



## WFFM Community,

Young Friends Coordinator Naïma Sagna has been traveling throughout Europe, forging and reigniting connections with Friends federations and local museum communities. During her [meetings in Hamburg](#), Naima held two highly symbolic Franco-German meetings to examine how the representation of Young Friends within the WFFM can evolve, as well as to discover first-hand the work of this highly effective German team, which is an inspiration to many Friends of museums in general.

She then connected with the [Young Friends Network in Luxembourg](#), and commenced initial preparations for the 2024 General Assembly during her visits on [November 22](#) and [November 23](#). The foregoing links offer a detailed portrait of Naïma's travels, as well as the many museums and cultural sites that will be showcased at the General Assembly in Luxembourg from May 2-5, 2024.

We look forward to sharing more details about the General Assembly soon!

**[2024 General Assembly Preview: About the Young Friends Network in Luxembourg](#)**

In 2017, Joana and Mélanie became part of the executive team at the Luxembourg Friends of Museums (Amis des Musées du Luxembourg) and co-founded the Young Friends of Museums section.

The "Amis des Musées" regularly organise guided tours across the six partner museums:

- Casino Luxembourg - Forum d'art contemporain
- Lëtzebuerg City Museum
- Mudam
- Musée Dräi Eechelen
- Nationalmusée um Fëschmaart
- Villa Vauban

These events extend beyond museum walls to encompass cultural institutions, art centres, artist studios, galleries, and more. Members are invited to openings, partake in complimentary guided tours, engage in lectures, and enjoy exclusive meetings with artists, curators, and fellow art and history enthusiasts. Additionally, they have access to art trips all around the world.

While the program caters to all members, Joana and Mélanie observed that young professionals struggled to participate due to their work commitments. To make the organisation more appealing to a younger audience, they created the Young Friends of Museums section and introduced a new activity format known as the "Arty Hours." During these afterwork events, members aged 18 to 35 meet for guided tours of art exhibitions followed by socializing over drinks.

The Young Friends have also organised weekend excursions to cities like Paris and Brussels, enabling members to explore exhibitions and art fairs.

Currently, the Young Friends of Museums have 73 members and have lined one to two activities each month for the 2023/24 season.

Joana currently works as a digital and communication manager for the brand image promotion initiative at Luxembourg's Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

Before joining the nation branding team, she used to be a lawyer in corporate litigation.

Mélanie currently holds the position of head of liaison overseeing VIP and Programme management for Luxembourg Art Week, the international contemporary art fair in Luxembourg. She used to be project coordinator for over 50 community lead projects in the Esch2022, European Capital of Culture, programme. She has contributed to several exhibitions organised by Lët'z Arles, which is a cultural organisation that each year supports and promotes Luxembourg artists at the Rencontres d'Arles photography festival.

## Young Friends Luxembourg Report: November 22, 2023

International, multilingual, cultural: it's no coincidence that **Luxembourg** was titled European Capital of Culture in 1995 and 2007, and that it's THE destination for the **next WFFM Congress** to be held **from 2 to 5 May 2024**.

It is with this in mind that **Naïma Sagna**, *Young Friends coordinator* of the WFFM, has just spent 2 days in the city, scouting the city in anticipation for the upcoming event and meeting some of the extremely dynamic, professional and welcoming team of the Friends of the Museums of Luxembourg. The association, chaired by **Florence Reckinger-Taddeï**, makes one donation a year to one of the 6 museums, and has more than 1,800 members. Its *Young Friends* section - spearheaded by childhood friends **Mélanie de Jamblinne** and **Joana Weitzel** - is expanding rapidly, with 113 members (including *Young Friends* and *JAM - Jeunes Ados des Musées*) to date. A Special thanks go to **Bärbel Aubert**. Secretary of the *Friends of the Museums of Luxembourg*. Bärbel orchestrated the programme of visits spread over two days with real expertise and a great sense of hospitality to ensure that our Young Friends coordinator's stay was as enjoyable and informative as possible.

The meeting really got underway on **Wednesday 22/11** at the **Villa Vauban**, the City of Luxembourg's art museum. This fine arts museum, where a sculpture by Nikki de Saint Phalle greets visitors in the park, presents collections from the XVIIth to the XIXth centuries bequeathed by the industrialist Jean-Pierre Pescatore.

Then it was on to the **Lëtzebuerg City Museum**, where Bärbel and Naïma were welcomed by **Boris Fuge**, head of communications. Inaugurated in 1996, this **Lëtzebuerg City Museum** has preserved the ancient structures of walls dating back to the Middle Ages, which can be discovered little by little thanks to a huge transparent hydraulic lift. The permanent collections are complemented by two temporary exhibitions a year. A quick diversion to the *Mansfeld who?* exhibition provided an opportunity to get up close to the *Portrait of Charles de Mansfeld* - son of Pierre-Ernst de Mansfeld, and Governor of the Province of Luxembourg (XVIth to XVIIth centuries) under Spanish Dominion - donated this year by the **Friends of the Museum**. It was also an opportunity to learn a little about Luxembourg's past. Historically a fortress town, it made its mark during the Industrial Revolutions in the porcelain, glove-making, beer brewing, steelworks and cigarette-making industries.

Accompanied by **Joana Weitzel**, *Young Friends delegate* for the **Friends of the Museums of Luxembourg**, our *Young Friends coordinator* headed for the Kirchberg district, where she was welcomed to the **MUDAM** by **Carine Lilliu**, Head of Patronage and Partnerships. If the architecture of the **Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean** seems immediately familiar, it's because its architect is none other than Ieoh Ming Pei, who is responsible for the famous Pyramid of the Louvre in Paris. After a quick tour of the temporary exhibition '*After laughter comes tears*' (on show until 7/01/2024), they were able to discover some of the permanent collections. The **MUDAM** takes the original approach of presenting its 700 works to the public in the form of temporary exhibitions organised in turn

by different curators (currently 'Deep Deep down' curated by Shirina Shahbazi and Tirdad Zolghadr).

Literally a stone's throw from MUDAM, there was a change of scenery at the **Draï Eechelen Museum** on the historic site of **Fort Thüngen**. Welcomed by director **François Reinert**, *Young Friends delegates Joana* and **Naïma** enjoyed a guided tour retracing the history of Luxembourg and this exceptional site, which includes an underground gallery of ten bunkers, including a workshop for children, and a collection of objects linked to the fortress, the city and the country. The museum also features a multimedia area with period maps available in high definition and a 140-seats auditorium.

The evening was then marked by a very special event. If **Mélanie de Jamblinne** is the *Young Friends delegate*, she is also in charge of VIP relations and the programme for **Luxembourg Art Week**, which ended just a few days ago. **Mélanie** took care to invite our *Young Friends coordinator* Naïma to accompany her and her director **Caroline von Reden** to the professional evening of the *De Mains de Maîtres* (The Fine Contemporary Craft Biennale). The event was held at 19 avenue de la Liberté, known in Luxembourg as '19 Liberté', at the former headquarters of ARBED (now merged with ArcelorMittal), becoming the home of **Spuerkeess bank (Banque et caisse d'épargne de l'État)** in 2016, following major renovation work.

The *De Mains de Maîtres Biennale* was created on the initiative of Their Royal Highnesses the **Crown Prince** and the **Crown Princess of Luxembourg** and showcases a selection of works in a dozen museums, cultural centres and galleries. Traditionally, only one country is represented among the more than 70 craftsmen and women from Luxembourg: this year, the spotlight is on Portugal, given its historical roots and the strong presence of its community in Luxembourg. Promoting Portuguese craftsmanship and strengthening the friendship between Luxembourg and Portugal: these are just two of the ambitions of the Biennale in 2023. The speeches were punctuated by contributions from **Françoise Thoma** (President and Chief Executive Officer of the Spuerkeess), the **Hereditary Grand Duchess** (patron of the *Friends of the Luxembourg Museums*), **Xavier Bettel** (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs) and **Jean-Marc Dimanche** (General Commissioner of the Biennale), among others.

So many interesting meetings and museums explored on this very first day!

### **Young Friends Luxembourg Report: November 23, 2023**

As we mentioned earlier, it was during a short 2-day stay in Luxembourg that our *Young Friends coordinator* **Naïma Sagna** was able to make some initial preparations for our forthcoming Congress in May 2024 and meet some of the **Friends of the Museums of Luxembourg** team.

After a first day where Naïma made contact with **Florence Reckinger-Taddeï** (President), **Bärbel Aubert** (Secretary) and *Young Friends delegates* **Mélanie de Jamblinne** and **Joana Weitzel**, the second and final day confirmed the promising beginnings of this collaboration.

The reunion with **Bärbel** on Thursday 23/11 along the ramparts of the Upper Town, one of Luxembourg's most iconic sites, provided an opportunity to discuss working methods, especially as Naïma was staying as part of a skills sponsorship arrangement with the **Friends of the Musée de Grenoble team**, who fully support her mission within the WFFM.

It was at the **Nationalmusée um Fëschmaart (Musée national d'archéologie, d'histoire et d'art)** that Bärbel and Naïma enjoyed a visit to the various collection rooms: pre- to modern history, art deco, design, modern art... spread over several floors, the works offer an immense panorama of Luxembourg's history.

Next, a visit to the Friends of the Museums office: a charming house overlooking the valley that houses their association as well as the offices of other associative projects such as **Lët'z Arles**, which is also chaired by **Florence Reckinger-Taddeï**, **Catherine de Jamblinne**, Vice-Chair of the **Friends of the Museums of Luxembourg**, offered our *Young Friends coordinator* an autographed copy of the catalogue "*Friends of the Museums of Luxembourg. Histoires d'une passion*" - an editorial project to which she made a major contribution on the association's 40th anniversary.

**Mélanie de Jamblinne** had introduced our *Young Friends coordinator* to **Anastasia Chaguidouline**, who is the Artistic Director of the **Cercle Cité** the previous day. So the afternoon was an opportunity for Naïma to discover this cultural venue which is currently presenting in the Ratskeller space an exhibition entitled *Hors-d'œuvre* (until 21/01/2024), including topical themes (consumption, migration, identity, meaning, etc.) and a selection of artists from the Benelux countries and neighbouring countries. But above all there is a real synergy with the exhibition currently on show at the **Lëtzebuerg City Museum**: "*All we can eat*". A meeting with contemporary art that heralded what was to come next.

For the next meeting, *Young Friends delegates* **Mélanie** and **Joana**, took Naïma to the **Casino Luxembourg – Forum d'art contemporain**, the main contemporary art center in Luxembourg. Welcomed on arrival by Administrative Director **Ruta Franke**, they spent some time talking in the library and soaking up the energy of the venue. A veritable platform for experimentation, it is complemented by a 2nd ancillary venue, the **Casino Display** (artist residencies and research programmes) and hosts an average of 6 exhibitions a year. Two of these are currently on show, and our *Young Friends delegates* were able to discover them together:

*How to map the infinite* by **Tessa Perutz** - curated by **Stilbé Schroeder**. Visitors are greeted by a huge carpet of lavender flowers installed in the two rooms of the exhibition. The young American artist presents landscapes inspired by her stay in Europe (lakes, plants, sun, moon, fields, forests, seashores), real landscapes, symbolic motifs and sensory elements. On the wall is a large mural depicting a view of Marseille from the roof of Le Corbusier's Cité Radieuse closes an energising journey of vivid, almost psychedelic, tropical colours.

*Joyeuse Apocalypse!* by **Jérôme Zonder** - curated by **Kevin Muhlen**. Here, the French artist presents one of his iconic characters, Pierre-François, whose birth he dates to 2000 (generation Z). The exhibition takes the form of a collection of images: first, 11 large-format silhouettes in cut-out wood, like three-dimensional drawings, imbued with signs of popular culture (music,

cinema, etc.), as if we could approach him from every angle. Since text is as important to the artist as images, he also experiments with the comic strip format. A huge game of goose drawn on the floor brought the exhibition to a close, depicting different stages in the life of the character.

Then it's on to the event of the young Romantico Romantico Studio jewellery brand created by Fanny Bervard. It was an opportunity to discover a fine example of independent design from Luxembourg (her jewellery is on sale in the MUDAM boutique), before heading off for dinner to discuss the respective and joint projects of the Young Friends delegates.

And so ended the second day, laying the foundations for what looks to be very promising future collaborations for the WFFM Young Friends network with the Luxembourg Friends of the Museums association, not least for the forthcoming WFFM Congress in 2024.