

Young Blood Initiative

Young Blood Initiative aims to showcase collaborative practice, creating a community where artists can explore other ways to create, acting as a platform where they can experiment to go outside of their usual practice and to play. Founded by Candy Choi in Amsterdam in 2014, the organisation now operates in Amsterdam, London and Berlin, working with more than 50 artists from 18 countries, and has collaborated with art organisations in South Korea and Finland.

Our Art Projects and Showcases

Since launching in 2014, Young Blood Initiative has brought to the public 10 showcases themed around current affairs, fusing different creative disciplines. We organise art exhibitions, live art events, lectures and public interventions. YBI is a socially conscious organisation. In the past we have brought art and performances to the home of the disabled; and in 2019, we curated the “Be Water” event, fundraising for the democratic movement in Hong Kong, collecting more than £2000 within one day through theatre performances, exhibitions and an art market. We would like to contribute more to our society with our art!

Key Accomplishments

- Started as a small initiative, now Young Blood Initiative operates in 3 cities in Europe: Amsterdam, London and Berlin
- Collaborated with art organisations from South Korea and Finland
- Curated a public art project in Hong Kong in collaboration with street artist BOMS
- Our projects were featured on The Art Newspaper, Art Forum, Hero Magazine, The Stand News, Domus Magazine, South China Morning Post, Ming Pao Weekly and more.
- Began with merely 12 artists in 2014, and now it works with more than 50 artists from around the world.
- Curated “Be Water” event, fundraised for the democratic movement in Hong Kong, collected more than £2000 within one day through theatre performances, exhibitions and an art market. 100% of the income was donated.
- Premiered numerous pieces from artists as it provides the platform, energy and environment for them to experiment with new and different works. Many artists continue to show works premiered with Young Blood Initiative in various occasions and countries. A Bridge Too Far from Tashi Iwaoka is a prime example. The piece was originally premiered in YBI’s exhibition Exodus, then he went on to perform it in Cologne, Germany and Turku, Finland.
- Art project [IN]sane was named one of the most interesting art events of the week in London by FAD Magazine

- Brought art interventions to the public spaces, including the public transport, squares, parks and on the street.
- Participated in West Wednesday in collaboration with Kulter in 2016.
- Presented the Instant Composition Series where we brought together artists from all over Amsterdam for evenings of improvisations.
- Provided an important space for artists of all trades to bond, create together and inspire each other, facilitated by regular meetups, online communications and monthly newsletters.

Our Mission

“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.”

— Pablo Picasso

Young Blood Initiative’s mission is to provide the initiative and platform for artists to revive the creativity and spirit of their own inner child while at the same time creating a global artistic network where artists are bond, where they are inspired by and work with each other and grow. In the hope that through creating a space, artists can preserve that innocence of a child and play, experiment. Young Blood Initiative values the creative process over the outcome. What matters are the experimentation, research, discussions and explorations that lead to the destination rather than the destination itself. Beginning in Europe, with some connections already in place in different parts of the world, Young Blood Initiative could be spotted operating in many other cities in the years to come.

Our Team

Candy Choi Founder & Creative Director

As a curator and multi-disciplinary creative, Candy Choi has a background in fashion as an art form where she has gained experience working in Paris and London Fashion Weeks. During the years living in Amsterdam, she slowly changed her focus to art, working with renowned art foundation Mediamatic where she started as an exhibition assistant, and afterwards the curator of Kunstformen der Natur exhibition at Radboud UMC Nijmegen as well as the Mediamatic Dining Room. Having spent the early years immersing herself in an environment full of music, dance and visual arts in Hong Kong, it came naturally for her to be directing a multi-disciplinary initiative eventually. She has initiated and directed eight exhibitions and art projects for Young Blood Initiative since then.

Jimena Mendizábal del Moral Assistant Director

Jimena Mendizabal is an art researcher and writer, cultural project organiser and social media manager. She has a BA in arts and an MA in Contemporary Art Theory at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Her professional experience is in the area of project management and event organisation, she has worked as staff in diverse art fairs and cultural organisations, and she has produced several art exhibitions, workshops and conferences. Jimena's research revolves around collaborative practices and the use of databases, cybernetics and social networks on art practices and cultural institutions, she is interested in the ways that technology has changed the production and access to knowledge, and specially the way it has aided and reshaped creative collaboration, a subject that she explores as part of Young Blood Initiative.

Gábor Hartyáni Berlin Director

The complete list of artist members is as follows:

Alexandra Blanco, Anastasia Kostner, Akira Cripps, Bettina Fung, Bera Romairone, Camille Verhaak, Colleen Bartley, Gareth Hopkins, James O'Reilly, James Hewitt, Lily Ashley, Lola de la Mata, Lori Baldwin, Maarten van der Glas, Mirei Yazawa, Olga Salamon, Peter Barnard, Raoul Germano, Raoul Rade, Riccardo Matlakas, Risja Steeghs, Risa Takita, Sorin Choi, Stefano Sgarbi, Tashi Iwaoka, Victoria Soto Madrid, Valentina Stocco

Previous Collaborators

As an outward-looking creative organisation, Young Blood Initiative is always excited to reach out to people, companies, initiatives that have interesting stories to tell, whether simply to connect or for short or long-term collaborations. YBI has previously worked with TOMS, The Cinema Brewers, Brouwerij 't IJ, Yami-ichi, Vedett, Kulter, The Five Points Brewing Company, The Camden Council and The Glue Club in Amsterdam and London.