

CHEZ-NOUS

Le Monde Entier



PRODUCED BY:

ASSOCIATION
CAFÉ
INTERNATIONAL
GRENOBLE

WITH THE SUPPORT OF



GRENOBLE-ALPES MÉTROPOLÉ

Publishing Direction: Association Café International Grenoble.
3 Rue Augereau, 38000 Grenoble.
cafe.international.grenoble@gmail.com

Editors: Ariadna Sar.
Leonie Schreiner.

Texts: Ariadna Sar, Leonie Schreiner.
Photography by: Emilse Torrens (assisted by Leonie Schreiner and Ariadna Sar).
Idea and concept of the project “Chez-Nous: le monde entier”: Ariadna Sar.
Cover making and catalogue design: Ariadna Sar.

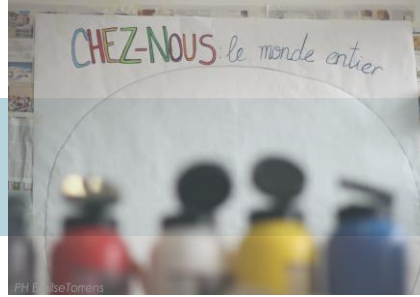
Experience carried out in January-February 2020
at the Maison des Habitants (MdH) Bois d'Artas and Atelier Wu, Grenoble.
Opening of exposition: 19/02/2020 at Atelier Wu, Grenoble.
Professional advice: Stefan Tedone.



ASSOCIATION
CAFÉ
INTERNATIONAL
GRENOBLE

All rights reserved.

SUMMARY

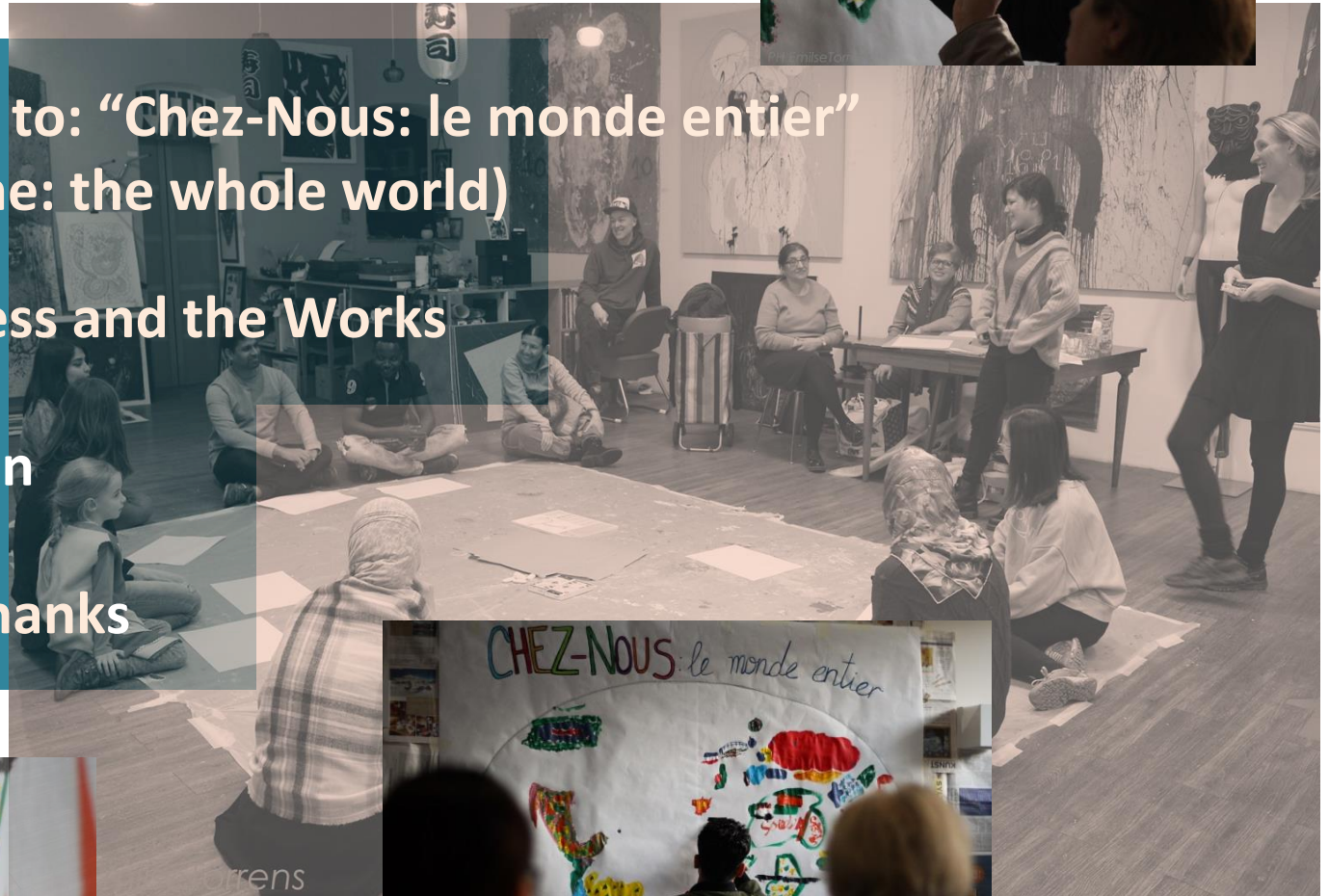


I. Welcome to: “Chez-Nous: le monde entier”
(Our Home: the whole world)

II. The Process and the Works

III. Conclusion

IV. Special Thanks



I. Welcome to “Chez-Nous: le monde entier”

(Our Home: the whole world)

The Association Café International Grenoble welcomes you to the project Chez-Nous: le monde entier, an exploration of different regions of the earth through paintings. The project is carried out by people from various countries, who meet weekly at the Maisons des Habitants (MdH) du Bois d'Artas and Centre Ville, to exchange conversations in French in a friendly atmosphere around a coffee - The Café International.

The purpose of this experience was to get to know the different places of origin of people through artistic means, and to provide an intercultural exchange in the city of Grenoble. It was realized thanks to the generous collaboration of various agents such as the MdH Bois D'Artas, Grenoble's artist Stefan Wu, the restaurant "Tuk-Tuk" and, of course, the Grenoble-Alpes-Métropole, which gave us a grant from the Metropolitan Participation Fund.

The central idea was born from the personal investigation of Ariadna Sar as a visual artist, who has just developed a proposal on the daily spaces of her life in Caracas, Venezuela, the city where she comes from and studied. Discovering Café International motivated her to expand her vision and explore the vision of the participants of this cross-border group.

Attracted by the curiosity about personal stories from very distant towns and villages that are rarely ever heard off, this artistic experience gave to those who were interested, the opportunity to express and represent their native regions in a personal way.

II. The Process and the Works

During four sessions the participants were invited to explore the images and memories of their country of origin, to manifest them in the painting. One more session was added to also create a collective interpretation of the city of Grenoble. You will thus find, in this catalog, a presentation of the result of the personal process of each participant in this project; who are: Laura, Cruz, Julia, Shadwa, Maryam, Feroz, Yuqing, Nina, and Vjollca.

PH EmilseTorrens



PH EmilseTorrens

II. The Process and the Works



Collective World Map.

Acrylic and oil pastel on paper.

1,95 x 1,95 cm.

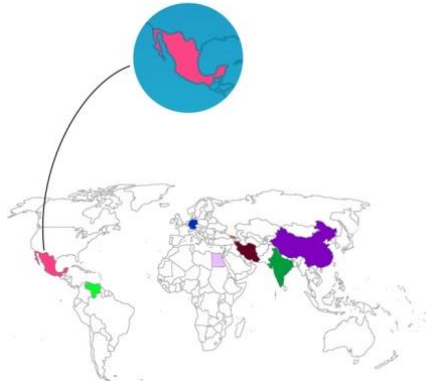
The first creative approach

By following the instruction: "place your country of origin", the participants of Café International began this exploration together in the construction of a world map.

They were also asked to place other countries they knew, in order to arrive at an interpretation of the group's perception of the world.

It was a didactic invitation to start the artistic research.

II. The Process and the Works



Laura

Country of origin: **Mexico**

In Grenoble since September 2019

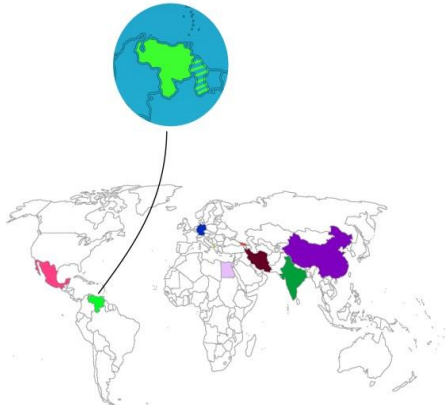
Full of colors, Laura has made her version of the Mexican map. She set up the region where she comes from, Hidalgo, with a game of yellow and orange, to represent the particular conviviality of "Day of the Deads". This is an occasion, where the family gathers to celebrate and honor their ancestors.

She also used other colors such as purple, for representing a very typical Mexican tree "Jacaranda" and magenta for the flower "Buganbilia", vegetation characteristic of the Mexican cities, which grows in the month of March giving an spectacle.



Acrylic and chalk over paper .
60x80

II. The Process and the Works



In Cruz's painting, we look at the road from her neighborhood, to her university in Caracas. She has a warm appreciation for her past times in it, and she particularly remembers the moments spent at the olympic swimming pool in this place.

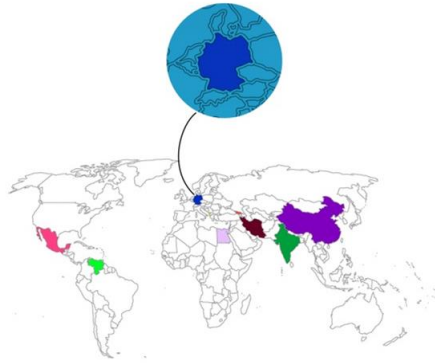
In its creative description we can discover the proximity of the capital city to the Caribbean Sea, intercepted by the Ávila mountain. Additionally, in the middle of the path, she placed an orchid blossom, the national flower of Venezuela.

Cruz

Country of origin: **Venezuela**
In Grenoble since May 2019



Acrylic and chalk over paper .
60x80



II. The Process and the Works

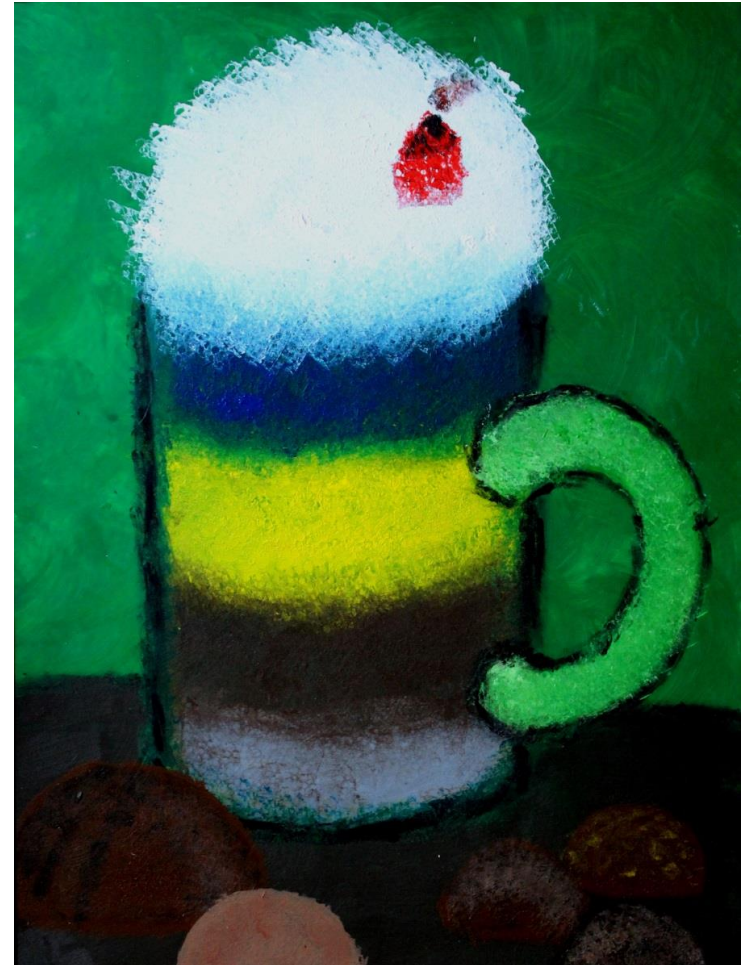
Julia

Country of origin: **Germany**

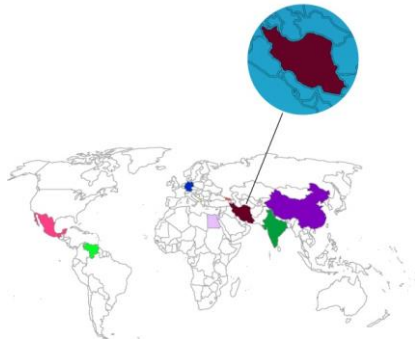
In Grenoble since January 2019

Germany is known for its beer, and it is in fact the beer what Julia misses the most from her region of origin: "the taste is different, it's better". There is also a special atmosphere in the small breweries close to Nuremberg, called the "biergarten" or "beer garden" which she has not found here yet.

Julia has talk about the different colors of the houses in Germany, depending on the different regions which she has represented in the foam and the pigments of this drink. Also the color green, at the background, and the handle of the beer mug, are very typical of her country.



Acrylic and chalk over paper .
60x80



II. The Process and the Works

Maryam

Country of origin: **Iran**

In Grenoble since 2018

"In Iran you have the sea, deserts, and chains of mountain ," said Maryam, who comes from a town called Shariatz. But above all, she wanted to tell us about the poetic side of her country, exemplified in a very well-known Iranian story: "The Birds that Fall in Love with Flowers".

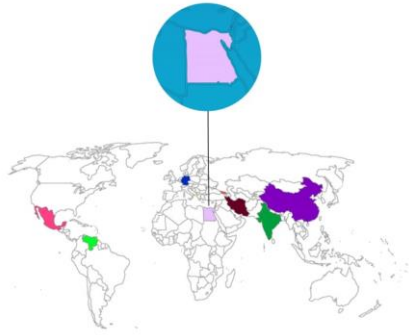
On a beautiful background of blue lines, which represents the sea, we see the typical design of the birds who fall in love with flowers. In her work she gives us a very unique vision of Iran, its colors and culture.



Acrylic and chalk over paper .

60x80

II. The Process and the Works



Shadwa

Country of origin: **Egypt**
In Grenoble since 2016

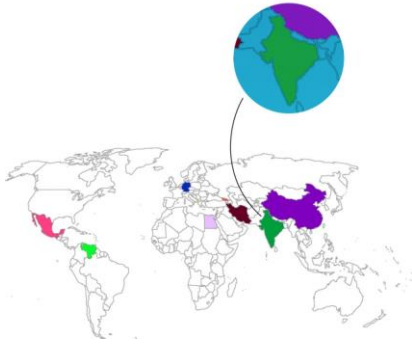
Shadwa shows a landscape of the sunset colors in Alexandria. Over this sky, she added gray clouds, which she sees coming upon the arrival of winter. Date palms, papyrus and a small boat are also set up alongside other symbols of her culture, as: "The Cross of Life".

One can notice among the elements of this painting, several well known monuments from ancient Egypt, as the Pyramids and the Sphinx. Between them, there's a building which, even though it's constructed with the same material - granite - it's much more recent: "The Tower of Cairo" the tallest structure in North Africa.



Acrylic and chalk over paper .
60x80

II. The Process and the Works



Feroz

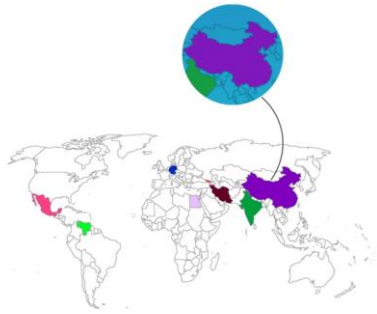
Country of origin: **India**
In Grenoble since 2018

Feroz presents in his painting the various icons of India, such as the peacock, the national flag, the Taj Majal, and the "khadi": a kind of spinning wheel very representative of his culture and history.

Feroz comes from the southern peninsula, where people speak Tamil, an ancient language older than Sanscrit. A language that comes from ancestral civilization of Lemuria. We see at the bottom right, a map of the geographic dimension that occupied Lemuria, before being flooded. It touches the eastern sides of South Africa and western Australia, places where Tamil is still spoken.



Acrylic and chalk over paper .
60x80



II. The Process and the Works

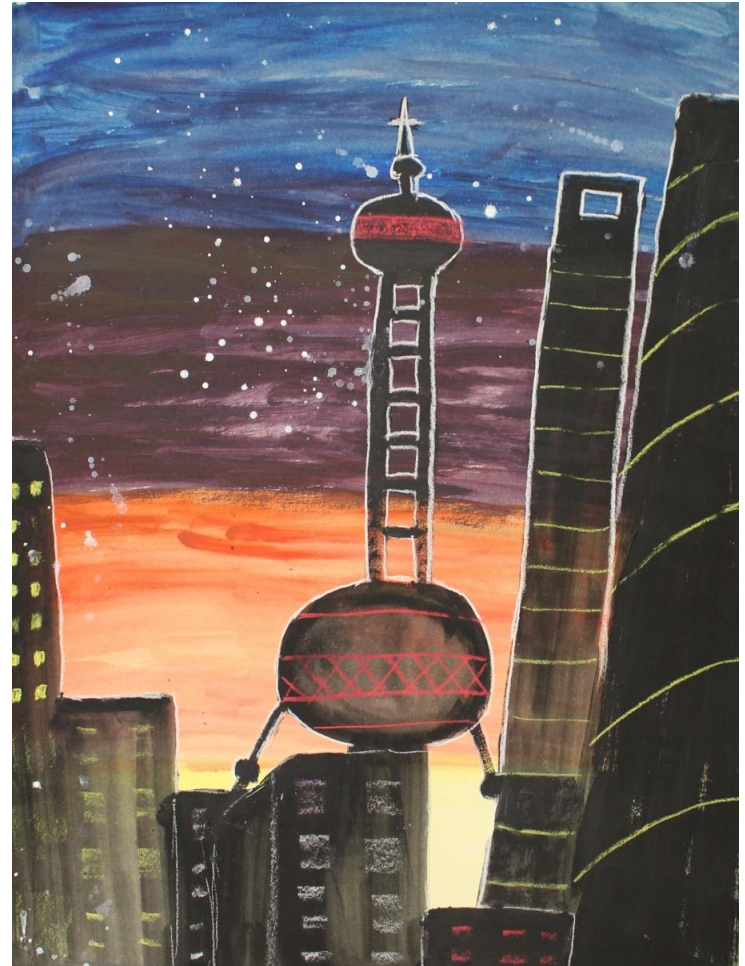
Yuqing

Country of origin: **China**

In Grenoble since September 2019

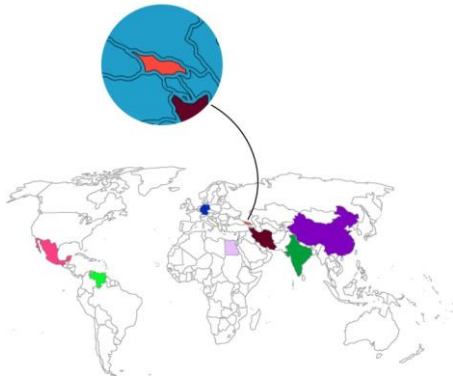
Yuqing draws a view of the skyscrapers of Shanghai, the city where she comes from. In this work we see tall buildings from futuristic architecture, so predominant in this region of China.

Yuqing knows very well the names of the buildings that face the Huangpu river. Among them, the most remarkable among her drawings: “The Oriental Pearl Tower”, the fifth tallest communication building in the world, which is notably an essential symbol of his daily life.



Acrylic and chalk over paper .
60x80

II. The Process and the Works



Nina

Country of origin: **Georgia**

In Grenoble since 2007

Nina remembers Georgia between an abundance of mountains, rivers and the Black Sea. As a result, green and light blue are predominant in her composition. She shows us a young women dressed in traditional clothes. Swords are widely used as decoration in Georgia, evoking past time duels of its region.

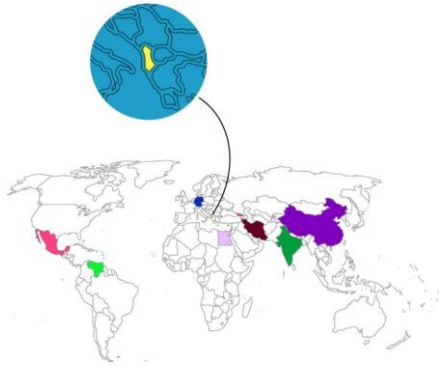
Nina added the cable car from her city Tbilisi, which reminds her of the one in Grenoble. In her interpretation, Georgia and Grenoble are alike, however she says that it is more sunny over there.



Acrylic and chalk over paper .

60x80

II. The Process and the Works



Vjollca

Country of origin: **Albania**

In Grenoble since 2015

About Albania, Vjolla has mentioned her broken heart when she had to leave due to the social conflicts that happened in 1997. She has drawn a war scene where her region is painted in red, and we see the houses in her work all barred up to protect themselves from danger. With a dynamic rhythm, the elements of her painting expresses the feeling of escaping towards the Adriatic Sea.

Surrounding all of this, one can still appreciate an abundant vegetation of tall mountains and trees. And also the detail of smalls white spots, that represent "hope" according to her.



Acrylic and chalk over paper .

60x80

II. The Process and the Works



Collective Interpretation of Grenoble

Acrylic and marker drawings on paper.

1,95 x 1,95 cm.

After following the explorations on the original spaces of each one, the participants produced a work together over the spaces of the city of Grenoble.

They choose the colors, from the elaboration of a personal palette, and then put them on the paper. After they received drawings of Grenoble's buildings made by Ariadna Sar, in order to tear them apart, cut them out and integrate them into the creation of a large collage.

In this experiment, you can notice, on the result of the general characteristics of the urban imaginary of Grenoble as: the course of two rivers, the color of the autumn in the leaves and the different greens of the mountains. There's also a purple color, which could refer to environmental factors, such as air pollution.

III. Conclusion

We can sometimes think that given the practical rhythm by which the world is used to spin, making a deep reflexion over the space that surround us is almost an useless task. But in the vision of this project, spaces are important because it is society, and its interaction with the environment, that gives them shape. But also because each person feels influenced by the spaces they live in. Indeed, it was by searching for elements of colors, shapes and rhythms typical of the country of each participant, that they were able to develop a visual story of their culture.

Through their memories, the participants opened a window through which they show us a small piece of the world, which they carry here in France, a country which reflects its humanist solidarity in its adage: Freedom, Equality and Fraternity.



IV. Special Thanks

“Chez-Nous: le monde entier” would never have been possible without the support of many people. We would like to thank those who accompanied us on this journey: the members of Café International, our inspiration and motivation; the MdH professionals; our colleagues from the Association Café International Grenoble: their practical help and advice were indispensable; among them especially Emi, for the excellent work she has done in the photographic register.

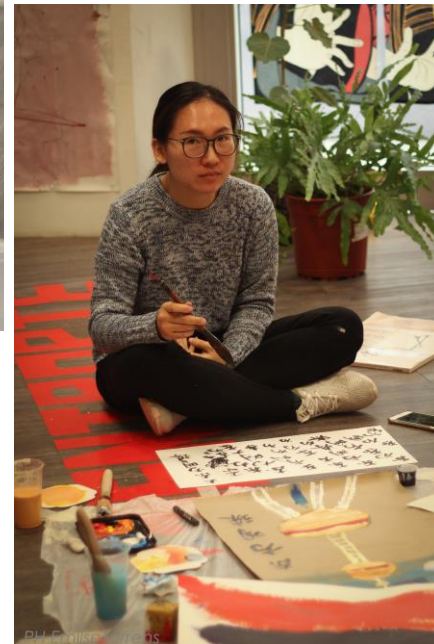
We would like to thank the Métropole and its committee for their financial support and encouragement. Also to our frenchs friends who were always ready to help us with our written and oral presentation. To our families, for their inexhaustible patience and their good will in the pursuit of this cause. To Stefan and Chakriya for always "being there", (like the German verb "DASEIN" signifies , also mentioned by the social artist Joseph Beuys).

Above all, we thank our participants for having been so brave to face a blank sheet of paper and share with everyone the intimacy of their memories.

To all of you, a huge thanks!

Ariadna and Leonie.







ASSOCIATION
CAFÉ
INTERNATIONAL
GRENOBLE

All rights reserved.