# Circus cartographies

## Imaginaries of Circus in Contemporary Children's and Young Adult Literature.

Tantàgora × La Maleta de l'Espectacle

*Project selected for APCC's Interseccions programme*

*Circus Cartographies* is a research, mediation and creative project exploring the **relationship between contemporary circus and children's and young adult literature**.

The project brings together two areas of expertise: **Tantàgora**, with more than thirty years of experience in children's and young adult literature, reading mediation and participatory cultural projects, and **La Maleta de l'Espectacle**, with a focus on circus, its promotion, mediation and international development.

The project has been selected as part of **Interseccions, a programme by the APCC** (Association of Circus Professionals of Catalonia) that creates a space to explore the boundaries and connections between circus and other artistic disciplines.

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**How does contemporary children's and young adult literature represent contemporary circus?**

Starting from this question, we want to look at books, bring them into dialogue and discover what imaginaries of circus we find in them today.

# Looking at circus through books

## Looking at books through circus




Over the past twenty years, circus has undergone a major transformation. New languages, creative approaches and ways of understanding the discipline have emerged, alongside new relationships with other art forms and with social and cultural contexts.

We want to discover whether this evolution has also been reflected in books for children and young people.

→ What kind of circus appears in books?

→ What characters and bodies do we find?

→ What spaces and situations are represented?

→ Which circus imaginaries persist?

→ What stereotypes appear?

→ What is missing?

→ And what new perspectives on circus can we discover through literature?

# Will you help us draw the map?

As a starting point for our research, we want to build a **cartography of children's and young adult books** published in Europe over the past 20 years in which circus plays a significant role.

We are interested in a wide range of books and do not want to limit the call to a particular age group, genre or format.

We are looking for works that:

→ Are aimed at children and/or young people

→ Were published in Europe within the past 20 years

→ Feature circus in a significant way

→ Allow us to approach circus from diverse perspectives

We are interested both in more traditional representations and in works that incorporate new languages, perspectives and imaginaries connected to contemporary circus.

We are not looking for a single way of understanding circus.
We want to discover many.



# From books to cartography

The books we receive will become part of a shared reading process involving **professionals from both the circus and children's and young adult literature fields**.

We will read them, look closely at them and discuss them together in order to explore what they tell us about circus and what kinds of representations they construct.

## 01. Collect

Build an initial cartography of European books.

## 02. Read

Explore the books through the perspectives of literature and circus.

## 03. Bring into dialogue

Share readings, questions and discoveries.

## 04. Identify

Identify ideas, commonalities, absences, tensions and new imaginaries.

## 05. Map

Shape the main findings of the process.

## 06. Share

Turn the research into a cultural mediation installation.

# Project Participants

## Circus

→ **ORIOL ESCURSELL**
Founder of Nilak Project, a public travelling cultural infrastructure since 2018

→ **GRISELDA JUNCÀ Y TOMEU AMER**
Hotel iocandi Company, a contemporary circus company since 2015

→ **JORDI ASPA Y BET MIRALTA**
Escarlata Circus Company, a company focused on transformation through actions, social relationships and artistic encounters since 1987

## Literature

→ **CRISITINA CORRERO**
Specialist in children's language and literature, professor at Nantes Université, UAB and FUB

→ **ORIOL CANOSA**
Children's literature writer

→ **MIA CASSANY**
Founder and creative director of Mosquito Books

→ **OLGA CAPDEVILA**
Illustrator, art director and designer

→ **ALINA VENTURA**
La Maleta de l'espectacle

→ **MAGALÍ HOMS**
Tantàgora

# The outcome: an installation

This entire process will culminate in a **cultural mediation installation** bringing together the conclusions of the project and a final selection of books.

The installation will also be an invitation to explore and continue asking questions about the relationship between **literature and contemporary circus**.

A space to:

→ Discover different representations of circus.
→ Explore the imaginaries present in children's and young adult literature.
→ Bring books, perspectives and languages into dialogue.
→ Make visible both commonalities and absences.
→ Open up new questions.
→ Discover new ways of imagining circus.

The installation is designed to travel to festivals, bookshops, schools, libraries and other cultural spaces and events.



# Would you like to be part of the cartography?

If you are a European publisher and have books published within the past 20 years that you believe could be part of this cartography, **we would love to receive them**.

## Books

You can send one copy of each title you would like to propose. If you would like to send more than one copy, that would also be very welcome.

## Number of titles

You can submit as many titles as you feel are relevant to the project. There is no maximum number of titles.

## Format

We only accept physical copies.

## Type of publication

We are interested in a wide range of books and do not want to limit the call to a particular age group, genre or format.

## Submission form

Please complete the following form with the details of the publishing house and the books you will be sending.

## Submission deadline

30 October 2026.

## Shipping address

Carrer de l'Art, 80, ground floor,
08041 Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

## Receiving hours

Monday to Wednesday, 9:00 am–5:30 pm

## Contact

**Maria Puig**
maria@tantagora.net

Thank you for helping us build a perspective on circus through literature

**Circus Cartographies**
Tantàgora × La Maleta de l'Espectacle

A project by

TaNtàgORa

La maleta dels espectacles

In collaboration with

INTER SEC CIONS Nous enfocaments per al circ aplicat a Catalunya

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APCC Associació de Professionals de Circ de Catalunya

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PLA D'IMPULS CIRC

"Aquest projecte ha rebut el suport del segon Pla d'Impuls del Circ a través de la mesura Circ Aplicat-Interseccions gestionada per l'APCC. El segon Pla d'Impuls del Circ de Catalunya 2023-2026 és una iniciativa del Departament de Cultura de la Generalitat de Catalunya i l'Associació de Professionals del Circ de Catalunya (APCC), que compta amb la col·laboració de l'Ateneu Popular Nou Barris, el Centre de les Arts del Circ Rogelio Rivel, Encirca't, Fira Trapezi, La Central del Circ, el Mercat de les Flors i la complicitat de diversos municipis, entitats i equipaments escènics de Catalunya."