

CASE STUDY — SCHOOLS

International School Salon: Fostering Belonging at an International School in Lisbon

An international school in Lisbon asked Art & Beyond to curate its main atrium and library spaces. The aim was to create an environment that would help students from more than thirty nationalities feel connected to both the school and one another.

Brief

The school wanted the art to support its mission of global citizenship while giving students a sense of ownership over their surroundings.

Curation

We invited a writer-moderator and a trainer-moderator to lead Sparks with students, teachers, and parents around the question “What does home look like to you?” The responses were compiled into a short curatorial brief. Five artworks were then selected, mixing works by local Portuguese artists with pieces from countries represented in the student body.

Installation

The pieces were placed in high-traffic areas of the atrium and library, arranged to create small reflection corners. Short texts drawn directly from student Sparks accompanied each work, making the installation feel collaborative rather than imposed.

Story

Following the installation, the school began hosting quarterly salon evenings open to the wider community. One year later, student surveys indicated a 35 % rise in reported feelings of belonging, and several student-led art projects have since been developed in response to the original Sparks.

This project shows how art, when paired with ongoing conversation, can help an international school community turn shared space into shared identity.