

## REGISTRATION FORM

### Free admission:

Students involved in the exhibition *The briefcases of Walter Benjamin*.

Members of the Associació Passatges de Cultura Contemporània, Portbou.

### Other people:

Registration Adults:  
30 €

Members of the Association Walter Benjamin "sans frontières", Banyuls-sur-mer and the Association Shandynamiques, Cerbère:  
20 €

Students and retired persons:  
15 €

### Contact:

Associació Passatges de Cultura Contemporània

info@passatgescultura.org

+34 660 82 70 23

www.passatgescultura.org

Organizers:



Collaborators:



Association Walter Benjamin "sans frontières"  
de Banyuls-sur-mer



We acknowledge with thanks to:

Chantal Benjamin

Irene Cussó

Jean-Pierre Bonnel, President of the Association Walter Benjamin "sans frontières", Banyuls-sur-mer

Toni Sánchez, First Councillor of Portbou Town Hall.

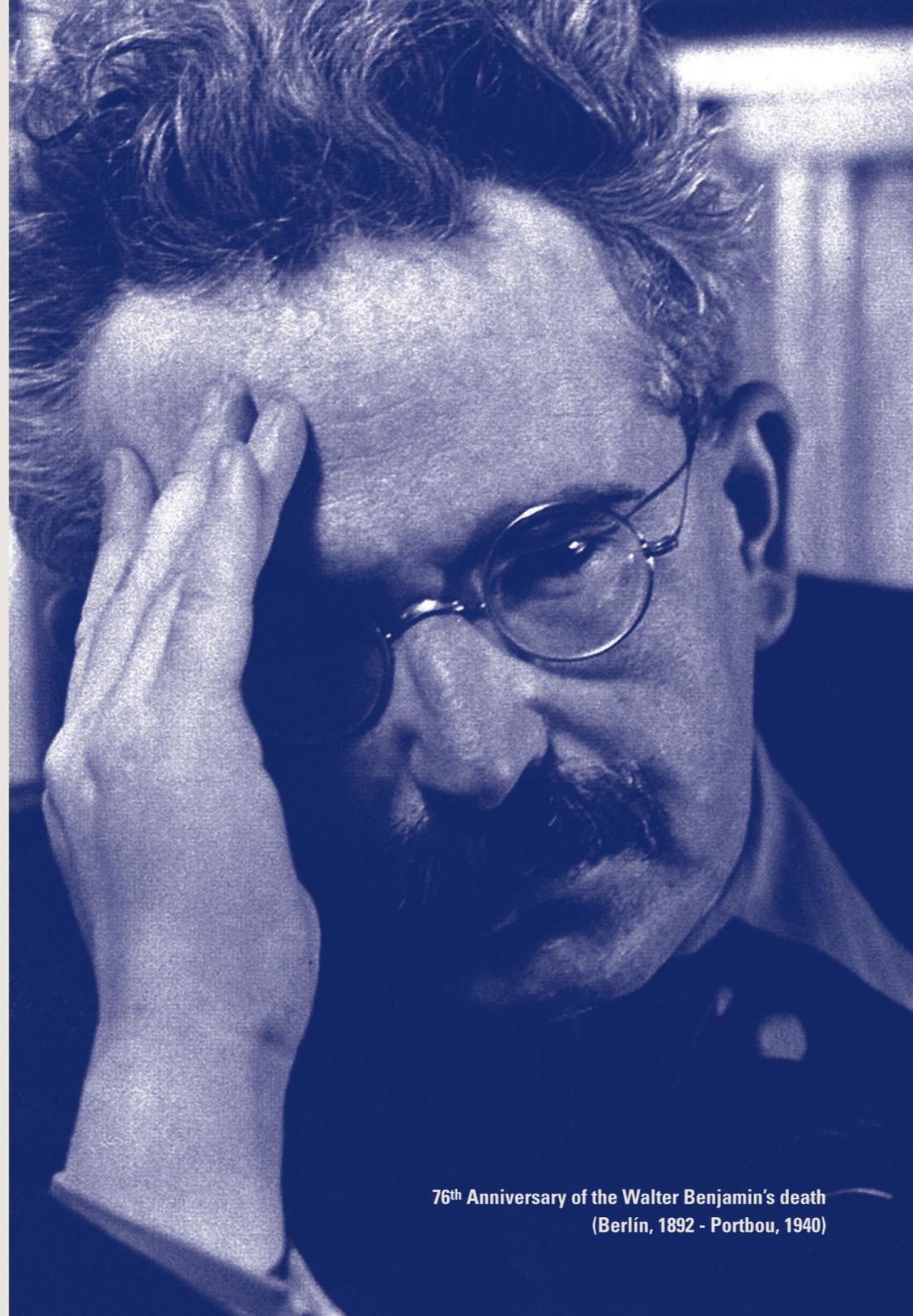
Graphic design of the programme:  
Manel Grávalos Olivella

Photo of the programme:  
Walter Benjamin by Gisèle Freund.

22–25 SEPTEMBER COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

# SUMMER SCHOOL WALTER BENJAMIN 2016 PORTBOU

76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Walter Benjamin's death  
(Berlín, 1892 - Portbou, 1940)



# SUMMER SCHOOL WALTER BENJAMIN PORTBOU 2016 / 22–25 SEPTEMBER

**Director of the Seminar:** Sigrid Weigel (Zentrum für Literatur und Kulturforschung Berlin), with the collaboration of Pilar Parcerisas.

**Subject:** The concept of History, *Passages* book, Art and Human Rights.

**Place:** Centre Cívic Ca l'Herrero, c/ Méndez Núñez, 2. Portbou.

This first edition of Walter Benjamin Summer School in Portbou is directed by Sigrid Weigel the well known expert, from Zentrum für Literatur und Kulturforschung Berlin, with the collaboration of Chantal Benjamin, grand-daughter of Walter Benjamin, social worker and training in Human Rights (Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin), Gerard Vilar (UAB), Enric Puig Punyet (UOC and writer at *La maleta de Portbou*), Natalia Cantó (UOC), Swen Seebach (UAB), Pilar Parcerisas (Assoc. Passatges) and with students from École des Beaux Arts (Bordeaux), the Weissensee Kunsthochschule (Berlin), Escola Llotja d'Arts i Disseny (Barcelona) and residents from Casa de Velázquez (Madrid), all of them participants in the exhibition *The briefcases of Walter Benjamin*, at the International Portbou Railway Station.

The Summer School shall be one cornerstone of the ongoing engagements to built and establish a *Walter Benjamin House* in Portbou, the village where Walter Benjamin life ended abruptly after crossing the Pyrenees at the border between France and Catalonia. During the Second World War the Mediterranean coast turned into the light of hope providing a gateway to exile and a future life for innumerable persecuted persons during Nazi-time. This place is nowadays again the scenario where many refugees dream to have an opportunity to continue their life, although the sea is the first barrier that decides their fate. However, European countries overwhelmed by a socioeconomic and political crisis become the second barrier. It is in this context that Walter Benjamin's thoughts could help us to understand and empathize with this problematic, as well as bring some light to the challenges that this situation poses to our European society.

This event brings an international, interdisciplinary and cosmopolitan perspective to study Walter Benjamin philosophy in an exceptional environment. Portbou, a little village in the frontier with France, in the Costa Brava, where Walter Benjamin decided to die as an anonymous person, where today the *Passages* Memorial by Dani Karavan honours this philosopher, as well as all those anonymous fugitives who go into exile in search of freedom.

76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Walter Benjamin's death (Berlín, 1892-Portbou,1940)

# THE CONCEPT OF HISTORY, *PASSAGES* BOOK, ART AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME

**Thursday, 22<sup>th</sup> September.**  
**Centre Cívic Ca l' Herrero**

9'30h.

Opening Remarks by Chantal Benjamin and Sigrid Weigel. (English language)

10'00h

Reading and discussion of "The concept of History". (Source: Reader providing a bi-lingual version of the text).

Session directed by Sigrid Weigel. (English Language)

12'00h

Explanation by the participants in the exhibition *The briefcases of Walter Benjamin* about their workshop and their approach to Walter Benjamin's work and concepts.

13'00h

Presentation of a film project about Walter Benjamin by Mateo Ramírez Lout, student from UPF, Barcelona.

16:30h

Panel with the professors from the art schools: Jean

Calens (École des Beaux Arts, Bordeaux); Wim Westerveld, Knut Ebeling, Barbara Junge and Hannes Brunner (Weissensee Kunsthochschule Berlin), Carlos Lozano and Estela Rodríguez (Escola Llotja. Arts i Disseny, Barcelona). Debate with the students.

18'00h

Projection of the film *Der Himmel über Berlin* by Wim Wenders. Discussion about the film.

**Friday, 23<sup>th</sup> September.**  
**Centre Cívic Ca l' Herrero**

10'00h

Reading and discussion of fragments from *Passagen* book. Session directed by Sigrid Weigel. (English Language)

12'30h

Projection of *Chaja & Mimi* (10') by Eric Esser, from Berlin, winner of the *Film Festival of Cinema of the Border 2014*. This is a film about friendship, homeland and identity.

Afternoon and Evening

**Banyuls-sur-mer. Salle Novelty, 5, rue du 14 juillet.**

Lectures and activities organised by the Association Walter Benjamin "sans frontières". (French language)

17'30h

Presentation of the application *Chess-border* by Franck Ancel.

Title and subject: *Chess-border* (\*) modulation de l'espace et fréquence temporelle.

(\*) <https://www.studiobruyant.com/fr/portfolio/chess-border/>

18'30h

Jean-Louis Bailleret, historian from Nièvre (Borgogne). About the concentration camp of Vernuche, close to Nevers where was imprisoned Walter Benjamin (diaporama).

19'30h

Maria Mailat, *Les passages/ messages de Walter Benjamin*. Novelist,

psychologist, expert on Kafka and Walter Benjamin.

20'30h

Presentation of the local and natural wine *Le Rayon Vert* by AH AH AH editions with Baptiste Houssin. Place: Cafè-restaurant Les 9 caves, Banyuls-sur-mer.

**Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> September.**  
**Centre Cívic Ca l'Herrero**

10'00h

Panel about the concept of Art in Benjamin thinking and Benjamin critical acclaim. (English language):

Gerard Vilar (UAB), *Walter Benjamin on Visual Literacy and Literarization of all the Conditions of life*.

Enric Puig Punyet (UOC), Collaborator at *La maleta de Portbou, The Quest for Philosophy in Historical Times*.

Natàlia Cantó (UOC), *Working from the margins. "The Stranger" in the Academia*.

Swen Seebach (UAB), *Loos the aura, freedom from the past, a reflection on the*

*possibilities of politicising art works and media*.

Moderator: Pilar Parcerisas.

12'00h

Guided tour to *Passages* Memorial. Meeting point: Centre Cívic Ca l'Herrero.

17'30h

Performances by students from École des Beaux-Arts de Bordeaux (EBABX). On the beach and at the International Portbou Railway Station.

19'00h

Opening of the exhibition *The briefcases of Walter Benjamin. Dispositifs of migration* at the International Portbou Railway Station with students and authorities.

22'00h

Projection of the film *Pasajes de Portbou* (2010), directed by Enric Puig Punyet at Centre Cívic Ca l'Herrero.

## COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

### 76<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE WALTER BENJAMIN'S DEATH

**Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> September**

08:00h

Route Walter Benjamin and crossing the Pyrenees, guided by Jean-Pierre Bonnel, President of the Association Walter Benjamin "sans frontières". Point of departure: Town Hall, Banyuls-sur-mer.

12:00h

**Centre Cívic Ca l'Herrero**

Projection of a film-document with Dani Karavan, Wim Wenders and Chantal Benjamin during the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Walter Benjamin's death (2015).

Presentation of the project of declaration of the *Passages* Memorial by Dani Karavan as a National Cultural Good (Bé Cultural d' Interès Nacional).

13:00h

Wreath laying and official speeches at the cemetery of Portbou.