

# EU-MAN

universal colours IV/98



*Artist of the issue: Dwi Setianto*

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# Editorial

**Since the apparition of the first issue of the UC in May 1997, the insisting to develop and enlarge the magazine has been nagging at the makers. This nagging found an open mind and a big hope and created many questions. The most important was why to develop this simple channel which is so very limited in the sense of distribution? The number of the copies that we print can not even be compared with other magazines or organization information channels.**

To answer such a question we have to look first at the necessity of communication between the migrant artists themselves. Then, on the other hand, look at the necessity to let their voice be heard - to the officials, to the cultural authorities, to the native artists and to the people as well.

We have to be conscious about our huge responsibility in front of ourselves and of others. However, the duty of this paper is not only to tell news about our individual activities what this artist has done, where that artist has traveled. This is important too, of course. But the significant, as I believe it, is to tell what this artist has reached in his/her experience or technique, or thought treatment that has been changed for instance.

This is one thing; the other thing is to let our voice reach the responsible and the decision-makers. This paper reaches, I dare say, every desk of cultural officials, at least in Finland and Denmark. So, whether they read it or not, we have to talk about our problems, obsessions, feelings and even our hopes and dreams, or if I do not exaggerate, even our social problems that effect in one way or another our personal lives as artists.

We have insisted more than once on such kind of questions through the UC. Yet we have got practically nothing. Some of our members have reproached us asking why we did not put this news or that picture. Some become angry just because we

did not mention some mistake happened.

However, talking about developing the UC, I would like to emphasize that from now on we are printing, not copying, the magazine. I want to thank my colleagues and those who never stop insisting on and demanding development. When we suggested the tools of development to them they were the first to participate and volunteers to make this magazine that, as I see it, will have a good place among the culture and art movement all around Europe.

Amir Khatib

# *Reactions on the publication*

## *EU-MAN 98*

**T**he first publication of our organization, EU-MAN 98, designed by the artist Ali Jabbar, has received quite some attention from our friends, other artists, critics and people involved in the art movement in Finland and in Europe.

Critic Anna Hintsala, Åbo Underrättelser, the Swedish daily, wrote about the exhibition, and gave her comment on the book. She wrote about the authors, the exhibition participants, and criticized it in a very mature way. Also the major Swedish-Finnish daily, Hufvudstadsbladet, published a comment on the exhibition, written by the head of the Turku Art museum, Berndt Arell. He introduced EU-MAN as a new influence for the art and cultural life in Finland. Some of the other papers in Europe mention the book in critic and analysis. The critic Yassin AL Nassir wrote about it, saying: A characteristic publication that archives the migrant artists in Europe. The Iraqi film director Qassim Hawal wrote in his column in the AL Wifaq paper published in London: I did not notice

any shiny colour in this book. As migrant artists we should break the wall of darkness. On another level: around 400 copies of the book have been distributed to the public, to artists and people in charge of art, critics, journalists. Three bookstores in Finland and Denmark took the book for sale.

Many are the fruits that EU-MAN has got in its one and a half year of hard work. EU-MAN 98 with its 68 pages contains three articles, written by Bianca Gräsbeck, Khaled D Ramadan and Amir Khatib, as well as the CV:s and pictures of the works of the participants in the large EU-MAN 98 exhibition in Turku, August 6-31. The publication still inspires reactions all around Europe.

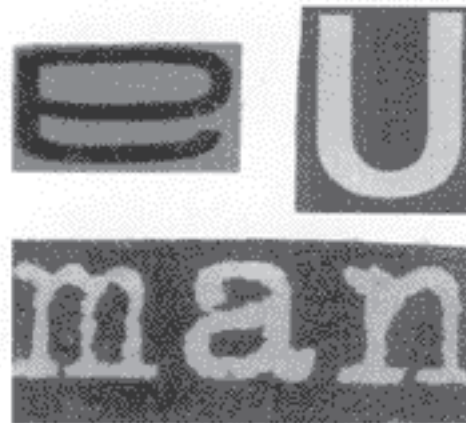


# WELCOME

At his last visit to Spain, Ali Jabbar, the EU-MAN's Denmark coordinator

met a number of migrant artists. He explained the aims and the dimensions of EU-MAN to them, EU-MAN which works actively and continuously to support the artistic movement and the migrant art. Many artists wanted to join the organization and insisted to work with it in the future. Some of them gave Ali their CV:s and pictures of their art works. They promised to work

actively for the EU-MAN in Spain and are going to arrange exhibitions and other activities for the members of the EU-MAN in the other member states. This realization of a group of migrant artists is not new to our experience or to the working traditions of EU-MAN, but it proves a feeling of responsibility and a need to keep in contact with each others as artists living in exile.



The commitments of the Artist Dafir Adnan and the Artist Munir EL Saadawi is a serious step to get the work of EU-MAN forward and especially in one of the most important European countries for the art - Spain.

To us this step practically means that there will be a coordination in Spain. This new coordination with new members and new blood, volunteers to work in the organization, increases EU-MAN:s credibility day after day.

Spain is the tenth member state. We consider this step as an added value to our work, to our strengths which are increasing all the time, the strength which is wanted continuously.

So we wish our friends in Spain the most welcome and we have confidence that we well work together to encourage the art movement and the cultural life all over Europe.

# Taking the bull by the horn

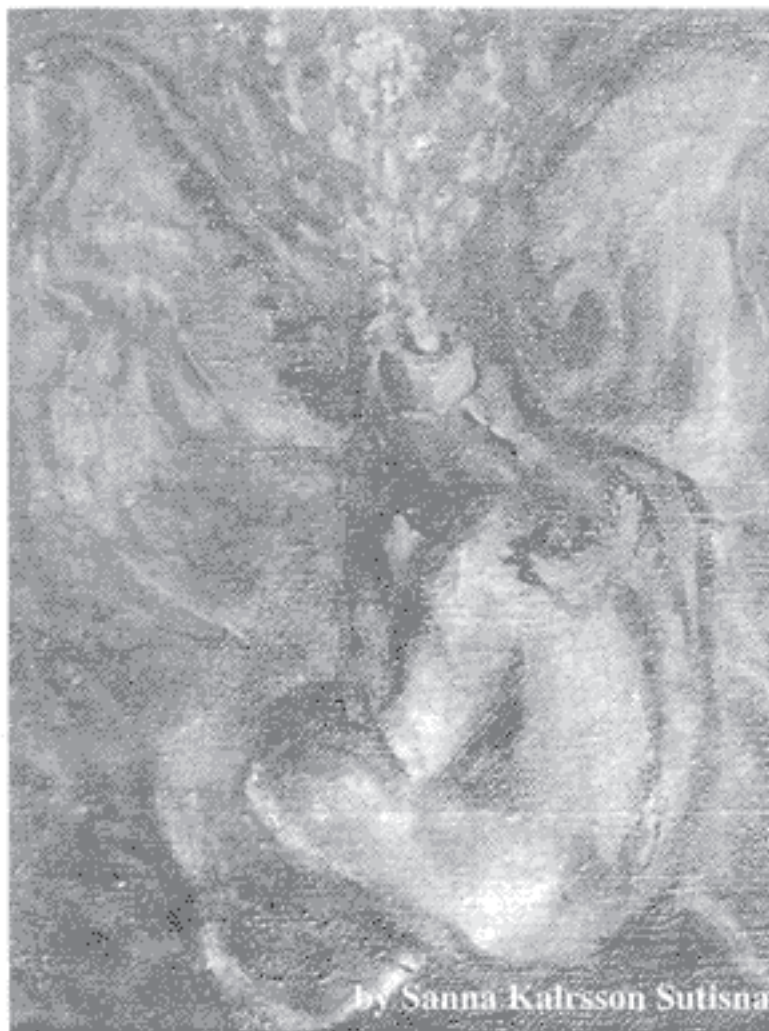
A group of migrant artists resident on the EU area saw the need to put their talents together to promote a multicultural Europe, combine ideas and put them into reality, introduce migrant artists to the EU natives, and promote interaction between migrants and native Europeans.

In January 1997 they registered a network of migrant artists living and working in the European Union area, a network they named-EU-MAN: European Union Migrant Artist' Network.

This network today has a membership of 80 visual artists, drawn from ten EU countries.

It was an idea hatched by Iraqi born Amir Khatib, painter, actor, journalist, who is resident in Finland since 1990.

Through share hard work and believe in what he is donig, Mr. Khatib coordinated many



artists into this network. Old friends and colleagues, new friends met in his travels in and around Europe, while attending and contributing to various workshops, seminars, conferences and so on.

And as the saying goes, "charity begins at home", Mr.Khatib understands this philosophy very well in 1997, in five months after the inception of EU-MAN, it had its first group exhibition in Turku, Finland.

This was EU-MAN's first public outing, and it featured the works of ten members drawn from different parts of Finland.



**written by Ike Chime. This article was first published in Octavia Art Papers, August 1998.**

As a follow up to last years' exhibition, the EU-MAN is this year holding a more extensive exhibition combined with the launching of a large catalogue of EU-MAN98 participant artists.



by Sanna Kalrsson Sutisna

The exhibition takes place in the City of Turku. It will feature the works of migrant artists from 9 EU countries, the works of more than thirty artists will be exhibited.

It is not a surprise that an idea like this was conceived in Finland. The country has a long reputation for attracting artists from many cultures around the world. This is due mostly of Finland's sincere greed for knowledge about far away places. Over the years, many renowned artists from different cultures have visited Finland with their works, painters, sculptors, designers and so on. These visits often organized and sponsored by government and non government organizations, with the sole of promoting

muticulture, have enriched the artistic life in Finland over the years.

Japanese flower arts (Ikebana) Nigerian Uli paintings and indigo fabric designs, Batiks from Tanzania, Chinese sculptures, cartoon drawings from

Zambia, are a few examples of the numerous art exhibitions of works by visiting foreign artists.

Artists from other cultures who are resident in Finland also have their share of exhibitions of this nature. The openness and freedom in Finland have encouraged these artists to bring out the best in them. Also it was Finland's conducive artistic environment that nurtured this great dream in Mr. Amir Khatib, this dream that has become a reality, the coming together of migrant artists from various EU member countries, as a league of exhibition artists. It is an entirely new approach, a bold effort tantamount to taking the bull by the horn.



# AN AUTUMN LIGHT

*Bianca Gräsbeck*

EU-MAN:s first Autumn Salon is at hand. The S-gallery in Helsinki is this time hosting the seven artists whose works will be seen between the 28<sup>th</sup> of October till the 18<sup>th</sup> of November.

On this occasion we have the pleasure to welcome two new members, Cristina Seiko Tomita-Huuskonen and Moustafa ALYassin. They represent totally different kinds of art – Cristina makes small and humoristic 'portable sculptures' while Moustafa paints as smiling through the tears.

Alexander Soudakov and Sanna Karlsson-Sutisna are not quite new as members any more – they joined during last Summer. Sanna's art gathers influence from her two different cultures, the Finnish and the Balian. It is religious in a non-traditional way, as she says an 'attempt to convey a sense of the healing power of art'. Alexander Soudakov works with textile and pastels – intermingling: textile like painting and

painting like textile, strong powers inter(?)acting in sinister colours.

Muhsin AL Azzawi and Tigne Negash use warm colours in their paintings, Tigne in dreamlike views populated with silent human figures, Muhsin creating surrealistic/naivistic fantasy landscapes. Last but not least, Amir Khatib participates in the Salon with an experimental series of brightly coloured 'ribbons' shaping human forms on the black.

The art of the Autumn Salon is introduced by the artists themselves – every participant gives a short 'artistic credo' in the little catalogue accompanying the exhibition.





## *The invitation of the 'Lähiö' -project*

**During the large exhibition in Turku "EU-MAN 98", we received many true invitations for co-operation and making exhibitions. These invitations came from official organizations and as well as from NGOs, organizations working permanently with art and culture in Finland.**

One of these was the invitation of Lähiö (a cultural project around Helsinki), aiming truly at a real fruitful cooperation and decreasing the difficulties facing the migrant in general. Mr Keijo Sundvall left his visiting card when he was in Turku visiting the exhibition last August wishing that we contact him to discuss the possibilities of the cooperation activities in the future. Thus we took contact with him and agreed to meet and introduce the EU-MAN and the nature of our work and the past and the future activities of the organization.

The first meeting was followed by a work visit to the place which might be possible for an exhibition or any other activities for our organization: we were introduced to a big place called STOA in Helsinki city, where the organization of Lähiö works. STOA is two floors in a big building which consists of library and theatre, a public place or publicly exhibition salon, where the artist can make his/her exhibition as if on the air.

Now we are looking forward to have a board meeting fixing a date for an exhibition in STOA. (As we are busy with the recent, small scale member exhibition in S-galleria, we postpone the meeting to late November.) Such a good invitation demands us to stand strongly with our responsibility in front of the movement of which we are a part. Mr Sundvall also suggested more general cooperation to encourage the art movement for the migrants in Finland and in the whole EU area. It demands us to meditate think carefully - how to proceed.

Worth mentioning, Mr Sundvall, the leader of the Lähiö -project is an artist himself, studied at the Finnish Fine Arts Academy. He has had several solo exhibitions and participated in many exhibitions abroad.

## *Artist of the issue*

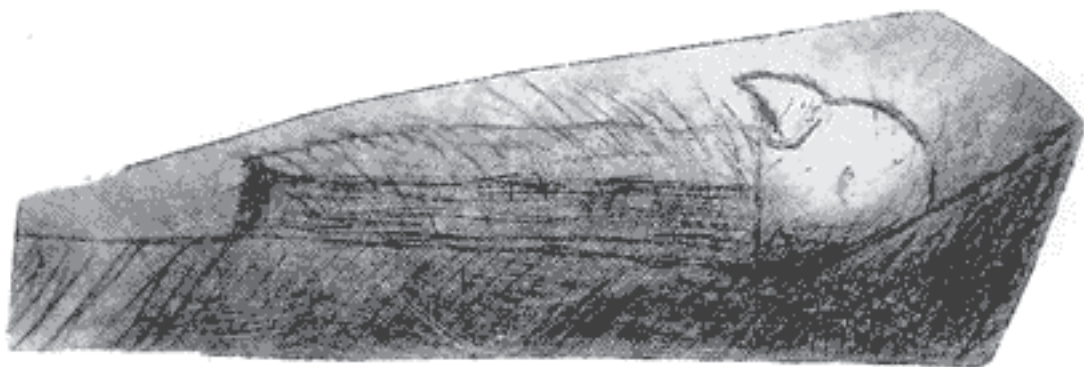
### *Dwi Setianto*

Do not ask me what my art means or what kind of paintings I do because I am not able to answer that question, says Dwi Setianto, 27 years old Indonesian artist living in Finland since 1996. He is not more willing to analyse his or somebody else's art because in his opinion art speaks for itself and the meaning of an art work is found in the viewers eyes.

Dwi has studied at one of the best art schools in Indonesia, the Institute Seni, Indonesia, and participated in several group exhibitions in Indonesia, held solo and group exhibitions in Finland. He has got the basic art education in painting but has already from the beginning of his career used several medias, concentrating on mixed media and especially on environmental art. He has a special interest in recycling which was the main theme of his art when he lived in Indonesia. However, when he moved to Finland, he realized how difficult it was to collect and process waste in European living conditions and es-

pecially with the limited studio space that he had at that time. Quite soon he found his way back to drawing, but still using materials found from nature, painting for example with flowers, tea, mud etc.....

Dwi draws his inspiration from his nearest surrounding, his everyday life, his family and private life. Even that he does not systematically observe anything, he carefully pays attention to things going on in his surroundings, lets his thought fly freely and "file" all that information for later use. He processes his ideas, and thoughts while biking, wash-



by Dwi Setianto

Text by  
Hanna Savolainen



ing clothes, cooking, during his everyday practices and later and later all that mixes up together and visualizes through his hand. His three-dimensional works are results of spontaneous working processes where he lets only the aesthetic points of view to rule. During his stay in Finland he started however to get interested in performing and installation art, which which only recently did find its way in Indonesia. Dwi's installations and performances here in Finland has then been in contrast to his paintings / drawings being full of carefully pondered messages.

Normally he craps an issue close to him, letting it mature in his head for a longer period and finally merging it together with esthetic symbols. Because for Dwi art does not exist without viewers, in performing art he has found a media where he can get a close contact with the audience and have a dialogue easily. Dwi feels that while performing he captures a special atmosphere where the spectators enter and play on their own in the art piece also. Dwi has also felt that the media of performing art is suitable for him because in his art he does not want to depend too much on equipment and technical devices. Most of his performances and installations have dealt with questions about forest destruction in Indonesia and human rights abuses.

For Dwi to work simultaneously with various medias is a conscious choice and not a question of uncertainty or search for the best suitable media for himself. He feels the need to change the technic from time to time in order to refresh his brains and to prevent his creativity to dry up. He is also eager to experiment with technics and materials, especially with waste and scrap. In the spirit of reckling, for example, he was wondering what to do with spoiled film negatives which people throw away, and came up with the idea of unique scratching technique. His latest solo exhibition last Spring in Helsinki showed the results of this experiment. In these works could already be seen some light and ease and as Dwi himself says that after getting totally lost and loosing himself here in Finland he is little by little in his way back to finding himself again.

What has also brought new spirit for him is his studies at Lahti Art Institute where he is concentrating on graphics, photography and performing art. His curiosity and hunger for new ideas, techniques and materials leads him constantly for new paths like nowadays when he is again paying more attention to the aestheticsides of art and leaving the analytical meaning for less. For a while at least.





# NEWS

\* In September, EU-MAN, represented by Amir Khatib and Bianca Gräsbeck visited Copenhagen to work with the preparations for the second part of the EU-MAN 98 Exhibition. They visited the Danish Ministry of Culture, the Danish Institute for Culture, the Galleri Shambala. The Shambala gallery could be the place for the EU-MAN 98, only, alone it is too small. So negotiations have to be on with the Ministry of Culture about their exhibition space. Mrs Libuse Müller, the leader of the gallery became quite inspired with EU-MAN and arranged a nice little dinner ceremony. She suggested cooperative activity, such as an international conference for migrant artists in Europe. Together we are stronger probably it is so.

\* Still, the EU-MAN 98 inspires the Finnish media. Many questions and interesting issues especially in the artistic cultural society have been raised. So, after the big newspapers had written about the EU-MAN 98 came the artistic and cultural papers came. The magazine Taiteilija, a magazine for all the artist organizations in Finland, paid attention to the exhibition as well as the organization as a whole. Pia Hyötynen put two of its thirty-two pages to discuss the exile art as a phenomenon in Europe and what EU-MAN has faced in its short life of 1,5 years. The problems, the needs, the future project of Helsinki 2000 and about all EU-MAN activities.

\* The biggest Swedish-Finnish paper, Hufvudstadsbladet, published a critical article about the exhibition, written by the director of the Turku Art Museum B. Arell. He is welcoming the project, still questioning the way of integrating and at the same time keeping the originality. His question is relevant, and the questioning in itself made us aware of our choice to keep the exhibition as it was without programme or theme, just as it came. Next one can be different

This kind of articles show the true wish to create a multinational Europe, that means the seriousness of the goal to build one Europe.

\* We have received many letters from our friends in Europe, valuing and admiring our work with the EU-MAN 98 which did face great success. These letters were a great support to our artistic journey. We want to thank our friends, the members and others who encouraged us in the work with EU-MAN.

\* The participants in EU-MAN's Autumn Salon, S-galleria, Helsinki are Cristina Seiko Tomita-Huuskonen, Sanna Karlsson-Sutisna, Tigneh Negash, Muhsin Al Azzawi, Alexander Soudakov, Mustafa Al Yassin and Amir Khatib. Worth mentioning is that this exhibition will continue until the 18th of November. We wish our members the best success; as we hope all our activity will reach the aims to serve the art movement for the migrant artists.



**T**he artist Ali Al Harbi sent us a beautiful letter from Denmark, the country which hosted him some months ago. We wanted to apologize to him because of the mistake in the last UC - two pictures and two texts were mixed. Ali responded by thanking us for our strength and our work in the EU-MAN: thank you, because you work for the art, thank you because you work for the migrants and to fortify the strength between the artists in general. We hope that Ali will take his place in our future activity.

## **ATTENTION!!!**

EU-MAN has the pleasure to announce a competition to all its members: design the book-catalogue of the EU-MAN 2000 exhibition which will take place in Kaapelitehdas (an old cable factory, now a centre for among others art & culture), Helsinki during 6.April-2.May 2000. The book will include pictures of the participants and their works, articles about the year of 2000, about migrant art and artists, about the situation for the migrants in each participating member state.

The winner will be awarded with a prize of 500 Euro, at the exhibition opening ceremony.

You want to participate? Please notice that the next issue of UC january 99 will tell you more about the book-designing.

## **SAMAA MAATA**

*Aziz Selim  
Niran Balbulut  
Manuel Castellanos  
Soledad Choaqui  
Raouf Grünstein  
Merja Halander  
Tizzi Ibrahim  
Carl-Gustaf Liljus  
Kibu Lunsberg  
Melek Muzici  
Merja Aletta Ranttila  
Sanna Sarva  
Dwi Setiando  
Andrij Stasevskij  
Sándor Váty*

## **SAMMA LAND**

## **SIDE BY SIDE 1**

Samaa maata - Samma land - Side by Side 1 complements the exhibition with the same name, which in the summer of 1997 brought together to the Pori Art Museum the works of contemporary artists from a plurality of cultures and cultural backgrounds. Samaa maata - Samma land - Side by Side 2 presents the interiors that are constructed by six artists invited to the Satakunta County Museum in the fall of 1997.

### **Samaa maata - Samma land - Side by Side 1**

Editors: Pia Hovi, Marketta Seppälä  
Articles: Rolf Büchi, Karmela Liebknecht, Anna Maria Viljanen, Lea Vitanen  
102 pages, colour illustrations  
Suomi - English  
ISBN 951-9266-08  
Pori Art Museum Publications 40, 1997  
Price: FIM 210

**PUBLICATIONS**

1 + 2

together FIM 250

## **SAMAA MAATA**

## **SAMMA LAND**

*Ako Ahmad  
Batbilog Budhazarin  
Selma Husonovic  
Kari Lindgren  
Melek Muzici  
Kamal Safaheddine*

## **SIDE BY SIDE 2**

All of the artists live in Finland and belong to the so-called old minorities - the Sami people, Romany, Jews and Tartars - or immigrants and refugees. The collection of essays and artists' statements deals with questions of identity and minority, cultural difference and cultural encounters in today's Finland which is still quite a closed society.

### **Samaa maata - Samma land - Side by Side 2**

Editor: Pia Hovi  
87 pages, colour illustrations  
Suomi - English  
ISBN 951-9266-09-6  
Pori Art Museum publication 41, 1997  
Price: FIM 75

Orders from: Pori Art Museum, Eteläranta 28100 Pori, Finland. Tel. 358-39-6211081, 6211080. Fax 358-39-6211091 e-mail: [taidemuseo@pori.fi](mailto:taidemuseo@pori.fi)

# *Songs of Helsinki*

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\*Itämerin Tytär \*The Maiden \*Neito \*A Beauttiful picture \*Love Boat \*Helsinki  
Rhapsddy \* Helsinki Romance \* A Paradise Island \* Helsinki serd \*Kantele serd.

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More information contact

The Institue of Artology  
Professor M.R.Ali

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### *Aims of the training program:*

- To offer training on professional level for producer-editors in following areas: producing or being a member of the producing team in various multicultural programs in local and access radios, audioproductions for broadcasting and for theatre, producing audio-cultural programs.
- The main emphasis is on project work and on the quality of radio programs. The training includes practising in Finnish radios and other audio production surroundings.
- An important part of the program is getting to know the Finnish working culture and atmosphere.
- This vocational training program is meant for unemployed immigrants living in Finland.

**Planned timetable:** September 1998–May 1999

**Place:** KSL, an Adult Learning Centre in Helsinki

Working language is Finnish with possibilities to use also English to make things clear.

### *Whom is this program for?*

- You are unemployed
- You live in Helsinki or you can arrange your living and housing in Helsinki
- You have a basic knowledge of working in radio programs or some experience in cultural production with audio elements or you have been working in radio or tv in your native country.

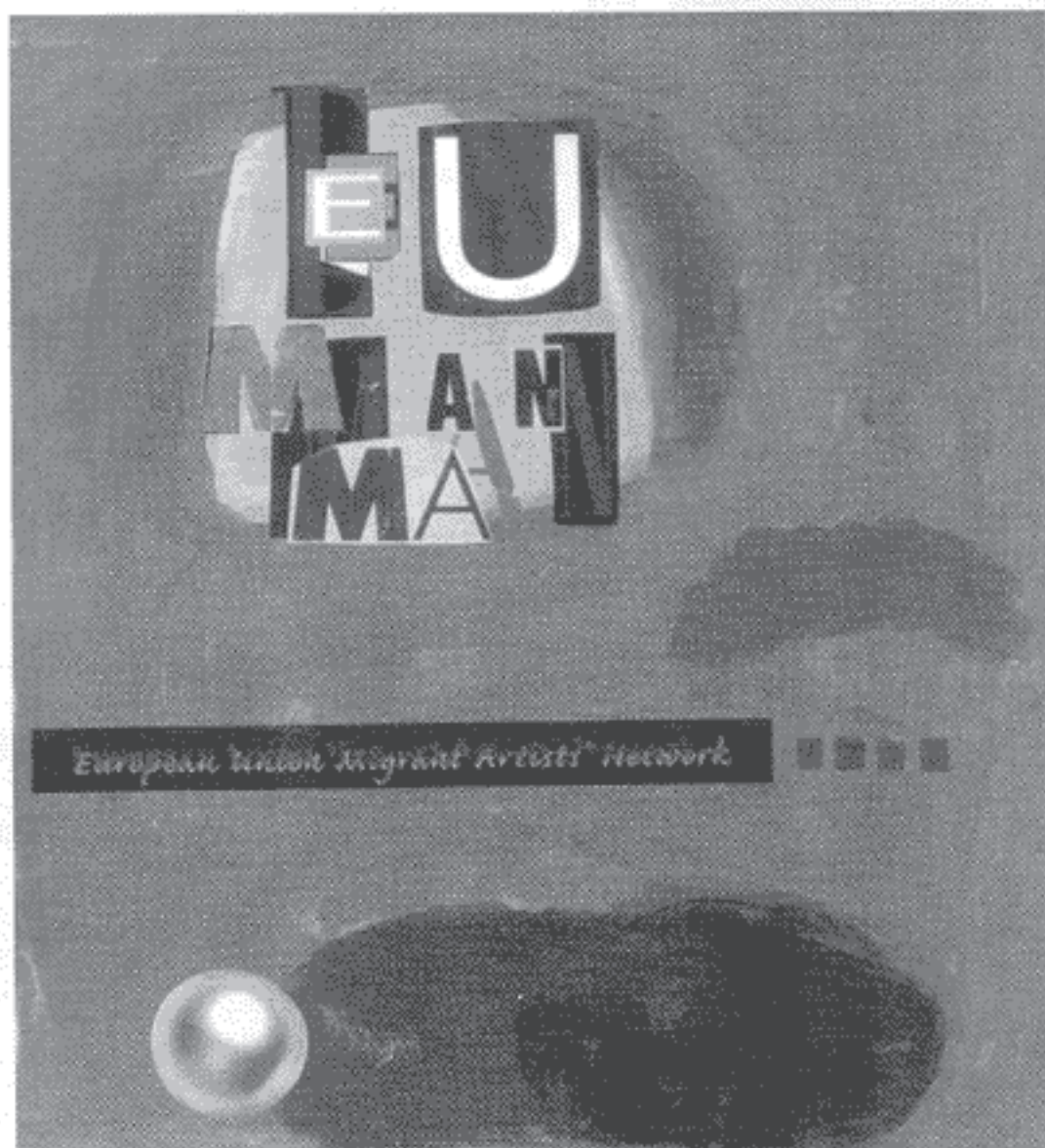
### *What to do?*

- For preliminary contact call some member of the planning team:

Jukka Tainio, Director of educational services, KSL – A.E.Centre tel. 2294 2200 or 040-589 5468, fax 09-278 7050  
Khatib Abdulamin, Arts manager, tel. 040-554 6896 or 09-872 5954  
Ike Chime, Radio producer, tel. 040-534 4031

KSL Civic association For Adult Learning  
KSL Adult Education Centre  
Kumpulantie 7, 00520 Helsinki  
tel. 09-2294 2200 (Mr. Tainio) or  
2294 2205 (Ms. Toikkanen)

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EU-MAN 98**



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