

The Spaces in Between

Immersive Sound Installation
2023-2024-2025





Through performances created collaboratively by experts in and outside of the arts, Kaimera Productions [kai-mee-rah] provides platforms for audiences to come together in dialogue and examine some of the hardest questions our global society faces. Kaimera creates original performances and live experiences that blend theatre, music, dance, multimedia, visual arts and more. Kaimera is an international company based in New York City and Paris, with ongoing projects in the United States, France, Turkey, Mozambique, and India.



***The Spaces in Between* is an immersive installation that blends visual and sound art, new technologies and the ancient art of storytelling.**

***The Spaces in Between* explores human displacement and its resonance across generations.** Displacement and immigration have been constants across human history. Yet today they are increasingly politicized. By highlighting the voices of those who have left their homes or whose ancestors have migrated, *The Spaces in Between* explores displacement on a human scale, offering a perspective that is rooted not in statistics and generalizations, but in lived experience.

***The Spaces in Between* embodies, through objects and interactive scenic design,** the countless stories of the inhabitants we have met since 2016 through our previous projects in Harlem (USA), Oakland (USA), Saint-Denis (France), Maputo (Mozambique), Istanbul (Turkey) and Bangalore (India). **Through new partnerships and collaborations, *The Spaces in Between* will also integrate new stories from parts of the world we have yet to explore.**

A world of stories, sounds, and meaning

The visitor's journey through *The Spaces in Between* is built around a collection of everyday objects that have been abandoned, forgotten or lost by their now departed owners. Spectators, equipped with a pair of headphones, are invited to enter a space populated by these artifacts, and seemingly devoid of life. After just a few steps inside the installation, however, they realize that there is in fact much more to these spaces than meets the eye. Each step the spectator takes is entirely narrated by a precise and abundant sound universe. The world they have entered is far from ordinary, weaving and layering countless stories, sounds and meanings--stories that give life to a myriad of personal experiences of displacement.

The experience of displacement is a solitary one. Though often undergone in families, or in groups, it places the individual at the heart of a deeply personal process. *The Spaces in Between* seeks to explore this question of isolation through the visitor's experience: it begins with the use of individual headphones. The entire experience is designed around the individual. The installation is a space of free exploration, and the spectators are allowed to embark on their journey within it at their own pace. One person could go through the experience in the blink of an eye, while another might spend a week discovering each hidden gem.





This experience is made possible by the combination of binaural sound with cutting-edge tracking technology. This enables the creation of a 3D sound environment that responds to the movement of each audience member in real time. Equipped with individual headphones, each audience member experiences the installation arc at their own pace and in the trajectory of their choosing. In addition, the physical environment around them reacts to where they are in the space, as the tracking technology triggers different parts of the scenic design based on their proximity - a light fades up, a coffee pot starts percolating, a fan turns on - thus further deepening their immersion into the world and stories they are experiencing.



The Origins of
The Spaces in Between



1. The SPACES Project

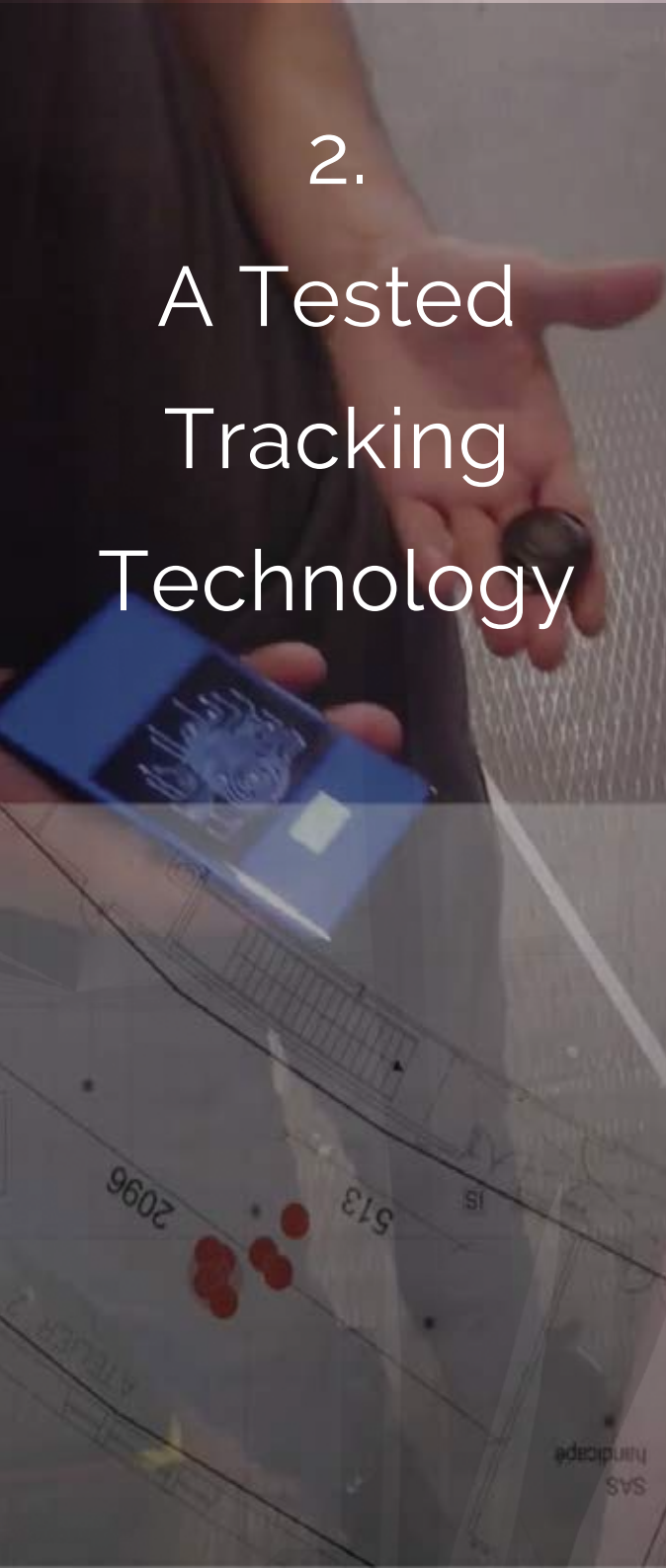
***The Spaces in Between* is inspired by the SPACES project, already conducted in Harlem (USA) in 2016, Oakland (USA) in 2021, and Saint-Denis (France) in 2021 and 2022.**

Through *The Spaces in Between*, we hope to continue working with non-professional storytellers, and in particular with people we have already identified in our previous *SPACES* productions in Saint-Denis, Calais, Harlem, Oakland, Maputo, Istanbul, Bangalore, and beyond. These storytellers, from incredibly diverse backgrounds, have shared their personal stories with us, and sometimes with the audience. Their stories are the inspiration for *The Spaces in Between* project.

Click here to see video clips of

[SPACES : Oakland](#)

[SPACES : Saint-Denis](#)

A hand holding a smartphone over a map with red markers. The map shows a street layout with several red dots indicating specific locations. The text '2. A Tested Tracking Technology' is overlaid on the image.

2. A Tested Tracking Technology

The technology used is the result of two years of research and development carried out within the framework of the CHIMERES program of the French Ministry of Culture.

For the development of its DATAPRINT project, the Kaimera company took part in CHIMERES, a support program for writing, experimenting and prototyping multidisciplinary hybrid artistic forms, in collaboration with creators from other fields: video game development, code, virtual and augmented reality, etc.

The Kaimera team has adapted a very precise real-time location system traditionally used in commerce and industry. By importing this technology into an interactive 3D video game software, our team has transposed these two technologies into an artistic context, and can now bring a space to life and animate the objects that occupy it. Paradoxically, similar technology is used by patrol officers along certain borders to track movement and prevent illegal immigration. We will be reappropriating this technology to make voices of these people heard and highlight their journey, stories and experiences.

**Click on [this link](#) to see video footage
of the technology in action**

Project Themes

The stories that will be recorded and inhabit the sound installation are rooted in several themes that have emerged from our ongoing work:

- A recurring theme in each city we have worked in is that of home, and in particular the hardships encountered in **moments of displacement and loss of home**. Many of the people we have worked with were forced to leave their home for a number of reasons: because of **armed conflict and wars**, but also because of **gentrification**, risks related to **climate change**, or to escape more **local violence** at the scale of the neighborhood, for example.
- Another recurring theme is the **feeling of loneliness and isolation** very often experienced by people in displacement situations, and the ambiguity of this feeling, which is often coupled with a strong connection to the community with which they travel: family, people of the same nationality, etc.
- We question the persistent effects of displacement, adopting a **transgenerational** point of view, and, whenever possible, including stories from members of the same family across multiple generations.

Storytelling workshops

Our team always uses interactive workshops as the primary way to collect stories. They are an essential element of the project and directly feed into the artistic creation process.

Building on our experience in the *SPACES* project, these sessions are organized in partnership with associations that are rooted in local communities and already have established relationships with individuals who have experienced displacement.

The varied format of these intergenerational workshops - indoor vs outdoor, group vs individual - is decided through discussion with the local partners. The Kaimera artistic team, with its 20-years of teaching and facilitation experience, works to adapt the ateliers to the needs of the participants.

Note from the Artistic Director

I was twelve years old, and everything was about to change. With five suitcases, and \$500 my family was getting ready to make the journey from Azerbaijan to the United States, which granted us refugees asylum. But a second territorial conflict was brewing, this one within the walls of our home, and over the highly contested territorial control of the suitcases. I was unable to understand why my stuffed wolf, which I had since birth, wasn't a priority, but the two red blankets that devoured half a suitcase were. "There are blankets in America!", I remember imploring. "Not like these", was my father's response.

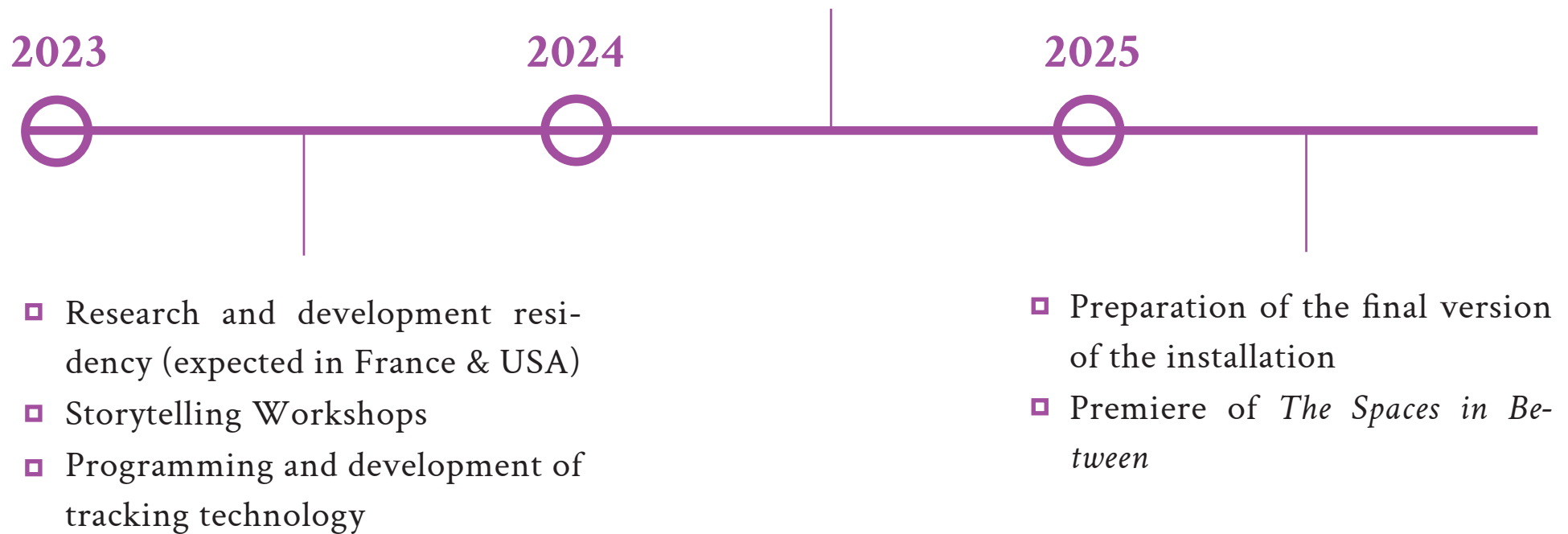
Today, thirty years later, I still miss that wolf, but I know that he was right. One of those blankets is in my home, and just knowing that it's there, brings me unexplainable relief. Seeing my son tucked under it as he builds imaginary castles with it, fills me with joy.

Over the course of the last six years, since the creation of the Kaimera's SPACES initiative, which was presented to sold-out audiences in Harlem (NY), Oakland, (CA), and twice in Saint-Denis (France), as well as workshopped in Maputo (Mozambique) and Calais (France), I have heard hundreds, if not thousands of stories from people from all walks of life, including many who have experienced displacement. On countless occasions, the objects that people left behind or brought along on the journey take on a supernatural force, are imbued with meaning, and become the vessels of the experience

- Simón Adinia Hanukai

Preliminary Calendar

- ▣ Selection of stories
- ▣ Creation and production phase (sound, music, lights, scenic design)
- ▣ Playtesting residencies



Partners

The Spaces in Between is supported by the french Ministry of Culture, Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles d'Ile-de-France, the Département de Seine-Saint-Denis, the City of Saint-Denis, and the Polycarpe Foundation.

In addition, the Kaimera Team is in conversation with the following partners, many of which have supported the *SPACES* project:

In France

Musée d'art et d'histoire Paul Eluard,, ARTE FRANCE (Claire Doutriaux, directrice de l'atelier de recherche d'Arte France, créatrice de Karambolage), Le Secours Catholique Calais, Care for Calais, Mosaïque Calais, Collective Aid Calais, la Maison de la Jeunesse/Ligne 13, les associations Femmes Franc-Moisin, Franc-Moisin Citoyennes, Dessine-moi Pleyel, Association A93C, l'Écho des sans mots, Maison Jaune et le Chapiteau Raj'ganawak.

In the United States

ARTogether - Oakland, City of Oakland Cultural Affairs, Destiny Arts Center, Downtown Oakland Association, l'Ambassade de France aux Etats-Unis et le Consulat de France à San Francisco.



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