

INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Intercultural Dialogue is the discourse between two individuals who define themselves as being from different cultures. It is free from any intention to profit financially from the other, or to convert to or from any religion, or any intent to impose a pre-determined set of values.

Intercultural Dialogue cannot take place between Nation States. Intercultural Dialogue cannot be facilitated by Nation States or any organisation directly funded by the Foreign Ministry of a National State. Here the primary goal is the protection or promotion of the Nation State or its values. Dialogue under these auspices is usually driven by an organisation responsible for international relations and as such the dialogue is Cultural Diplomacy.

Intercultural Dialogue is not social chat. It is purposeful and exploratory and conducted with the intention of discovering the shared purpose. It is born out of genuine enquiry to understand the state of "being" in another culture. There are a number of philosophers who speak about Intercultural Dialogue, but it has not yet been openly debated with funders and the cultural sector.

Art, even conceptual art, is created by an individual. Therefore art is an excellent vehicle for Intercultural Dialogue. Within it are manifestations and reflections of multi-various and non-explicit values which are open to interpretation.

International policy in relation to culture, can be shaped by a requirement or desire for one or more of the following:

1. Shared celebration and promotion of cultural value sets = cultural diplomacy.
2. Trade in the pursuit of profit = creative/cultural industries.
3. International engagement for direct acquisition or exchange of skills.
4. International contact that tries to persuade one nation to visit another = cultural tourism
5. Intercultural Dialogue = the promotion of genuine mutual cultural understanding.

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