

UN76 Dialogue: Artists & Designers Impact Change

Thursday, May 26, 2022 - 1PM-3:30PM, EDT



H.E. Mrs. Simona-Mirela Miculescu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Delegate of Romania to UNESCO in Paris. Ambassador Miculescu has been serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of Romania to UNESCO since January 2021, after holding the position of Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the UN Office in Belgrade, between 2015 and 2020. Prior to this, she was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations, between 2008 and 2015. During her term in New York, Amb. Miculescu held several positions including: Vice-President of the UNICEF Executive Board, Vice-President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Vice-President of the Bureau of the Francophonie, Chair of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee of the General Assembly during its 66th Session, Vice-President of the UN General Assembly for its 68th Session, and Chair of the 53rd Session of the UN Commission for Social Development. Amb.

Miculescu's 30 years of diplomatic career include the positions of Spokesperson for the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Senior Media Advisor to the Minister (1993 and 1999), Director of the Press Department within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1994 and 2008), Press Secretary of the Embassy of Romania to the US (1994-1998), or Senior Public Information Officer at the Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Kosovo (1999-2000). Between 2000 and 2004, she served as Foreign Policy Adviser to the President of Romania (with rank of minister), becoming eventually the first woman in the Romanian diplomatic history to be granted the rank of Ambassador. Between 2006 and 2007, she acted as Senior Advisor for Public Outreach to the Government of Iraq, within a USAID-funded project. Amb. Miculescu holds the titles of Doctor Honoris Causa Beneficiorum Publicorum of the Western University in Timișoara, as well as the title of Doctor Magna Cum Laudae of the Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. This is due to the fact that, in parallel with her diplomatic career, she has developed a rich academic and public communication experience that includes teaching international public relations courses at two universities in Romania, as well as publishing several books and articles on related topics. In her country, she is recognized also as one of the best experts in the field of international public relations management, being appreciated especially due to the elaboration of the first university curriculum on this subject, a study program currently used by several universities. Ambassador Miculescu has a passion for singing, and many times she matched it with projects of cultural diplomacy. During her term as Ambassador of Romania to the United Nations, she initiated several unprecedented music projects that included the "Ambassadors Sing for Peace" music album - containing peace-themed songs performed by ambassadors - and the UNRocks Music Group, that was the first ever music group in the UN circles composed of ambassadors, with which she released, in cooperation with Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, a music album called "Strong UN, Better World". Ambassador Simona-Mirela Miculescu is married and has two children.



Mr. Robert Skinner, Deputy Director and Chief of Partnerships and Global Engagement, Outreach Division, United Nations Department of Global Communications. Prior to this, Robert was the Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Washington, DC, serving in this role from April 2021 to September 2021 and from November 2015 to July 2018. In between these periods, Robert was Senior Special Advisor in the UN's Department of Global Communications, focusing on the UN's COVID-19 Communications Response Initiative, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. Prior to joining the UN, Robert was the Executive Director in the New York Office of the United Nations Foundation. Before joining the Foundation in 2006, Robert held several positions in the United States Department of State, including as Deputy Spokesperson at the United States Mission to the United Nations in New York, and as Public Affairs Officer for the United States Embassy in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. He also held diplomatic posts in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire and San Salvador, El Salvador. Robert was an attorney in the Office of the Cook County Public Defender, Chicago, Illinois before starting his

diplomatic career. Robert holds a law degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Oakland University in the United States. He is married and has two children.



Mr. Jean Paul Samputu, is a Culture of Peace Ambassador and an International Award-winning Singer, Songwriter and Musician from Rwanda. Samputu is currently a Canadian resident who suffered the genocide of 1994 in deploring the loss of his parents, three brothers and a sister. He was ravaged by the anger and revenge spirit for several years after having discovered that his father has been killed by one of his closest friend. For several years, he has entered in a self-destruct mechanism until he met the forgiveness path. As from this moment, he leads a campaign of forgiveness and peace at a first step in his country and then after all around the world through his testimony he gives in speaking engagements and gigs with his own written songs and music. In November 2017, Jean-Paul gave a conference in South Korea at the "Better Together 2017" summit. In March 2018, Jean Paul Samputu was invited to take part to the Transform 2018 at EBS University in Germany. Moreover, Jean Paul Samputu, was one of the performer of the closing concert of "Rwanda After 1994: Stories of Change Conference" on the 6th July

2018 at University of St Andrews, Scotland, UK. In November 2018, Jean Paul Samputu was included in the program of the "Fifth International Conference on Genocide" of Sacramento, USA. In November 2018, Jean Paul Samputu gave conferences in Frost, School of Music of University of Miami, USA. In January 2019, Jean Paul Samputu took part in different places in Great Britain to the "Holocaust Memorial Day 2019". In March 2019, Jean Paul Samputu gave his testimony and workshops to students of ESB University in Germany. Samputu is an NGOCS-D-NY Honorary Advisor for Building Cultures of Peace. More than a talented and inspiring musician, Samputu is a model for anyone who wants to make a difference in this world today.



Dr. Jasmine Pradissitto, FRSA is an Award-winning British Artist, Scientist, Speaker and Environmentalist. London based she has a Ph.D. in physics from UCL and has studied art at Goldsmith's and London Met. A polymath, her critical practice spans painting, sculpture and technology and she is the only artist in the world licensed to use NOXORB™, a newly developed ceramic material that absorbs nitrogen dioxide (NO_x) pollution from the air. The same NO_x that exacerbates asthma. Dr. Pradissitto has exhibited worldwide including most recently two pioneering public art projects in London for The Horniman Museum Gardens and for Camden People's Theatre with Euston Town, a Mayor of London environmental initiative. At the heart of a sustainable future in an increasingly Anthropogenic world, lies provision for the most fundamental of our needs, air, water, equity. Pollution, a by-product of a human progress based

on combustion and intensive farming, affects not only 9 out of every 10 people globally, but also species from bees to flowers. As we enter the 'Conceptual Creative Age' we can find an answer based on one of the best things which make us human: our stories. In science we are bound by the natural laws, in art and culture simply by our imaginations, but by joining the two, within an increasingly fragile natural world we can create impactful solutions to the most pressing problems of our modern age: climate crisis. 2023 Commission for The Ella Roberta Foundation, 2021 Winner of the PEA (People, Environment, Achievement) Arts award, 2020 DEFRA Award 'Bees Knees' with the Horniman Museum.

www.pradissitto.com; https://www.instagram.com/jasmine_pradissitto/?hl=en;
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jasmine_Pradissitto



Mr. Jordan Barker, Founder and CEO, Bark Equities & a Mixed Media Artist. Jordan, is an entrepreneur and self-taught mixed media artist. Initially inspired by found objects, his first piece was a coffee table that was created from a wooden palate found in the streets of New York. And, while the palate was interesting enough to catch his eye as a ready-made, Jordan was inspired by its potential, so he transformed it into something that was not only beautiful, but also functional. Thus began Jordan's journey as an artist fueled by the process of creating something from nothing. It was during Covid, when we were forced into isolation, that Jordan realized how important touch is to the human. By layering different materials and mediums on canvases, Jordan began what is now an extensive body of large scale abstract expressionist style pieces. He was inspired to create art as a way to reintroduce these textures and sensations back into

his life, which provided him with a sense of presence and calm amidst what felt like quiet chaos. Each piece of art is a practice in mindfulness that Jordan couldn't achieve in any other way during this long period of isolation. Jordan has since created what is now an impressive body of work, with pieces already incorporated into a number of private collections around New York City. Jordan also has a passion for giving back and has invested in and advised several startups with social missions and he currently is on the Advisory Counsel for the Citizen's Committee for New York City.



Ms. Tijana Tatkovic, International Artist, NFT Designer, Executive Board Member at Angels for Humanity, an Entrepreneur and Philanthropist. Tijana was born in Split, Croatia. She moved to the US to pursue her college education. She studied at Baruch College in New York City and graduated with honors from Zicklin Business School. She established the property management firm Bergdorf Management Corp in Miami and built herself a career as an International Artist. Living in Europe, New York and currently settling in Miami. Her art work speaks of diversity, optimism and challenges. She's also an NFT designer. Tijana was born in a long line of family artists and she has been painting since an early age. She has always possessed an inner passion for creativity, and design. Tijana has developed countless unique paintings and her artwork has been shown in galleries in the US and internationally. In 2021, her artwork was exhibited during Miami Art Basel week. She has been participating at the

Spectrum Miami Art Fair and New York Art Expo. She hosted a solo exhibition at Victor Morozov gallery in Dubai, 2019 and has been featured in many magazines such as Art in America Magazine and Catwalk for Charity Magazine. Tijana's biggest passion is her philanthropic work. She has been a huge advocate for women's empowerment and children support. She strives to evoke feminine strength and beauty in her art creations. She has worked with many non-profits organizations in the US. She is an executive board member at, "Angels for Humanity" charitable organization and this has given her an opportunity to help children, first hand in the US and internationally. She is also an advocate for StateraArts organization that supports and empowers women in Art. Tijana is a board member at the Museum of Contemporary Art in North Miami. Her personal mission is grounded in generosity and giving back to her community through the resonant beauty of her art creations.



Ms. Aida Murad, Spiritual Artist & CEO of AM Creatives. Aida is an Arab NYC based Intuitive Artist whose mission is to help people feel seen, heard, and loved through art. She paints with her fingers due to a past trauma. When she was 20 years old, she was diagnosed with her shadow and, subsequently, semi paralyzed for 4.5 years. When she was in a place of suffering, she turned to art to help her heal. However, she didn't paint with paint brushes, she painted only with her hands to demonstrate to herself and to the world that she is not damaged, and this dysmorphia will not define her. Today, Aida combines her expertise as a Reiki master, Intuitive, Coach and Artist to create fine art by painting with her fingers to both beautify people's physical spaces and bring healing (each art piece is infused with reiki). As of May 2022, Aida has sold out 10 collections and has been featured in 21 exhibitions. Her work has been featured globally including in Voice of America, Reuters, TRT World, Al Jazeera, and the United Nations. She is the 2022 Georgetown

University Artist in Residence to create healing art for the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. She has collaborated with Grammy Award winning artists including the drummer from The Doors, John Densmore, to use art for social good. Her paintings have been acquired globally including by the previous Deputy Minister of Culture of the U.A.E, Qatar America Institute for Culture, Board Member of the National Museum of Mexican Art and the previous Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights under Obama's administration at a historical landmark in Chicago. She is a BMW Foundation Leader and has received numerous awards for women in impact.



Ms. Arthlene Legair Lawrence, Founder & CEO of Restore To Empower INC, CEO of Legair Brand Luxury Boutique. Arthlene is an NGO focusing on underprivileged/at-risk youth and abused women. She started her organization in 2015 serving her local community and then branching out into the island of Dominica. She provides uniforms, school supplies and other personal items for the students in Dominica. She is a Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children, with a strong voice for those who cannot fight for themselves, she strives through her different mediums to inspire others to become the best version of themselves. Having developed her sewing curriculum which she taught at Clayton State University and many other outlets, she now seeks to take her school to the Caribbean islands, starting with her country of birth, Commonwealth of Dominica. She will be opening the first creative arts community college for

young persons to embrace skills of sewing/fashion teaching her students to repurpose used clothing to create masterpieces, Arts, Sports, Agriculture, Business Start-up and more. She's an Award-Winning INTL. Fashion Designer, Founder of ImagineMeTV Network, Mrs Lawrence has received many recognition for her work both as a humanitarian and business owner. Her designs have graced runways in Paris, England, Hollywood, NYC and numerous platforms worldwide. She is also A 4x published author, recipient of The Humanitarian of the Year, Excellence in Fashion & Innovation, Writer of the Year Inspirational Writing, Youth Empowerment Awards. Woman Owned Small Business Certification, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, Who's Who In Black Atlanta. Mrs Lawrence is dedicated to bringing change to the communities she serves and is open to new ideas that will benefit said communities.



Mr. Kristaps Cirulis, Founder of Now Next Design, Co-founder of Music Feeds and Founding Partner of Collective High Tech. After spending more than a decade in the biggest network creative agencies (McCann Worldwide, J. Walter Thompson Baltics and Not-Perfect Y&R) driving consumption he shifted focus fully on advising companies and design systems around sustainable development, adopting circular economy practices, and communicating their efforts without greenwashing. Five years ago he heavily went into scientific-based innovations by helping with market intelligence, impactful brand development and eco-design to help fast forward science commercialization through mentoring in incubators, accelerators, EIT initiatives, and Collective Tech Hub. Kristaps passionately supports initiatives that are spreading the word about the SDGs, Circular economy, and design education for the next generations. He is an

active voice on environmental, waste recycling, eco and sustainable design topics. Most recently in the last 2 years, he invested and become a part of Terrawaste Recycling company, Techno Farmers (AI-based crop disease prevention), DetectQ (THz camera tech for product quality control and sorting), Minimall (Next-generation online grocery store with a waste take-back system), &loop (Blockchain-based food SMEs ESG rating system). All of the ventures are guided by a deep connection to a more sustainable future and are technologies that aim to make the future more equitable and thriving for everyone. Active member and supporter of the NGOCD-NY Executive Board, Sustainable Good Life platform, and a few Art Director Clubs around the globe. Founding partner of Addicted agency and Kadagi Piens Functional food and drink company. Wear society co-founder with the aim to bring to life future-proofed casual fashion powered by material science innovations. Creative director of LAIKAFORMA - Baltic contemporary art and design archive and foundation. Founder of Nekā Lieka non-profit movement to raise awareness about inclusiveness, minimalist lifestyle, and true unity in modern society.



Ms. Bianca Musico, Founder & Director of MINTX & an NFT Designer from Australia. Bianca founded the company with a mission to onboard business, NGO and charities into web3 and educate them on the power of NFTs. Passionate about how this emerging technology can be used for social good, she believes that fostering human connection to both land and people through digital asset ownership can inspire change on a global scale. Bianca has worked with a number of clients from finance and government to NGO and tourism and understands the power brands have in impacting the lives of their consumer. Now with the emergence of web3, she is excited about the future of these industries and the positive impact they can have, not only on the human experience, but the positive environmental impact when done correctly.



Mr. Sam Joel, Founder of GiveTree, based in Australia. Sam's initiative was Australia's first web3 platform primarily focused on using web3 technology such as cryptocurrency & NFTs to raise more money for charity. Sam started GiveTree in 2018 as a simple charity directory while he was in fact homeless himself, with the goal of supporting the charities who were helping him at the time. Sam has now worked with many of Australia's largest charities over the last three and half years and understands the challenges and opportunities they face in 2022. Sam aims to help both charities & creators adventure into the metaverse and beyond on the GiveTree web3 platform. Launching in July 2022. #wagmi



Mr. Jeffery Huffines, Senior Advisor of the Coalition for the UN We Need and Together First. Since 2017 the civil society-led UN2020 initiative had facilitated discussions with member states, UN officials and civil society advocates on the need for a robust, well prepared 75th anniversary commemoration for the UN in 2020, one that includes a meaningful process of stocktaking, review and strengthening of the organization. In December 2020, the UN2020 campaign was renamed the Coalition for the UN We Need. Together First is a network of individuals, civil society organizations, practitioners, parliamentarians, business leaders and activists from all regions

of the world committed to fair, open and inclusive solutions to improve global governance. Jeffery had previously represented CIVICUS as UN Representative (NY), where he was an organizing partner of the UN DESA NGO Major Group (2011-2016) responsible for guiding multi-stakeholder engagement of NGOs in the lead up to Rio+20 through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. He was Chair of the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference, "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda", UN HQ NY, 27-29 August 2014. He was also Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee (2007-2011), helping to organize the annual UN DPI/NGO Conferences hosted abroad in Paris (2008), Mexico City (2009), Melbourne (2010) and Bonn (2011). Jeffery was previously UN Representative (NY) for the U.S. Baha'i Community (1996-2009) where he led a number of NGO initiatives as Co-Chair of the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court (FENICC); Chair of the UN Association/USA's New York Council of Organizations; President of the Committee of Religious NGOs; and co-founder of the Tripartite Forum on International Cooperation for Peace.



Ms. Margo LaZaro, President and Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY. Director of UN Relations for Global Family.

Margo is a Coalition Partner of the Coalition for the UN We Need and she represents the Huairou Commission at the UN. She is proud to be a Charter Board member of the Soroptimist International Metro New York - SIMNY Chapter and a Climate Reality Project Leader. She is the Convener of the NGO Major Group Urban Thematic Cluster, as well as a member of the Women's Major Group for the UN High Level Political Forum. Margo is a Designer and Artist with a career in Film, Theatre & TV production. In addition, she is an activist dedicated to supporting the causes related to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. She has worked within the UN Community as a Chief Developer of meetings, conferences and Special Events with over thirty years of experience at the United Nations. She collaborates with all stakeholders in developing inclusive and impactful programs and projects. The NGOCS-D-NY was proud to be a Partner of the UN Secretary General's UN75 Anniversary Dialogues and the UN Friends of World Oceans Day/Month initiatives. Margo is mainly focused on connecting all areas of the 17 UN SDGs. She passionately champions SDG 17 on Building Partnerships and she believes in the NGOCS-D-NY motto: *"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change."* Margo brings entrepreneurs of all ages and the private sector into the United Nations discourse to foster investing in the SDG solutions to support the success of the UN2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, so we "Leave No One Behind.". Recently, Margo was honored to receive the 2021 Volunteers of America Lifetime Achievement Award from United States President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Our Partners: NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, PVBLIC Foundation, Coalition for the UN We Need, Baha'i International Community, SDG Relief Fund, The Stimson Center, Together First, NGO/MG Urban Cluster, Global Family, Soroptimist International, Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, Empower-a-Billion-Women(-EBW), Debate for Peace, Huairou Commission, General Assembly of Partners, Global Family for Love & Peace, ICW, GNEC, CoNGO, and UNA-USA Council of Organizations.

"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"

<http://www.ngocsd-ny.org>