

✦ Gulbenkian Distance and Proximity Programme

	Amounts in euros
Own Initiatives	611 315
Total	611 315
Receipts	14 839

In general terms, the Gulbenkian Distance and Proximity Programme sought to question the possibilities and limits of interculturality and to create, within the space of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation,



✦ Artists' Awnings installation.

a programme of activities that would reflect upon these questions, within the context of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. Following on from the work undertaken at the Foundation in recent years – the Migrations Forum and the cultural forum on “The State of the World” – the Distance and Proximity Programme sought to continue this reflection, within the context of a series of proposals of a cultural, artistic and theoretical nature.

This programme was divided into four particular moments: in the first moment, lasting from 21 June to 30 October, projects produced by visual artists were presented. The *Artists’ Awnings* installation consisted of designs commissioned from 14 artists of diverse origins, which were later printed onto fabrics and then transformed into an installation of awnings that covered a significant part of the garden. In the second moment, from 21 June to 19 July, musical concerts were held and films were shown. In the Open-Air Amphitheatre, there were performances by the Gulbenkian Orchestra, the Lisboa Cacique 97 afrobeat collective, the London-based rapper Afrikan Boy, Ritchaz & Keke from Cape Verde and the Brazilian poet, performer and singer Arnaldo Antunes. For the first time in many years, a film was shown outdoors, with the screening of the film *Hiroshima mon amour* and the first eight films commissioned under the “So Close, So Far” project. This initiative, in particular, proved to be a genuine success, expressing our audiences’ wish to participate in events of this nature and confirming the unique conditions that the Open-Air Amphitheatre provides on a summer’s night for the showing of films. In the third moment, which took place on 27 and 28 October, the Gulbenkian Conference entitled “Can There Be Life Without the Other? The Possibilities and Limits of Interculturality” was held, which brought together some of the leading thinkers working in this area. This conference was co-organised with Arjun Appadurai, the director of the New School of New York. The programme ended on 28 October with the world première of the 20 short films commissioned from 20 directors from all over the world, entitled *So Close, So Far*.

In the first months of 2009, the collection was published of the papers presented at the Gulbenkian Conference, in both Portuguese (Tinta-da-China) and English (Carcenet Press).

