

LIVING ALTAR





LIVING ALTAR: THE PROJECT

Living Altar is a multi-room arts space honoring the lives of individuals killed in conflict. In this space, visitors are invited to experience diverse artistic works called “living altars.” Through these pieces, casualties are given a name, face, and story, regardless of origin, gender, religion, social status, and profession. *Living Altar* aims to offer a space for reflection, introspection, and collective grief in the face of loss, whether of a loved one or a stranger.



What are “living altars”?

“Living altars” may take the form of performance or visual art pieces, physical or multi-media installations, solitary or interactive experiences, and more. Created and presented by a different artist or group of artists from a wide range of disciplines, in collaboration with Kaimera Productions, each piece is inspired by the life of an individual killed in conflict. The Kaimera core team will work closely with collaborating artists, and is responsible for curating the overall *Living Altar* audience experience.

What will the Living Altar experience be like?

In its final form, *Living Altar* is a duration piece, consisting of successive “living altars” performed in a space that is visible and easily accessible to passersby (such as a storefront or gallery). Live experiences occur during the day, while at night, the day’s performances are played back in video projection form, for night owls to witness. Eventually, *Living Altar* will take place simultaneously in various cities across the globe, and with the use of a live video feed, will give audiences in each location the choice of watching local performers or their global colleagues.



Why Living Altar?

With information from all around the world at our fingertips, we have never been so connected. And at the same time, we have never been so distant. As death counts add up, the value of a life is reflected in how many seconds it takes us to scroll to the next headline. And even then, our attention span varies from life to life: in the way we relate to death, all lives are not considered equal. As we are confronted with the news of death and conflict, whether close or far, it’s rare for us to find a time or a place to grieve. *Living Altar* aims to offer exactly that, and perhaps even a chance to heal.

GOING INTERNATIONAL WITH THE HELP OF OUR PARTNERS

The United States and beyond...

The first iteration of *Living Altar* will happen in the United States. It will be a crucial first step, as it will provide an invaluable proof of concept. *Living Altar's* topic is profoundly international, however, and Kaimera Productions has already established partnerships outside the U.S. in Paris, Istanbul, and Dubai, in part thanks to a Theatre Communications Group ON the ROAD grant, awarded to *Living Altar* in 2016.

... in collaboration with our partners

Kaimera Productions will be partnering with a variety of artistic and institutional partners, in the U.S. and abroad. The list of organizations that will be part of or support *Living Altar* includes: the Laguardia Performing Arts Center (NYC), Golden Theatre Productions (San Francisco), The Junction (Dubai), StarToo (Dubai), Constellation (Dubai), the American University of Sharjah (Sharjah), DUCTAC (Dubai), Anadolu Kultur (Istanbul), Danshane (Istanbul) and A Corner in the World Festival (Istanbul). In addition, Kaimera Productions is excited to be producing *Living Altar* in consultation with Theatre Without Borders.



If you or your organization is interested in partnering with us or supporting *Living Altar*, please contact us at info@kaimeraproductions.com.

COMMISSIONING ARTISTS

Each individual “living altar” is created and performed by a different artist or group of artists, guided by the *Living Altar* global core team, through a rigorous creation process. The *Living Altar* core team will also ensure that the artists respect the stories they are representing, and will curate the overall performance.



EXPERT COLLABORATORS

At the heart of Kaimera Productions’ process are collaborations between experts in and outside of the arts. We approach these collaborations in a comprehensive way by making sure experts are an integral part of the creative team and development process. Our goal is to move away from the one-way information gathering model towards a synergetic knowledge and culture sharing experience. For *Living Altar*, we are teaming with trauma experts, psychologists, philosophers, ethicists, and international policy experts, and individuals who have lost loved ones to conflict.

KAIMERA PRODUCTIONS

Kaimera Productions was born from the collaboration of Azeri-American theater-maker, director, curator and educator Simón Adinia Hanukai and French-American musician, theater-artist, photographer and policy specialist Jonathan Camuzeaux. The company's mission is to invite audiences to examine and redefine the questions our global society faces through performances created collaboratively by experts in and outside of the arts.

Kaimera Productions has been very active since its inception, with its first production, JUPITER (a play about power), presented by La MaMa E.T.C., and an immersive exploration of Harlem, which premiered at the 2017 Harlem Arts Festival. Based in NYC and Paris, Kaimera is creating projects in five countries, including a piece that explores the ethics of data mining in Bengaluru (India).



For *Living Altar*, Kaimera's team is joined by French-Indian writer, journalist and cultural producer Anita Kirpalani, and multi-media designer David Bengali. Anita, Jonathan, and Simón have collaborated on over a dozen interdisciplinary performances and performance-events. When creating new works, they use performance as a medium to investigate pressing local and global issues, and build bridges between artists from diverse disciplines and backgrounds, as well as between artists, scholars and scientists.

Living Altar is a Kaimera Productions project led by Co-Artistic Directors Simón Adinia Hanukai and Jonathan Camuzeaux, with Anita Kirpalani.

Learn more about Kaimera Productions and the team behind *Living Altar* on our website:

www.kaimeraproductions.com

