

Tania El Khoury

Cultural Exchange Rate

created by Tania El Khoury



AULA MAXIMA,
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

GALWAY INTERNATIONAL
ARTS FESTIVAL 2024



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Cultural Exchange Rate is an interactive live art project in which El Khoury shares her family memoirs of life in border villages between Lebanon and Syria.

The acclaimed Lebanese artist Tanya El Khoury examines the universal never-ending story of migration through a family diary of the physical borders crossed and the recognition that the cruelest of borders are invisible to the eye and present in everyday life.

Cultural Exchange Rate is based on recorded interviews with El Khoury's late grandmother, oral histories collected from her village in Lebanon, the discovery of lost relatives in Mexico City, and the family's attempt to secure dual citizenship. The audience is invited to immerse their heads into one family's secret boxes to explore sounds, images, and textures that trace more than a century of border crossings.

Interactive Live Art by **Tania El Khoury**

Production Design **Petra Abousleiman**

Producer **RR Sigel**

Audience Guide **Nour Annan**

Sound Design **Fadi Tabbal**

Graphic Design **Jana Traboulsi**

Video Editing **Ali Beidoun**

Set Construction **Galway International Arts Festival**

Photos **Tania El Khoury** and **Ziad Abu-Rish**



Tania El Khoury

Tania El Khoury is a live artist who creates interactive installations and performances that reflect on the production of collective memory and the cultivation of solidarity. Her work is activated by tactile, auditory and visual materials collected and curated by the artist and her collaborators, ultimately transformed through audience interaction. El Khoury’s work engages questions of displacement, border systems, privatization, and the politics of space in how they are shaped through nation building projects and colonial legacies.

She is the recipient of the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts, Soros Art Fellowship, the Bessie Outstanding Production Award, the International Live Art Prize, the Total Theatre Innovation Award, and the Arches Brick Award.

Tania is Distinguished Artist in Residence of Theater & Performance and the Director of the Center for Human Rights & the Arts at Bard College in New York. She holds a PhD from Royal Holloway, University of London. She is associated with Forest Fringe collective of artists in the UK and is a co-founder of the urban research and live art collective, Dictaphone Group in Lebanon.

