

**WHAT
CAN
CULTURE
DO?**

[#AmsterdamManifesto4Europe](#)

AMSTERDAM MANIFESTO FOR EUROPE

Europe is at a crossroad.

Division and polarisation are threatening decades of peace and European cooperation.
Inequality is eroding the fabric of our societies.
Culture and identity are being misused to divide communities.

Rather than creating solutions, Europe is often seen as part of the problem.
We forget why the European Union was created in the first place.
At the same time, we find it difficult to formulate a new vision, a new utopia for Europe.

European sentiment

We need to create a true European sentiment,
a European sense of purpose, a European sense of belonging.
With such sentiment a better Europe is possible,
but without it Europe is vulnerable to division and disintegration.

In times of uncertainty and unpredictability;
in times when core values are being questioned around the world and even in Europe,
confirming and living our values openly is an indispensable compass for action.

united

We believe in a united and peaceful Europe.
We believe in the values of cooperation, sharing and solidarity.

We believe in democracy and the rule of law.
We believe in the power of human dignity and ingenuity.

We believe in diversity and freedom.
We believe in the power of hope, curiosity and optimism.

hope

What can culture do?

Culture can unite Europe.

Culture can create spaces for European experience.

Culture can celebrate Europe's diversity.

Culture can tell the stories of Europe.

Culture can imagine a better Europe beyond pie charts and growth rates.

Because Europe needs new utopias.

Culture can foster a European public space.

Culture can save Europe from navelgazing.

Culture can demystify digital technology.

And culture can provide an antidote against extremism and division.

new utopias

Because Europe needs new utopias.

Today's times are challenging times.

How can we react to these challenges without being simply reactive?

How can we work on the future of Europe while also addressing the actual problems of today?

But challenging times are also times of opportunity,

they create space and urgency for new thinking.

Europe needs imagination.

Europe needs imagination

It is not only what we do but how we do it.

We must be both strategic and nimble.

We must think before we do. But then we must do.

We will empower others. A minimum of 50% of our budget will go to our partners.

We are European, in our beautiful diversity, and we are local.

Each of our initiatives,

whether at local, national or pan-European level,

must have a clear European purpose.

We will speak a language people actually understand.

We will live diversity and not just talk about it.

We will experiment and look out for unconventional ideas and approaches.

We need to work together.

Seriously. Seriously.

Anything else would be irresponsible.

We are committed to do whatever it takes.

Let's be more.

Let's be more.

Join us in defending European unity and in making Europe a better place.

For all of us now and for generations to come.