are invited to build projects focusing on inclusion, self-fulfilment, autonomy, diversity, and the development of a taste for knowledge.



## 10. TO EXPERIENCE AND UNDERSTAND THE MAJOR EVENTS OF THE CENTURY

The first 21 years of the century witnessed tremendous advances in equality, science, health, engineering, knowledge and space exploration. But as it enters its 22nd year, the XXIst century has also been disrupted by major events: terrorist attacks, economic crises, the rise of nationalist and extremist governments... Since 2020, the pandemic has weakened social ties, questioned our relationships with others, work, family, science and health.

18-XX1 is an invitation to tell the story of these key moments in our history. For centuries, each major crisis has resulted in an abundance of works of art, which are now considered to be witnesses of their time, and constitute precious material for historians and artists. The projects born from the Charter will be able to support artists - authors, directors, visual artists, choreographers, actors, dancers, musicians - who wish to tell the story and interpret our present time. It is crucial to keep a trace of these years, in order to transmit this memory to future generations.

The charter also encourages its ambassadors to keep documentary records of the research and creation processes of their projects, which are as essential as the public renderings.

## 11. TIME TO CHOOSE

Through the 18-XX1 Charter, we want to hear the voices of today and the citizens of tomorrow. The 18-XX1 Charter intends to gather, discuss and defend more than ever a Europe of the arts, a Europe of culture, a Europe aware of its responsibilities regarding the climatic challenges of our time, a Europe open to the world.

From the age of 18, or 21 in some countries, individuals come of age and have the right to vote. They are able to decide what they want for their future. What do we choose to transmit and defend together? Facing the temptations of isolation, culture is more than ever essential to build, reinvent and question, through the power of art, a free European citizenship, built on the sharing of works, languages and imaginations.

### GET INVOLVED, PARTICIPATE

Each partner institution, each person inspired by the principles of the 18-XX1 Charter can become an ambassador, which means sharing its principles and acting concretely in its name. The Charter thus becomes a basis for orienting and structuring a project and developing new forms of collaboration.

Each partner can freely initiate an 18-XX1 project and support its implementation. These projects can be defined by their creative dimension, by the involvement of young people born after 2000 and by the bridges they create between generations, disciplines, places and languages. Driven by fantasy, poetry and imagination, these

projects cultivate a state of mind based on curiosity, openness and caring.