







The London Art as Cultural Diplomacy Conference 2013

“Contemporary International Dialogue:
Art-based Developments and Culture Shared between Nations”
(London; August 21st - 24th, 2013)

Conference Overview

In our increasingly globalized world, the need for mutual cross-cultural understanding and positive international relations between countries and cultures has become perhaps more important than at any time before. Given the exponential growth in international dialogue and collaboration, the facilitation of sustainable bilateral and multilateral cooperation has assumed a new global importance. The power of art as a tool for Cultural Diplomacy is often underestimated and set aside in favor of more traditional forms of diplomacy or classical foreign policies.

However, since the need for more diverse and extensive utilization of soft power increases, the role and influence that art can have in bringing different cultures and societies together is being ever more highly recognized as a unique platform for international dialogue. A wide variety of mediums of art, including dance, comedy, music, film, and literature provide opportunities for didactic advancement and can thus facilitate the initiation of dialogue, the sharing of knowledge and ideas, and the raising of cultural awareness and appreciation.

Symposium Locations

Hosted primarily in the House of Lords in London, the conference locations will include a number of important political, historic, and cultural locations across the city, such as the

British Museum, the British Library, the Tate Gallery, the Royal Festival Hall in London and the London School of Economics.

For decades, art has played an important role as a vehicle for cultural diplomacy and is currently an integral part of the foreign policy of many countries. While art as cultural diplomacy has often been implemented on official levels by ambassadors and governmental initiatives, it also has frequently been implemented on a more informal basis by civil society practitioners, artists and individuals at the grassroots level, and in these cases has often achieved greater levels of success.

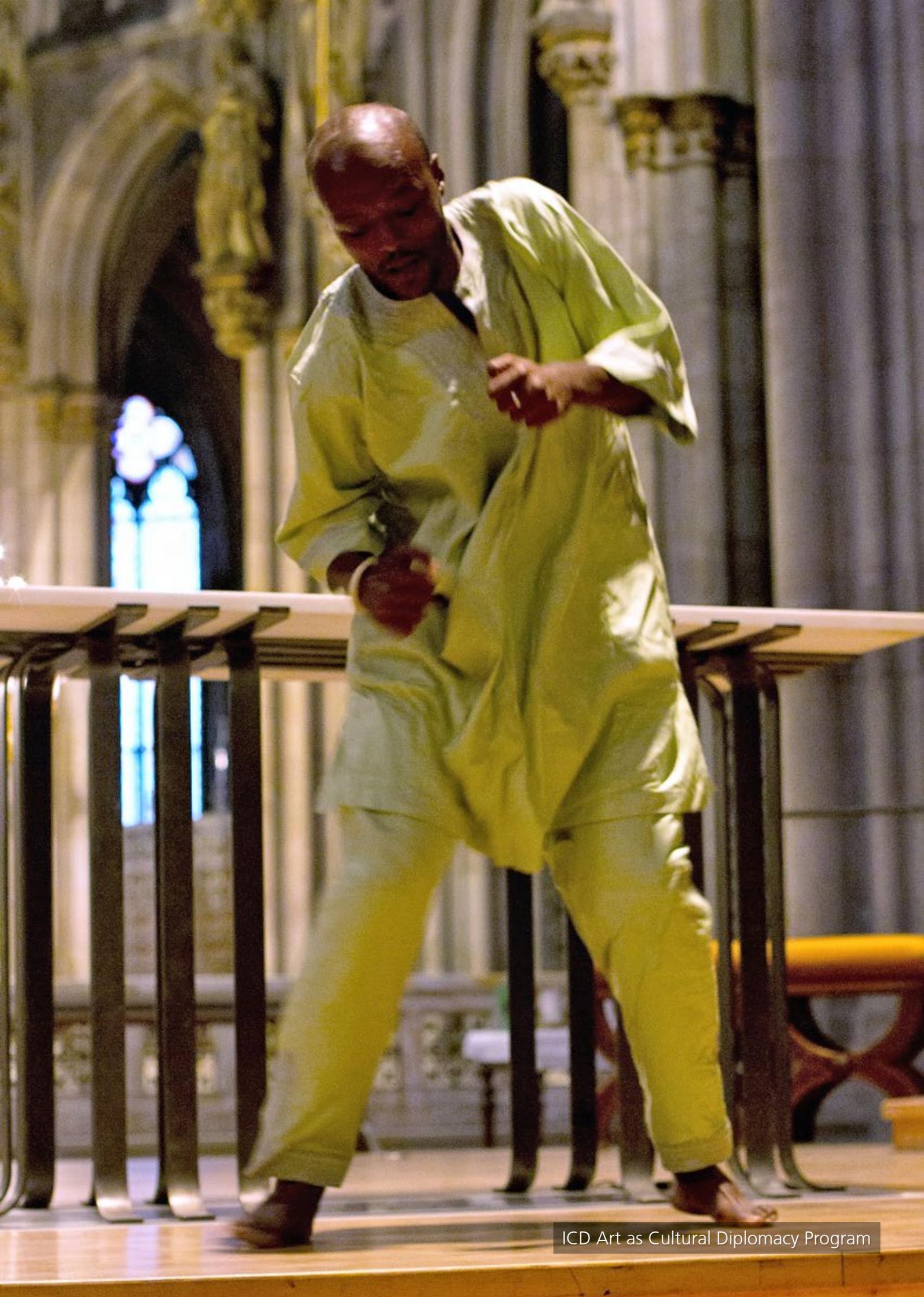
The Conference will explore these themes in depth by bringing a diverse and interdisciplinary mix of speakers, artists, experts and practitioners from around the globe to discuss the historical and contemporary uses of art as Cultural Diplomacy. The analysis of specific case studies will provide a framework from which the use of art as a Cultural Diplomacy tool will be explored, enabling participants to actively engage in workshops, seminars, lectures and cultural events and performances in order to enhance their understanding of this important issue and further encourage initiatives in this area.

Symposium Speakers »

Speakers during the Conference will include academics, authors, journalists, artists, film directors, musicians, politicians and civil society representatives from around the world. These

speakers will include a number of individuals from the ICD Advisory Board. To learn more about the ICD Advisory Board, [please click here](#).







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Conference Agenda

The London Art as Cultural Diplomacy Conference 2013 will focus and explore the employment of art in Cultural Diplomacy from a number of angles, showcasing a variety of perspectives and examples on past, contemporary and future artistic initiatives for the dissemination of culture. Emphasis will be placed on international and interregional cultural exchange and the effects that globalization has had on cultural integrity and conservation.

The conference will also analyze the theory that art can serve as a platform for Cultural Diplomacy, particularly in regard to its universal nature. A diverse range of case studies from across the world, featuring cinema, music, visual arts, photography, sport and the media, will be closely examined and will offer examples of the use of the arts as Cultural Diplomacy in practice as well as in theory. The aim of the

Conference is to develop ideas and establish initiatives in order to promote the use of art as a sustainable vehicle for international dialogue and to explore art's potential as a tool for economic and social development.

Speakers from a wide range of relevant fields will gather in London with the aim of discussing and debating pertinent issues in relation to the use of art in foreign policy, cultural institutions, and civil society. The conference will present a unique opportunity for speakers and participants from a variety of fields to gather together and debate the use of art as a cultural diplomacy tool. Artists, film directors, musicians, politicians, diplomats, practitioners, and activists will offer their perspectives on this issue and discuss how art can be an effective diplomatic instrument at the local, national, and global levels.

The Conference will focus in particular on the following areas:

- New Trends in Cultural Expression, including Contemporary and Experimental Art Forms
- The Role of Artistic Expression in Providing a Platform for Strengthening Intercultural Relations
- The Use of Culture and Communication in National Foreign Policies
- Government Initiatives for Encouraging the Dissemination of Art
- The Global Responsibility to Promote Cultural Understanding
- Art as a Stimulus for Intercultural Dialogue: The Role of Art and Culture in Fostering a Global Community
- Artistic Expression and Exchange as a Means of Social Engagement and Education
- Social Media and Art in the 21st Century: Cultivating a Global Community Through Sharing and Exchanging
- International Art Festivals and the Exchange of World Cultures
- Modern Day Museums in the 21st Century and beyond: Collective Memory and the Importance of Cultural and Artistic Reflection









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Conference Locations:



www.parliament.uk

House of Lords



The British
Museum

The British Museum

The Conference is Co-organized by:



McConnell
International Foundation

McConnell International Foundation

icd

institute for cultural diplomacy

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