

Brussels, April 3rd, 2020

Dear Caravan network members, Dear friends,

First, I hope you are all in good health, as well as your family and all of your loved ones.

Today we are mostly confined, restricted in our movements & activities, forced to have had to make difficult decisions for each of our structures.

What a slap in the face! The one that we no longer thought capable of experiencing in the twenty-first century. A reality which is imposed, on us, on you, on everyone, on the whole world.

At first we didn't believe it.

But we had to accept the reality. We were forced to cancel courses, internships, shows, seminars, training, festivals,...To stop everything!

We had to disconnect plugs, close the doors and go home.

A real disaster for each of us wherever we are.

Today we are confined, pending further news, good news, better days. We are trying to organize, reorganize, connect, keep our hopes up despite the prospect of seeing our ongoing projects collapsing.

I share this frustration with you. This anxiety, this uncertainty on how to ensure our tomorrows, how to reassure our students, our trainers, our teams, how to get up financially, how to bounce back.

If we feel poor about today's information, we dream of near and far future. Learning to accept is our fate. Accept not knowing, agree to wait, agree to be alone, agree to be locked up.

But I also share with you a deep feeling of solidarity and optimism that I experience everyday through various exchanges, social media, emails, skype, etc. You are behind all of this, each of you, in your families, in your networks, in your region, in your country.

I draw on these impulses of creativity & resourcefulness that we have not stopped demonstrating in recent days!

Caravan members are and will remain creative and dynamic against all odds. They are beautiful!

How is Caravan doing today?

A new team with Camille and a new move to Brussels. Rest assured everything is going well. The succession remains of quality. François, Laurent, Ophélie and now Camille, we work with the best.

But with Taina, Ulla, Jenna, Christophe, Matthias and I, Caravan's board, we felt a little lost, a little helpless. We wondered how to help you, how to demonstrate our presence.

And then we remembered that our network was born out of this desire for rapprochement, exchanges, solidarity & creativity. It has grown, has enriched itself with all your specificities and qualities. So today we want to reaffirm to you that this space is yours and that we are here, together. Our coordination team is certainly small and still evolving, but call us, write us, suggest us ideas to support you according to your needs.

Where could we be if not by your side?

As spring is in full swing, let's open our calendars, turn a few pages, weeks or months, to project ourselves into the return of hugs & shared emotions, to resume of all our projects, each one more crazier & happier than the last. Together, let's bounce back and take this time as a source of inspiration and learning. Our general assembly on May 4 & 5, 2020 (online) will be precisely an exercise of rebounds, of projection in this post Covid-19 period and in the new Caravan strategy for the three years to come.

While waiting to see each other in person, let our creativity & our solidarity journey, that they come out of our homes and travel the kilometers that separating us.

Take care of yourself!

On behalf of all the board members, Ulla, Jenna, Taina, Clara, Christophe & Matthias

Warm hugs,

Vincent President