

Temporary History Lab by the Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH)



Duration: 26.9-23.10

Temporary History Lab: Become Part of History!

The historians from the Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH) are interested in your memories of the heyday of the iron and steel industry, your recollections of your work, leisure time and everyday living conditions, and also your perception of how Esch-Alzette and the surrounding region has changed from World War II to today. All generations, young and old alike, regardless of origin, gender or occupation are invited to come and speak up. Get actively involved in this research project: tell your life and family stories! Bring your photos and documents of all sorts with you so that they can be digitised in the history lab!

Alongside this initiative, C²DH is organising a number of participatory events to explore the history and identity of the Minett:

- Take a picture of yourself and learn more about the exciting history of the selfie
- Record a text for a loved one with sound postcards and learn about its forgotten history and technology
- Experience our fascinating “Historical Voices from Esch” video installation
- Visit the exhibitions in the pavilion and take part in a historical city walk.

Let’s talk about the past, present and future – and your very personal history in this town and region.

Share your stories – and become part of history.

30.9 - 23.10 Crowdsourcing Historical Documents

In the temporary history lab, your stories and documents will be collected and digitised. The focus is on your personal memories, which C²DH would like to document and investigate for their project by conducting oral history interviews with you. Your personal documents and photos (from school photos to employment contracts) can also tell interesting stories. Selected interviews and documents will be incorporated in their research and those will be displayed in a large-scale history exhibition in 2022. Do not hesitate to contact C²DH for more information.

26.9 -23.10 Interactive Video Installation: Historical Voices from the Minett

Our interactive video installation features several personal stories related to the past and present of the Minett.

Based upon existing and new historical research, the stories have been written by a team of historians and anthropologists to highlight various aspects of life in and around Esch-Alzette throughout the 20th century. As such, the interactive video installation, which has been designed by Tokonoma, deals with timeless themes such as wartime suffering, migration, labour, health and human creativity. The spoken stories are accompanied by images taken from various local archives, some of which have never been shown in public before.

Aimed at a broad audience and covering the multiple languages spoken in the Minett, the video is sure to resonate with both locals and foreign visitors. Come to Annexe22 in the evening and let yourself be transported back to the past.

26.9 - 27.9 Become Your Own Photo Portraitist! & 26.9-4.10 Exhibition: Photographic (Self-)Portraits

In the history lab, you will be able to take photos of how you would like to remember yourself and your family. An analogue camera with a remote release will be at your disposal. When pushing the button, you can become an active part of historical work to explore the past and present of the region, community and identity.

The self-portrait campaign comes with a photo exhibition that gives an insight into the history of the photographic portrait. Pictures of people in huge industrial complexes contrast with impressions of everyday life in the Minett and increasing attention to the “ordinary”.

The photos will be archived and thus become part of local historiography. Selected self-portraits will also be shown from 21 to 23 October in Annexe22. During this time, you will have the opportunity to get a hard copy of your photo.

10.10 - 11.10 Escher Sound Postcards. Be Part of an Encounter Between Past, Present and Future & 10-18.10 Exhibition: Escher Sound Postcards

Choose from a selection of unique and recordable postcards, each showing an historical image from the Minett! Record your two-minute message, poem, or song through a vintage Cartavox sound postcard recording machine from 1957. This postcard will be sent to you through the post. Your sound postcard can be listened to on any vinyl record player or via a digital version which will be made for you.

From October 10 to 18, your recording and the other messages recorded during this workshop will be broadcasted in the Annexe22. Will you perhaps recognize the voice of your loved ones?

In this workshop, current reflections on the past, present and future of the region mingle with each other and are interlinked with images and technologies of the past. This special collection of sound postcards, containing all your personal recordings, will be archived and thus preserved for future listeners.

10.10 - 11.10 Historical City Walks

The authors of the *Guide historique et architectural Esc*

h-sur-Alzette will guide you through the town of Esch and its surroundings, focusing on various historical topics (10.10 in Luxembourgish, 11.10 in French):

- Antoinette Reuter: Le parcours eschois du sculpteur Duilio Donzelli : du cimetière Saint-Joseph à la rue du Brill (Meeting point: Cimetière Saint-Joseph, Entrance Rue du Fossé),
- Antoinette Lorang: Le programme architectural de la Gelsenkirchener Bergwerks-AG à Esch. Des colonies au Casino de la direction et des employés (Meeting point: Place Victor Hugo),
- Georges Büchler: Esch-sur-Alzette sous l'occupation allemande (Meeting point: Annexe22, Place de la Résistance),
- Jean Goedert: Du Vieil Esch aux Nonnewisen. Une promenade le long de la croissance de la ville (Meeting point: Place de l'Hôtel de Ville),
- Denis Scuto: Sur les traces de Paul Flesch, premier architecte de la Ville d'Esch (Meeting point: Place de l'Hôtel de Ville).

Tours last approx. 90 minutes. Start at 10:30am. The number of places is limited. Registration required: please contact Audrey Sapet, email: historylab@uni.lu, telephone: +352-46 66 44 9809.

21.10 - 23.10 Exhibition: Escher Self-Portraits

Over the final three days of the history lab we will show a selection of photos from the self-portrait event (26-27 September) in Annexe22. During this time, you can also collect a print of your photo.

Location:

Annexe22

Place de la Résistance (Brillplaz)

Esch-Alzette

Opening times:

Temporary History Lab

Wed-Sun: 10.00–17.00

Video installation

Wed-Sun: 17.00–22.00

More information can be found at historylab.uni.lu from mid-September.