



CHAMAR ASSOCIATION (Arles, FRANCE) | www.chamar.org

ON THE ROAD TO CULTURAL OPENNESS: DISCOVERING MUSLIM CULTURES AND ARTS

Chamar is a young association founded in Arles (France) whose main vocation is to create new artistic and cultural bridges between Muslim and Western civilizations, through the promotion and diffusion of the arts and cultures of the Muslim worlds (Berber, Persian, Arabic, Ottoman, Malay, Senegalese, etc.).

Because we live in a *connected* world where interactions foster both dialogue among peoples and cultural confrontations, we felt it essential to improve understanding of the Muslim world, especially since a large population of Muslim culture lives in France and Europe. Our actions respond to important societal and cultural issues. These actions are aimed at a broad public, Muslims and their fellow citizens with the aim of promoting interculturality.

Convinced of the need to contribute to the reform movement of our current societies, citizen education is in this perspective one of the levers of action that we wish to put forward at this European meeting in Marseille

Our multidisciplinary team (psychologist, artist, theologian, neuroscientist, etc.) advocates an education based on universal values (love, solidarity, tolerance, etc.) and on learning to altruism by working on self-confidence which requires a good knowledge of one's identity, culture and the acceptance of others to contribute to social peace.

The method chosen to convey a message as important as this one must respect certain rules in psychology, didactics, etc. For us, *play* is one of the most interesting learning methods.

Our association consequently designs *board games* in order to make discover the wide musical, scientific, linguistic, literary... heritage of the Muslim civilizations throughout history. We share this heritage through other forms of educational experiences such as workshops and live shows.

The dissemination of this cultural richness will allow *in fine* to make them responsible citizens, with a cultural background representing the diversity of society. Ideally, this could be on a larger scale: we then speak of *world citizen*.

Hanane El Bahraoui (president)

Tahar Rabahi (neuroscientist consultant)