



L-ERBATAX-IL LEGIŻLATURA

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Eleanor Scerri
Skrivan tal-Kamra

MALTA BIENNALE – ARTISTI

***18274. L-ONOR JULIE ZAHRA** staqsiet lill-Ministru għall-Wirt Nazzjonali, l-Arti u l-Gvern Lokali: Jista' l-Ministru jgħid fuq liema kriterji ntgħażlu l-artisti għall-Malta Biennale? Jista' l-Ministru jgħid min huma u minn liema pajjiżi ġejjin?

11/04/2024

ONOR. OWEN BONNICI: Ninsab infurmat minn Heritage Malta li x-xogħolijiet ġew magħżula minn fost 2,500 applikazzjoni wara sejha internazzjonali u ġew magħżula għal kollox mit-team kuratorjali skont kriterji artistici, il-portfolio tal-artist, il-wirjiet preċedenti tal-artist u r-relazzjoni tax-xogħol artistiku mat-tema tal-Biennale fost oħrajn.

Qed inpoġġi fuq il-Mejda tal-Kamra kopja tal-gwida ufficijali tal-Malta Biennale fejn hemm l-informazzjoni kollha mitluba.

Seduta Numru 231

16/04/2024

Welcome to the
first edition of

PQ18274

malta biennale .art

baħar abjad imsajar taż-żebbuġ
white sea olive groves

13 March – 31 May 2024

maltabiennale.art seeks to meaningfully reflect on the predominant and overlooked narratives about the Mediterranean cultural landscape inherited from past generations to inform a better insight into the present and catalyse new encounters, enriching ideas about the future using venues of poignant historical relevance locally and internationally.



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and admission tickets, please access QR Code*

Art as the flag bearer of thought provocation

Mario Cutajar

President maltabiennale.art 2024
& Chairman Heritage Malta

Maltabiennale.art 2024 is a fusion of past and present. An extravagance of visual and performing arts spiced by the latest drifts in creativeness, and in full symbiosis with enticing historic ambiances. Spanning millennia, and the entire breadth of the Maltese Islands, most venues are World Heritage Sites or formal candidates for this prestigious status. Their variety is equally striking. Twenty venues comprising awe-inspiring megalithic ruins, bold ramparts, aristocratic palaces, bustling public areas, and labyrinthine underground spaces.

Art is the flag bearer of thought provocation, and this first edition of the maltabiennale.art is a veritable soul-searching odyssey. Consumed by the urge to take off the many suffocating social masks, artists lay bare their innermost beliefs and preoccupations, and engage in an open dialogue with the viewer. Taboos are put aside. Sensitive themes are scrupulously dissected, redeemed from cultural inhibitions, and reconfigured into catalysts for social dialogue.

On many counts, there is no better setting than Malta to leap into uncharted waters of the sort. As an island-nation at the crossroads of western civilisation, Malta is a colourful mosaic of diverging cultures and contradicting dogmas. Peoples from every direction of the compass have, for centuries on end, ruled the islands or engaged in thriving commercial



Photo Brian Grech

exchanges with their inquilines. The indigenous ethnic fabric and communal habits and values have, in turn, been intermittently pollinated and moulded. The tempo fluctuates from time to time, albeit never coming to a standstill. Indeed, the people of Malta and Gozo willingly warm up to emerging outlooks as amplified by the quantum strides in civil rights of the last few decades.

While creating the opportunity for the tiny island-state of Malta to make headlines in the universal art sphere, maltabiennale.art 2024 should instil a stronger craving for a better future. The future starts now. Any decision or lack of will invariably dictate the years to come. How will our heirs judge us? Will they applaud or curse us?

Time is running out. Unless each and every one of us assumes full responsibility of our actions, maltabiennale.art 2024 will prove to be yet another wasted opportunity.

Insulaphilia

Sofia Baldi Pighi

Artistic Director & Head Curator

The first edition of maltabiennnale.art 2024 aims to examine the Mediterranean from an insular perspective; being surrounded by sea drastically alters one's vantage point and response. Through insular thinking, it becomes evident that the Mediterranean basin has two shores – it is both Southern Europe and Northern Africa, a meeting of Orient and Occident, a confluence of East and West. Far from being something pure, the island is always a principle of composition and invention. An island is the ideal location for the forging of relationships: one departs, one arrives. It beckons one to traverse the surrounding sea, to touch other lands. Exhibition – the act of being outside of oneself – constitutes the truth of the island (Jean-Luc Nancy, *Thinking the Present*, Cuec, 2010). Here, the island presents itself as the origin of a new political conception; the island must be conceived not as a buffer between the interloper and its inhabitants, but intimately woven with the presence of so-called outsiders. If utopia can still be spoken of today, this is the desire – to centralise the position of the islands, in order to transform the political discourse.

Location is the immediate identifier of any isolated land mass; Malta's maritime lore dates back centuries, and its crucial role throughout history has been as a strategic crossroads in the Mediterranean. Malta is adept at transformation, as a crossing of arrival and departure; as a nation-state,



Photo Brian Grech

the Maltese identity emerges from centuries of colonisation. Indelibly linked to the various seafaring cultures that have dominated and declined through the region, Malta's natural harbours have provided shelter, refuge and trading outposts to all who sought to settle, conquer, and reign - the Phoenicians, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Arabs, the Normans, the Order of St John, the French and the British.

Malta boasts seven-thousand-two-hundred-and-twenty-three years of civilisation. To envision the first edition of the biennale in such an ancient land necessitates working in tandem with its history. Thanks to Heritage Malta and the partnership with UNESCO - World International Heritage, many of the island's cultural treasures will become the venues in which *maltabiennale.art* will unfold. The Central Pavilion and the National/Thematic Pavilions will take shape within the island's most illustrious and evocative sites. The capital Valletta, the majestic palaces in the harbour town of Birgu, the megalithic structures of Hagar Qim and the Citadel in Gozo, will map out a biennale disseminated within the urban fabric.

These sites, symbols of Maltese history and Mediterranean civilisation, are not mere locations for intervention; no urban environment, let alone a cultural treasure steeped in history, is ever neutral and silent.

If psychogeographic thought teaches us about the continual influence that landscape has on our psyche, then contemporary artists, called to exhibit in these venues, must rebuild an intimate relationship with these locations. Common assets, including cultural treasures, exist only if there is a community of inhabitants exercising their fundamental rights through them.

The public good is always the product of these relations. To envision new possible futures for the Mediterranean region, we must rekindle our affection for the places that constitute our history and diverse cultural identity. The insular thinking underlying *maltabiennale.art* hopes to defuse the postcard-like imagery of the Mediterranean. We stand against extractive tourism that desires only what belongs to the other – their sea, their beaches and their palm trees (with a round-trip ticket in their pocket). This narrative is only possible alongside the vision of artists who, tireless in their efforts, will chronicle a sea that unites in the face of historical fractures – those forces that extract-exploit-instrumentalise *Mare Nostrum*. Public space is to be investigated in the conflicting nature of the planning of underlying memories in the political contingencies that have traversed the Euro-Mediterranean geographic and social territory, marking and marching militarised borders and territories.

Insulaphilia is the importance of recognising hybridity within culture. Malta is not one but many; multicultural, multiracial, multilingual. People sing in different languages, just as they think and dream in different languages. This is what positions Malta and its archipelago as an ideal observatory for examining prevalent aspects of Mediterranean culture.

maltabiennale.art seeks to delve into the concept of identity in a multiple and plural dimension, where the encounter and exchange with artists' vision and other cultures is its cornerstone, along with a dutiful and painful awareness of the trauma of colonisation. A participatory configuration of invisible networks across the Mediterranean will connect the East to the West and the North to the South to stimulate exchange, vision and unwavering trust in individual and collective transformation. *maltabiennale.art* proposes a Mediterranean expedition into the possibility of harmonious coexistence.





Valletta

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National Pavilion

MUŻA

**Auberge D'Italie
Merchants Street,
Valletta**

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00–18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

Closed on 29 March

Maltese Pavilion

Findings and Fantasies: Real and imagined narratives inspired by the identity of our genes

Curator

Katya Micallef

Artists

**Norbert Francis
Attard**

Alexandra Aquilina

Trevor Borg

Patrick J. Fenech

**Selected works
from the National
Contemporary
Art Collection also
on display**

The Malta Pavilion is inspired by the different narratives which exist within our archipelago. The stories that make Malta unique can only be narrated by the individuals who experienced it. Some can feel a sense of belonging, while others feel isolated when they are close or on land. The many changes happening to the islands' historical fabric are important and cannot be left unnoticed.

The scope of this pavilion is to uncover these narratives – some might be real whilst others are conceptual.



Photo Pierre Baliza

Thematic Pavilions

National Museum of Archaeology

Auberge de Provence,
Republic Street,
Valletta

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00–18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

Closed on 29 March

Title Hybrid Landscape is Isolated

Curator
Jieon Lee

Artist
Gijeong Goo

Hybrid Landscape is Isolated offers an examination of contemporary Korean dynamics and its impact on new isolation. The piece captures the intersection of vibrancy and isolation amid the country's technological advancements. The term "hybrid" reflects the coalescence of diverse elements of Korean scenery, particularly by juxtaposing Jeju Island with the Maltese Islands, while acknowledging the emergence of isolative trends in physical reality, virtual realms, and digital imagination. This contrast brings forth the nuanced relationship between nature, digital isolation, and geopolitical histories within these two geographically disparate yet thematically interconnected regions.

Title The Clean Room

Curator
Azad Asifovich

Artist
Sofie Muller

Sofie Muller's art, grounded in visceral sculpting, explores the core of vulnerability. *The Clean Room* project delves into the ethical dimensions of reproductive technology. Muller's meticulous sculpting process, reminiscent of a birthing genesis, shapes the conceptual understanding of birth. Life-size infant alabaster sculptures, some composed of multiple fragments and emerge from stones (de)formed by nature, challenge societal norms. Among these representations of perceived damage, one 'perfect baby' symbolises the societal ideal. The artist's deliberate curation ensures a nuanced environmental context, providing profound meaning to her creations and transforming the pavilion into a platform for critical discourse.



Main Pavilion

Underground Valletta

Great Siege Square,
Republic Street,
Valletta

Curators

Sofia Baldi Pighi
Elisa Carollo
Emma Mattei

Opening Hours

Tuesdays, Thursday, Fridays & Saturdays:

10.00–18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.00hrs

Closed on 29 March

Can you Sea? The Mediterranean as a Political Body

The geopolitical significance of Malta is indelibly linked to its maritime identity: throughout history the island has been in turn a refuge, a hideaway, a port, a silo, a defender and 'brave fortress'. It is the sea that has shaped the land and defined Malta's trajectory and its multiplicity of realities. The Mediterranean becomes a fluid, open space where to exercise plurality of voices and visions, beyond nationalistic divides.

Artist

Rosa Barba
Italian

Title

**Inside the Outset:
Evoking a Space of
Passage, 2021**

Rosa Barba (b.1972, Agrigento, Italy) is an artist and filmmaker who balances conceptualism with a distinctly personal vision in her work. She merges films, sculptures, installations, live-performances, text pieces, and publications that are grounded in the material and conceptual qualities of cinema, and analyses the ways film articulates space, placing the work and the viewer in a new relationship. Her work is part of numerous international collections, and her recent exhibitions include Centre Pompidou, Paris (2023); Tate Modern, London (2023); Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin (2021-2022); Cukrarna, Ljubljana (2021, 2022); Beaufort Triennial, Belgium (2021), and Yokohama Triennial, Japan (2020).

Main Pavilion

Republic Square

Valletta

Curators

Sofia Baldi Pighi

Elisa Carollo

Emma Mattei

Decolonising Malta: Polyphony Is Us

Reflecting on the multiple linguistic identities found across the Maltese Islands, this section aims to highlight how the resulting vitality of culture is a necessary starting point to understand what decolonising might mean today. Malta as an archipelago at the centre of Mediterranean migratory and geopolitical history, becomes the perfect stage to exercise a necessary polyphony in a globalised world, and embrace new methodologies of coexistence and relationships beyond borders.

Artist

Austin Camilleri

Maltese

Title

Sigġu (Seat), 2024

Austin Camilleri (b.1972, Malta) works simultaneously and non-hierarchically in painting, installation, sculpture, video and drawing to present ideas of time and transience. Drawing mainly on Western art history, popular culture and power image traditions, he explores the tension between the material and the digital, the personal and the public. He has exhibited extensively in solo and group shows in museums, private galleries and public spaces in Europe, America and Asia. His works have also been shown at the Mediterranean Biennale, Ostrale Biennale and the Venice Biennale.

Artists

Keit Bonnici & Niels Plotard

Maltese/French

Title

Fuq l-Art/On (the) Land, 2024

Keit (b.1991, Żabbar, Malta) is interested in the production and consumption of space. His work exists in surreal materialisation and critical situational insertions that question the social, political and cultural territories of spaces.

Niels (b.1993, Domot, France) explores movement within physical, visual and sonic worlds. He is curious about the invisible, the forgotten, and finding alternative ways of creating meaningful connections with listeners.



Main Pavilion

National Library

36, Old Treasury Street, Valletta

Curators

Sofia Baldi Pighi

Elisa Carollo

Emma Mattei

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday: 8:30–16:30hrs

Last entry: 16:00hrs

Saturdays & Sundays: 8:30–12:30hrs

Last entry: 12:00hrs

Closed on 29 March

The Matri-archive of the Mediterranean

Challenging the patriarchal perspective that has long dominated archiving, the Matri-archive investigates how an alternative archive dedicated to the feminine might be established. Focusing on how memory and legacy are transmitted through generations of women, this section unveils a matriarchal form of knowledge, imbued with the wisdom of transformative potency to champion a universal interconnectedness, hospitality and harmony between beings.

Artist

Madeleine Fenwick

British

Title

Granny's Giant Teeth (Migrating series), 2024

Madeleine Fenwick (b.1988, London, UK) has an interdisciplinary practice exploring belief and symbols within the universal narratives of history and transference to rituals and objects in places and bodies. She views making objects as a form of alchemy; the transformation of materials containing the creative drive inherent in myth making. Fenwick is driven to explore the archaeology of materials and reference in places of historic and environmental diversity. She is currently working on a sculptural development program in Mexico City. Her work has evolved towards making contemplative sculptural installations based on the inner/outer relationship with her physical body and external intangible bodies.

Artist

Sandra Zaffarese

Maltese

Title

By a Lady, 2024

Sandra Zaffarese (b.1976, Malta) is a Maltese-English Artist working and practising in Malta. After graduating from Camberwell College of Arts with a degree in Sculpture, Zaffarese co-ran an independent non-profit gallery and studio space. During that time, she regularly showed her work, curated and organised over 30 exhibitions. She has been curating shows ever since. Trained as a sculptor, she is a multi-disciplinarian interested in the all too often overlooked or undercooked. She currently works from her studio in Wied iż-Żurrieq. Zaffarese pursues a successful career as a Set Decorator on feature films. She is the Artistic Director for the Kinemastik International Short Film Festival in Malta.

Main Pavilion

Grand Master's Palace

**St George's
Square, Valletta**

Curators

**Sofia Baldi Pighi
Elisa Carollo
Emma Mattei**

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00–18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

Closed on 29 March

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Artist

**Adama Delphine
Fawundu**
USA/Sierra Leone

Title

**Wadj-Wer a Fertile
Epic, Edition 1/1,
2023**

**A Meditation for the
Dispersed, Edition
1/3, 2023**

Adama Delphine Fawundu (b.1971, New York, USA) is a visual artist based in Brooklyn, NY with Mende, Bubi, Krim, Yoruba and Bamileke ancestry. Her work explores themes such as indigenisation, ancestral memory and activating the radical imagination. She is the co-author of the book *MFON: Women Photographers of the African Diaspora*. Her awards include Catchlight Fellowship; Anonymous Was A Woman Award; Rema Hort Mann Artist Grant. Select permanent collections include Brooklyn Museum of Art, Princeton University Museum, Bryn Mawr College, Norton Museum of Art and the David C. Driskell Art Collection. She is an Assistant Professor of Visual Arts at Columbia University.

Artist

Amy Bravo

American

Title

**Curio (For
St Catherine), 2023**

Amy Bravo (b.1997, New Jersey, USA) is an artist of Italian-Cuban origin, currently working in Queens, New York. Her works combine icons from Cuba's popular and religious culture with hyper-personal family stories to invent her own vision of an afterlife in the rough shape of the island of Cuba. Bravo prefers loose canvas which is cut and stitched together in irregular shapes on which she mixes drawing, painting, and assemblage. Bravo obtained her BFA in Illustration at Pratt Institute in 2019 and a Master of Fine Arts in Painting at Hunter College in 2022. Her recent exhibitions include solo shows at Swivel Gallery, New York; Semiose Gallery, Paris 2023, and group shows with Rachel Uffner Gallery, Workplace, and The FLAG Foundation.

Artist

**Ana Shametaj;
Giuditta Vendrame**

*Italian/Albanian;
Italian*

Title

**Sot Glas,
2023–2024**

Ana Shametaj (b.1991, Durrës, Albania) is a filmmaker and theatre director. She co-founded Kokoschka Revival in 2013, an artist collective and digital art studio. Her hybrid practice moves toward video art and installation, designing multiple perceptive levels of dramaturgy. Her works have been showcased in different international contexts including the Venice Architecture Biennale, Locarno Film Festival, Piccolo Teatro of Milan.

Giuditta Vendrame (b. 1985, Maniago, Italy) is an artist based in The Netherlands. Her practice explores and investigates citizenship, space and mobility. She challenges social artificial constructions with physical geographical elements and natural forces. She has exhibited at the Venice Architecture Biennale, Walker Art Center, Van Abbemuseum Eindhoven and others.

Artist

Anna Andereg

Swiss

Title

SILVER BOOM, 2024

Anna Andereg (b.1984, Biel, Switzerland) is a Swiss performance artist. Her practice is built on the dialogue between the human body and its environment. In 2018, Andereg created the commissioned work *Fragmented* for the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art in Moscow designed by Rem Koolhaas. In 2021 Andereg was commissioned to design the Swiss Pavilion at the Gwangju Biennale for which occasion she produced the performance *Alone Together* and the short film by the same name. In September 2023 Andereg presented her performance *HopeMe* during Frieze Seoul at the Songeun Museum, the first architecture built by Herzog & de Meuron in Korea.

Artist

Anna Calleja

Maltese

Title

**Mothertongues,
2024**

Hlas, 2018

Anna Calleja (b.1997, Malta) is a Maltese artist. Her interest lies in dualities: the tension and dissonance between comfort and melancholy, isolation and connection, love and grief. The works begin from her personal archive, both real and constructed, cataloguing places held as home for a moment. Calleja graduated in Fine Art at Falmouth University in 2020 and has since exhibited internationally. In 2022, she was awarded the Premju Għal-Arti for Best Young Artist (Arts Council Malta).

Artist

Bettina Hutschek

German

Title

**Snake Chronicles
– of Myth and
Misogyny, 2024**

Bettina Hutschek (b.1977, Kempen, Germany) is a visual artist, storyteller and filmmaker who lives and works in Malta and Berlin. She studied Art History and Philosophy (BA), received her MA in Fine Arts at UdK Berlin, and her MFA at HGB Leipzig. She worked in Art Mediation and was a visiting scholar at the Department of Performance Studies at NYU Tisch. In 2013, she founded FRAGMENTA Malta to organise and curate experimental pop-up exhibitions in the public space of the Maltese Islands. In 2017, she co-curated (with Raphael Vella) the Malta Pavilion at Biennale Arte 2017, Venice. Her artistic work has been screened, exhibited and performed internationally.

Artist

Camilla Alberti

Italian

Title

**The Out-Side Myth.
Altarolo per culti
meno umani, 2024**

Camilla Alberti (b.1994, Milan, Italy) is a visual artist currently based in Milan. Her work explores how the world is constantly constructed and inhabited; focusing on the relationship between living species and the space surrounding them. Alberti's work has recently been exhibited at GIAF23, Gangneung, South Korea (2023); Italian Pavilion, 14th Gwangju Biennial, South Korea (2023); Akademie Graz, Austria (2023); Palazzo Vecchio and Museo Novecento (2022), Palazzo Strozzi, Florence (2021), the Archaeological Museum Schloss Eggenberg, Graz (2021). She won the public notice Cantica21 – Under 35 promoted by MAECI-DGSP / MiC-DGCC (2021). She has collaborated with corporations such as Hyundai Europe (2021). In 2023, she participated in a residency at Lawayaka Current in Atacama Desert in Chile. Her work can be found in collections at The Farnesina Collection, Rome; Nctm e l'arte, Milan; La Permanente Museum, Milan.

Artist

Cecilia Vicuña

Chilean

Title

Beach Ritual, 2017

Cecilia Vicuña (b.1948, Santiago, Chile) responds to pressing concerns of the modern world such as ecological destruction, human rights, and cultural homogenisation. Her solo exhibitions were held at, amongst others: Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Santiago; Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson; Tate Modern, London; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City; Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami; Witte de With Center Rotterdam; ICA Philadelphia; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Brooklyn Museum. She was featured in group exhibitions and biennials at the 59th Venice Biennale, Venice; 13th Shanghai Biennale; 13th Gwangju Biennale, and Documenta 14.

Artist

Isabelle Borg

Maltese

Title

**Woman in the Bull,
1984**

**Cairo 1 – Desert
Heat, 1992**

Isabelle Borg (1959-2010), an influential Maltese artist born in London to a Maltese father and Italian mother, left a lasting impact on the local art scene. In 1986, she graduated from London's Camberwell School of Art with a Fine Arts degree. Her debut exhibition took place at the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta in 1985. Living in West Berlin, shaped her perspectives on current movements of the time. She maintained a dynamic connection between Malta and Ireland, with her primary studio located in Floriana. Borg's portfolio encompassed numerous solo and group exhibitions, spanning both local and international, with a recent retrospective of her work held at Spazju Kreattiv, Valletta (2021).

Artist

**Konstantina
Krikzoni**

Greek

Title

**The Concert of
Hyacinths I, II, 2024**

Konstantina Krikzoni (b.1987, Chalkidiki, Greece) is a Greek artist who lives and works in London. She holds an MA in painting from the Royal College of Art (2022). Previously, she graduated with a Diploma in Painting (2015), and a BA in Mathematics (2010) from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Krikzoni has been awarded the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Artist Fellowship (2021), she is a recipient of the NEON Foundation scholarship (2021/22), and she was awarded the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant (2020). She has been shortlisted for the DAAD scholarship (2021) and the Chadwell Award (2022). Her work has been exhibited in galleries across Europe, South America and the US.

Artist
Luz Lizarazo
Colombian

Title
Mi cuerpo dice la verdad/My body speaks the truth, 2024

(b. 1966) Throughout her multi-decade career, Luz Lizarazo's poetic and political oeuvre has developed a distinctive visual language that confronts the systemic subjugation of the female voice and body, creating a space that recognizes and celebrates female autonomy, sexuality, and liberation. Recent landmarks in her career include her first anthological exhibition (2021 / 2022) *Cicatrices* at the Museo de Arte Moderno de Bogotá La Tertulia Museum in Cali, Colombia curated by Eugenio Viola.

Artist
Nina Gerada
Maltese

Title
The Goddess Project, 2017 – ongoing

Nina Gerada (b.1983, Malta) is a Maltese artist and designer. She is a graduate of London Metropolitan University (2011), The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL (2006), Chelsea College of Art (2003) and a Higher Education Teaching Fellow (2018). Her ceramic sculptures reference the Neolithic structures and artefacts of Malta, exploring the female, immigrant and post-colonial experience. Selected exhibitions include the British Ceramics Biennial; Collect at Somerset House, London; London Craft Week; The Daphne Festival, Waterloo; Cartography of Care, Edinburgh. Her Nollini sculptures were featured in *Wired* magazine.

Artist
Rebecca Bonaci
Maltese

Title
Genna tal-Art (Utopia), 2024

Rebecca Bonaci (b.1992, Malta) is a Maltese artist who graduated with a B.A. (Hons) in Fine Art in 2014, after which, she pursued a career in tattooing and visual arts. Bonaci's paintings, inspired mainly by the Maltese landscape and female figures, are a reflection of her deep connection to nature, seeking to capture the essence of the land in a way that is both ancient and timeless. At the heart of Bonaci's work are figures of the divine feminine that are inspired by the prehistoric remains found throughout Malta. Bonaci strives to create art which bridges past and present, shaping a stillness in time.

Artist

**Martina Georgina,
Romeo Roxman
Gatt**

Maltese

Title

'ostra, 2024

Martina Georgina (b.1989, Malta) and Romeo Roxman Gatt (b.1989, Malta) are artists based between Malta, the Baltics and London respectively. Their joint performance practice involves working with different mediums and materials. These all play a role in the duo's engagement with questions concerning identity, sexuality and gender. Georgina continues to focus on the common obsessive behaviours of self-expression, placing her female experience at the centre, interweaving real time selfhood and the fictional. Gatt's fascination with car culture as well as his critical obsession of macho behaviour, most specifically in relation to Maltese men, persists. He is also interested in documenting and archiving trans and queer experiences.

Artist

Teresa Antignani

Italian

Title

**Deposizione
(Deposition), 2024**

Teresa Antignani (b.1991, Isernia, Italy) is an artist and activist. Since 2018, her work has developed an awareness towards eco-feminist practices and grassroot activism for the defence of the land, which has become part of the ongoing collaborative project Martyrion. Her work is always endowed with an embodied dimension whereby the female body often becomes the lens through which reading and exposing environmental abuses; the hypocrisy of the power dynamics that surround the environmental struggle against energy giants and, ultimately, the ethical and political value of art.

Artist

**Wioletta Kulewska
Akyel**

Polish

Title

Grotta, 2023/24

Wioletta Kulewska Akyel (b.1980, Poland) is an artist working across painting, design and installation, often extending beyond the limitations of canvas and frame. Kulewska is a graduate of Fine Arts from the Opole High School of the Arts, the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wrocław, Poland and the London Metropolitan University. Since 2018, she has participated in a number of artist-in-residence programmes, including Slade School of Fine Arts, London, UK (2018); PADA, Lisbon, Portugal (2019); Pedvāle Open Air Art Museum, Latvia (2021); Skopelos Foundation for the Arts, Greece (2022); Hafnarborg Centre of Culture, Iceland (2022); Cyprus College of Art (2023).

Artist

**Jean-Marie
Appriou**

French

Title

**The Briar Rose
(rosa x centifolia),
2022**

Jean-Marie Appriou (b.1986, Brest, France) is a Paris-based artist. It is with remarkable technical skill that he takes control of sculptural materials – aluminium, bronze, glass, clay, wax – to envisage fantastical worlds inhabited by human, animal and vegetal figures. His works have been exhibited at Fondation Louis Vuitton, Palais de Tokyo, Fondation Lafayette Anticipations and Musée d'Arte Moderne de Paris and the Lyon Biennale, amongst others.

Main Pavilion

Main Guard

St George's Square,
Valletta

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00–18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

Closed on 29 March

Curators

Sofia Baldi Pighi

Elisa Carollo

Emma Mattei

Decolonising Malta: Polyphony Is Us

Reflecting on the multiple linguistic identities found across the Maltese Islands, this section aims to highlight how the resulting vitality of culture is a necessary starting point to understand what decolonising might mean today. Malta as an archipelago at the centre of Mediterranean migratory and geopolitical history, becomes the perfect stage to exercise a necessary polyphony in a globalised world, and embrace new methodologies of coexistence and relationships beyond borders.

Artist

Edson Chagas

*Angolan/
Portuguese*

Title

**Common Walls,
2022 – 2023**

Edson Chagas (b.1977, Angola) studied photography in Portugal and the UK. Back in Angola, he worked as image editor at the financial newspaper *Expansão*. In 2013, he represented the first Angolan pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale with the project *Luanda, Encyclopedic City*, which was awarded the Golden Lion, in the category of best national pavilion. Chagas is distinguished as one of the recipients of the African Art Prize by the Smithsonian African Art Museum. He has been showing work internationally for the last 10 years in various museums around the world such as MoMA, New York, and most recently at TATE Modern, London. Chagas lives and works between Angola and Portugal.

Artist

Fabrizio Vtieri

Italian

Title

La Morte è la Vostra Religione, 2024

Fabrizio Vtieri (b.1982, Naples, Italy) is an artist and professional photographer who trained as an architect. His artistic practice is based on different disciplines including performance, music, and photography. In addition to his artistic career, Vtieri is also the co-owner and art director of Palinurobar, a wine shop located in Milan. He plays as resident DJ at Radio Rahee, Milan, and Radio Alhara, Bethlehem. His research focuses on the relationship between the human hand, architectural space and natural phenomena. He published two books on the occasion of the two eponymous performances *Dominare spiritualmente il progresso* (2017) and *Pensavo fosse amore* (2022), and the record *Standards of Living* on Union Editions, 2023.

Artist

Gaia De Megni

Italian

Title

Afelio, 2024

Gaia De Megni (b.1993, Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy) is a visual artist who studied Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies at the NABA Academy in Milan, furthering her studies with the MAP_PA Master in Performing Arts in Rome. She has participated in solo and group exhibitions including *Ekrani i Artit* (Shkodër, Albania 2022); *Hypermaremma* (Maremma Toscana 2021); *Studio Visit – 30 artists for 30 days*, curated by Adrian Paci (2021), and *The Wild State*, Ars Electronica Festival (Linz 2020). She was awarded the Monza Biennale dei Giovani art prize (2017), Arte Accademia del DUCATO prize (2019), Lydia prize (2019), Pini Art Prize of the Pini Foundation (2023) and was selected for the Talent Prize (2021).

Artist

Paul Sammut

British

Title

**Rocky Valley of
Mosta, Return
(1-4), 2024**

Paul Sammut (b. 1981, High Wycombe, UK) is an artist and curator whose practice takes a research-based, affirmative approach with a focus on narrative forms, marginalised cultures and archival practices. Sammut has worked collaboratively as P.A.S.T. Projects with curator Alexandra Terry; with the queer publishing collective Strange Perfume, and from 2012 to 2017 ran the DIY queer project space White Cubicle. Recent projects include curating Comic Velocity: HIV & AIDS in Comics for Visual AIDS, NYC (2019-2021), and contributing to Queer Art(ists) Now, Space Station Sixty-Five, London (2022); Blank Space artist in residence, B Arts, Stoke-on-Trent (2023), and editing *That Fire Over There* by Prem Sahib (Book Works, 2023).

Artist

Mónica de Miranda

*Portuguese/
Angolan*

Title

**The Sun Does Not
Rise In The North,
2023**

Mónica de Miranda (b.1976, Porto, Portugal) is a Portuguese-Angolan visual artist, researcher and filmmaker exploring the intersections between politics, gender, memory, space and history. Working on the boundaries between documentary and fiction, she investigates strategies of resistance and ecologies of care through drawing, installation, photography, film and sound. Her work has been showcased worldwide in renowned venues such as FC Gulbenkian, MAAT, Barbican, CAIXA Cultural, Kadist Art Foundation, among many others.

Artist

Raphael Vella

Maltese

Title

Dear Victoria, 2024

Raphael Vella (b.1967, Malta) is an artist, educator and curator based in Malta. His works have been shown in numerous international exhibitions and venues including the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Domaine Pommery in Reims and Modern Art Oxford in the UK. He has curated group and solo exhibitions in Malta and internationally over the last 20 years. He co-curated the Malta pavilion at the Venice Biennale (2017).

Artist

Zehra Doğan

Kurdish

Title

Prison No. 5, 2018

Zehra Doğan (b.1989, Diyarbakir, Kurdistan) is a Kurdish artist, journalist and author. In 2017, she was sentenced to two years, nine months and 22 days in prison for terrorist propaganda because of her painting (Nusaybin) that depicts the destruction of the Nusaybin, a town in south-eastern Turkey, after the clashes between state security forces and Kurdish insurgents. She was released from prison on 24 February 2019 and is unable to enter her country due to an arrest warrant issued against her in Turkey. Zehra continues to make art in Europe and in Kurdistan, which is part of Iraq. Kurdistan was occupied and divided into four parts 100 years ago by Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Main Pavilion

Auberge d'Aragon

**Archbishop Street,
Valletta**

Curators

**Sofia Baldi Pighi
Elisa Carollo
Emma Mattei**

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00–18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

Closed on 29 March

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Artist

Barbara Kapusta
Austrian

Title

The Fragiles, 2023

Barbara Kapusta (b.1983, Vienna, Austria) lives and works in Vienna. Her work is characterised by a long-standing preoccupation with the relationship between the body and materiality, language and architecture. Recent exhibitions include *Fragiles*, Klosterruine Berlin (2023), *WORDS DON'T GO THERE*, Kunstverein Braunschweig (2023) and *Futures*, Kunsthalle Bratislava (2022).



Main Pavilion

Tal-Pilar Church

49, West Street,
Valletta

Curators

Sofia Baldi Pighi

Elisa Carollo

Emma Mattei

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00–18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

Closed on 29 March

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Artist

Andrea Ferrero

Peruvian

Title

**Who shall give us
flesh to eat?, 2024**

Andrea Ferrero (b.1991, Lima, Peru) is a visual artist who lives and works in Mexico City. Ferrero has participated in the SOMA Academic Program in Mexico City (2019-2021) and has been part of artist residencies at Pivô Arte e Pesquisa, São Paulo; HANGAR, Lisbon; FLORA ars+natura, Bogotá, amongst others. She was awarded the Hopper Prize (2021), the Virginia A. Groot Award (2019) and was a finalist in the Taoyuan International Art Award (2023). Her solo show was presented at Swivel Gallery, New York in 2023 and her work has been shown in spaces such as Museo Jumex, Mexico City; TMOFA, Taoyuan; SOMA, Mexico City, and Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Lima.

Artist

Dew Kim

South Korean

Title

**The Enchanting
Offering, 2024**

**The Holy Wounds,
2024**

Dew Kim (b.1985, Seoul, South Korea) received his MA in Sculpture from Royal College of Art, London, UK, and his BFA in Metalsmithing and Jewelry from Konkuk University, South Korea. Kim's artistic practice is built on exploring various intersections of art, religion and identity that lie in the critical point of change and collision. Kim participated in exhibitions at Documenta 15, Kassel; National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul; Barbican Centre, Camden Arts Centre and ICA, London; Ilmin Museum of Art, Alt Space Loop and VSF Seoul; Daegu Art Museum; Para Site, Hong Kong; Grey Projects, Singapore; Fragment Gallery, Moscow; Haus am Lützowplatz, Berlin and more.

Artist

Zazzaro Otto

Italian

Title

Perdono, 2016

Zazzaro Otto (b. Sassuolo 1988) lives and works in Milan. His work has been featured in many international institutions and project-space including, Kunsthaus Dahlem (Berlin, Germany) Art Stays (Ptuj, Slovenia), Kunstraum Kreuzberg Bethanien (Berlin, Germany), Westpol (Leipzig, Germany), Mediterranea 18 Young Artist Biennale (Tirana, Albania), 20qm (Berlin Art Week 2018), Rinomina (Paris, France) Sadnaot HaOmanim (Tel Aviv, Israel) and Triennale di Milano (with Chezplinio). Over the years, he founded the Schwanzo Kollektiv (Berlin, 2012-*), EinMal temporary gallery (Modena, 2014-2016) and CHEZPLINIO (Milan, 2022-*).

Artist

**Guadalupe
Maravilla**

Salvadoran

Title

**Disease Thrower
– Purring Monster
with a Mirror on Its
Back, 2022**

Guadalupe Maravilla (b.1976, San Salvador, El Salvador) grounds his transdisciplinary practice in activism and healing. Maravilla received his BFA from the School of Visual Arts and his MFA from Hunter College in New York. His solo exhibitions were held at the MoMa, New York; Brooklyn Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver; Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Oslo; Socrates Sculpture Park, New York; P · P · O · W, New York, and ICA Miami. His work is in the permanent collections of the MoMa, New York; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; the Whitney Museum of American Art; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía; the ICA Miami; the Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Oslo; and the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY, among others.



Photo Steven Psaila

National/Thematic
Pavilions

Fort St Elmo

Mediterranean
Street, Valletta

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00–18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

Closed on 29 March

Austrian Pavilion In Between

Curator
Carl Aigner

Artist
Christian Gmeiner

The Austrian pavilion for the maltabiennale.art 2024 aims to create a transformative experience through three rooms. The first, “Humanity’s Spectrum”, uses terracotta figures to depict the varied aspects of human existence, from hope and resilience to distress and isolation. Visitors encounter reflections of themselves in different scenarios, prompting introspection. The second room, “Scapegoating Through Time”, explores historical victimisation through diverse goat heads, urging reflection on persistent patterns of blame and persecution. At the heart of the last room stands a remarkable angel sculpted from driftwood. The angel’s form emerges from the fragments of life, symbolising the enduring human spirit’s ability to rise above adversity. The pavilion encourages introspection, empathy, and a commitment to shaping a more inclusive and compassionate future.

Serbian Pavilion Fine Art and Heritage: Visual dialogue and spatial communication

Curator
Biljana Jotić

Artist
Ivana Živić
Prof. Djordje
Stanojević
Miodrag Rogan

Painting and sculpting are a medium that carries an idea originating from the very beginnings of recognising artistic expression in humans. Topic of the concept is on the site-specific character of the exhibition, two genders (female / male), two basic elements (water / earth) and two movable heritage medium (painting / sculpture), come together in the dialogue of the protections point bringing the specificity of the heritage and contemporary authors. This concept refers a little bit to the romantic view for the white sea olive groves concept.

Thematic Pavilion
Other Geographies,
Other Stories

Curator
Natalia Bradbury

Artists
Lia Dostlieva
Barbara Falender
Iza Jagiełło
Ida Karkoszka
Aleksandra
Karpowicz

Can we forge a new world with a different order? Female artists invited to the exhibition explore the themes of migration, transformation, and the repercussions of turbulent change. Despite their diverse generational and artistic backgrounds, they find a convergence of experiences within a shared narrative. Collectively, the artists provide a unique perspective on other geographies, social dynamics, private mythologies, and alternate histories, challenging established narratives and inviting a 'herstorical' viewpoint. Their values - empathy, reflection, compassion, sensual pleasure, care, and solidarity, showcase the potential for change, not only in times of peace but also in times of war.

Franco-German
Pavilion
Poetics of an
Archive

Curator
Andrew Borg Wirth

Artists
Mariana Hahn
Simon
Riccardi-Zani

The sea's salt holds within its crystals the knowledge of deep time. As it meets another material, it transmits that knowledge onto whatever it encounters and as it destroys, it renews. The installation initiates a dialogue with the sea, emulating the seabed. The Franco-German pavilion borrows from the natural processes of patina, sediment, algae, mould and rust to tell the story of the anthropocene. It looks at the fragmented narratives of people, and the overlap that lies in their exchange.

Chinese Pavilion
Tracing

Curator
Yan Weixin

Artist
Yan Shanchun

Cultural attractions breathe life into texts and images, which, in turn, preserve and extend culture through the rethinking and reconstruction of texts and images. This exhibition seeks to investigate a web of texts and images, inviting the audience back into history to explore the boundless possibilities of "writing" about cultural attractions. Join us as we retrieve lost memories in history, experience the magic of time, and create a shared spiritual civilisation together.

Main Pavilion

St Elmo Granaries

Mediterranean
Street, Valletta

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00–18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

Closed on 29 March

Artist

Sara Leghissa

Italian

Title

Unborn

Celebration, 2024

Sara Leghissa (b.1984, Milan, Italy) is an independent, Italian based, artist. Her work embraces performing, making and curation; her practice arises from a need of connection and transformation with contexts and people. Through a principle of ecology of resources, she uses as much as possible of what is already available in the space outside. She co-organises Nobodys Indiscipline, NESSUNO and Una Sauna, spaces for gathering, partying, community building and interdisciplinary practice exchanges. She has presented her artistic work in various contexts such as Santarcangelo Festival (IT), ShortTheatre (IT), Sareyett (PS), Festival Parallèle (FR), Saal Biennal (EE), Mir Festival (GR), and Beursschouwburg (BE).

Artist

Laura Besançon

Maltese

Title

**Skyline (this sweet
land), 2024**

Laura Besançon (b.1993, Malta) has a background in communications and psychology, and an MA Photography degree from the Royal College of Art, UK. Central to Laura's practice are notions of play, connectivity and place. She is also interested in appropriation, reconfiguration, shifting perspectives and playful action. She was a finalist for the 2019 MTV Re:define Award (US), the 2020 Aesthetica Art Prize (UK), and the 2021 Next Thing Moving Image Award (UK) with her participatory project Alone, Together (2018 – ongoing). The project has been selected for the Izmir Mediterranean Biennial (2024). Laura was recently artist-in-residence at ZK/U Berlin, La Cité internationale des arts in Paris (FR), and the Izmir Biennial residency.

Artist

Post Disaster

Italian

Title

Unfinished

**Barricade: A Space
for Borderline
Hesitations, 2024**

Post Disaster is an interdisciplinary collective whose practice intersects spatial, performative and editorial actions. Their research uses the metaphor of disaster as a territorial lens for understanding global dynamics and tensions. In 2018, they started Rooftops, a critical spatial practice staged on the rooftops of Taranto in Italy; a city manifesto whose ecological crisis is the lens through which to investigate the role of extraction/production processes in relation to a wider Mediterranean context. Their work has been awarded by the Italian Ministry of Culture (2021) and exhibited, among others, at MAXXI Rome (2023), Venice Biennale of Architecture (2023), and C  Foscari University Venice (2022).



Cottonera

1 Dock 1

Main Pavilion | p. 46

Hall 1

Hall 2

2 Birgu Armoury

Main Pavilion | p. 48

3 Inquisitor's Palace

Thematic Pavilion | p. 56

4 Fort St Angelo

Thematic Pavilion | p. 58

5 Villa Portelli

National Pavilion | p. 60

Main Pavilion

Dock 1

**Ix-Xatt ta'
Bormla,
Cospicua**

Curators

**Sofia Baldi Pighi
Elisa Carollo
Emma Mattei**

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00–18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

Closed on 29 March

Can you Sea? The Mediterranean as a Political Body

The geopolitical significance of Malta is indelibly linked to its maritime identity: throughout history the island has been in turn a refuge, a hideaway, a port, a silo, a defender and 'brave fortress'. It is the sea that has shaped the land and defined Malta's trajectory and its multiplicity of realities. The Mediterranean becomes a fluid, open space where to exercise plurality of voices and visions, beyond nationalistic divides.

Dock 1 Hall 1

Artist

Laure Prouvost
French

Title

**No More Front
Tears, 2022**
**Dreaming of No
Front Tears, 2023**

Laure Prouvost (b.1978, Croix-Lille, France) is known for her complex film installations that muddy the distinction between fiction and reality. She represented France at the 58th Venice Biennial in 2019 and participated in the Sydney Biennial in 2020. Solo exhibitions include the Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Denmark; Kunsthalle Lissabon; MUHKA, Belgium; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Bass Museum in Miami; Witte de With, Rotterdam; Consortium, Dijon; MMK Frankfurt am Main; Kunsthall Luzern; Red Brick Art Museum, Beijing, 2016; FLAX Foundation Fahrenheit, Los Angeles; Musée d'Art Contemporain de Rochechouart; Haus der Kunst Munich; New Museum, New York; The Whitechapel Gallery; Tate Britain, and ICA London.

Dock 1
Hall 2

Curators

Sofia Baldi Pighi
Elisa Carollo
Emma Mattei

**Decolonising Malta: Polyphony
Is Us**

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Artist

**Jermay Michael
Gabriel**
Italian

Title

**ሜዲተራኔክ –
Mediterraneo, 2024**

Jermay Michael Gabriel (b.1997, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) is an Italian-Ethiopian-Eritrean transdisciplinary artist. He currently lives and works in Milan where he attended the Brera Academy of Fine Arts. Michael Gabriel's work is based on an experimental, often extreme, effort to resist the permanence and elusiveness of the Italian colonial archive through the subversion of its symbols of power.

Main Pavilion

Birgu Armoury

**Armoury of the
Knights of Malta,
Triq Il-Kwartier,
Birgu**

Curators

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Elisa Carollo
Emma Mattei**

Opening Hours

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Artist

Aaron Bezzina
Maltese

Title

ARMY L-ARMY, 2024

Aaron Bezzina (b.1991, Malta) first exhibited in 2012 and his international break was in 2015, whilst reading for an MFA in Digital Arts at the University of Malta. He was selected for a residency organised by the European Investment Bank mentored by Darren Almond, a Turner Prize nominated artist. In 2017, Bezzina was also one of the selected artists for the Maltese Pavilion at Venice Biennale. In 2021, Aaron participated in UN/MUTE a NY virtual-residency and the work was exhibited in the ACFNY in Manhattan. In 2022, he exhibited in Istanbul, both at the IV-International-Istanbul-Triennial and the Mahalla Festival Palimpsest. In 2023, Bezzina was selected for the Larnaca Biennale in Cyprus.

Artist

Adrian Paci

Albanian

Title

The Encounter, 2011

Adrian Paci (b.1969, Shkodër, Albania) graduated in Painting from the Academy of Fine Arts in Tirana. Since 1997, he has lived and worked in Milan. Using a variety of languages such as video, installation, painting and photography, Paci reflects on the existential condition of dislocation, of the loss and rediscovery of one's own origins with an immediacy that often verges on irony. This research leads him to investigate the role of the artist and the nature of the work of art in a continuous celebration of the everyday.

Artist

Agnes

Questionmark

Italian

Title

S.A.M.

**(Slaughtering
Archival Machine),
2024**

Agnes Questionmark (b.1995, Rome, Italy) is an artist who works with performance, sculpture, video and installation to examine the biopolitical implications of transgender and trans species bodies in a human-dominated world. By questioning her identity through genetic experiments, surgical operations and artificial reproductions, Questionmark transforms herself and her work, forcing her body and her audiences into spaces where humanity fails to assert its normative demands.

Artist

**Andrea Conte
(Andreco)**

Italian

Title

**Displacement,
2020**

Andrea Conte (b.1978, Rome, Italy) director at Studio Andreco, works between art, science, political ecology, and climate justice related themes. Conte is both a visual artist and a researcher with an environmental engineering PhD and Post.Doc. He has collaborated with the University of Bologna and the Columbia University of NYC. On the basis of his transdisciplinary research, focused on the relationship between humans and non-humans, built environments and the landscapes, he creates a conceptual and visual language. Climate Art Project and Flumen are his main artistic projects, they relate to climate actions, river conservation, and environmental advocacy.

Artist

Anna Raimondo

Italian

Title

Derrière la mer,

2018

Anna Raimondo (b.1981, Caserta, Italy) uses voices and listening as a platform for encounter, collaboration and exchange as tools for the diffraction of identity. Questioning the limits between private and public, between genders and their connotations, she activates or deconstructs cultural practices to encourage and reveal the inherent potentials of fluidity in identity. She completed an MA in Sound Arts at the LCC (UAL, London, UK), and runs a practice-based PhD between ARBA and ULB University in Brussels (BE) on Gendered Listening: A Trans-feminist Approach Toward Voices, Silences, Bodies and Territories.

Artist

Anne Immelé

French

Title

Melita, מלט -mlt,

refuge, 2022 – 2023

Anne Immelé, (b.1972, Mulhouse, France) Ph.D. is a photographer and exhibition curator based in Mulhouse, France. Her photographs examine the myriad of dimensions to our relationship with the territory: geographical, human and social, as well as memorial and poetic. It is through editing and display that her images enter into dialogue with each other, creating a ground for confrontation. While her photographic output is exhibited regularly on an international level, she also teaches at the HEAR (Haute école des arts du Rhin).

Artist

Anthony Spagnol

Maltese

Title

Waters, 2024

Anthony Spagnol (b.1960, Malta) attended the Malta School of Arts from 1974 to 1980, and completed a painting diploma from 1989 to 1991. Transitioning from figurative to abstract art, he views the latter as a highly spiritual language with which he can still narrate stories, even as he engages in commissioned figurative works. Spagnol showcased his art in seven solo exhibitions at notable venues between 1993 and 2022 including the National Museum of Fine Arts, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Malta Society of Arts. Additionally, he has participated in various collective exhibitions in Malta and internationally.

Artist

Basim Magdy
Egyptian/Swiss

Title

**No Shooting Stars,
2016**

Basim Magdy (b.1977, Assiut, Egypt) is an artist and a filmmaker. His work appeared in solo exhibitions at Frac Bretagne, Rennes; KM21 Museum for Contemporary Art, The Hague; RÅda Sten Konsthall, Gothenburg; Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp; MAAT Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology, Lisbon; MCA Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; MAXXI, Rome; Jeu de Paume, Paris; CAPC Museum of Contemporary Art, Bordeaux; Deutsche Bank Kunsthalle, Berlin, and in group shows at The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Castello di Rivoli, Torino, New Museum Triennial, New York; La Biennale de Montréal; MEDIACITY Seoul Biennial; Istanbul Biennial; Sharjah Biennial, and La Triennale, Palais de Tokyo, Paris.

Artists

**Claude Borg,
Mariah Borg,
Sumaya Ben Saad,
Rebecca Mifsud**
Maltese

Title

Mdallam, 2024

Over the past few years, Claude, Mariah, Rebecca and Sumaya have cultivated a shared artistic vision emerging through mutual philosophical thoughts and principles. Since their first collaborative artistic work titled *Pellicola*, the four have utilised their combined expertise in architecture, structural engineering and spatial design to further expand and explore their artistic journey. The resounding theme expressed through their work revolves around the combination of structural and architectural design into innovative, functional and emotive structures which provoke and captivate the thoughts of the audience.

Artist

Edson Luli
Albanian

Title

**Footsteps Towards
the Future, 2023**

Edson Luli (b.1989, Shkodër, Albania) is a contemporary artist currently based in Milan, whose work grapples with the complex interplay between ontology and epistemology. Luli's practice explores the relationship between observer and observed, questioning the ways in which our perceptions and experiences are shaped by cultural conditioning.

At the heart of Luli's work is a deep concern with the awareness of our thought processes. Through a range of media, including print, photography, video, and installation, Luli seeks to create new ways of representing and interacting with reality, engaging with our own values and perceptions to create a space for deep exploration and questioning.

Artist

Joseph Cochran II
American

Title

**The Quartermaster,
2024**

Joseph Cochran II (b. 1990, New York City, USA) is a lens-based artist whose work spans photography, video, and archival research. He explores the complex interplay between advanced industrial societies, their systems, and their impact on society. Through his photography, Cochran creates images that blur the lines between documentary and diary, anthropology, and philosophy; urging the viewer to analyse the complex relationships that exist in today's globalised economic structures. His works are in the permanent collections of The Schomburg Center For Research In Black Culture, The Langston Hughes Library (Queens, New York), The Evergreen State College library and the Swivel Gallery in New York.

Artist

Josian Bonello
Maltese

Title

**Islands on an
Island, 2024**

Josian Bonello (b.1967, Malta) attended a three year full-time course in graphic design at the Salvatore Dimech School in Mosta, obtaining a diploma with distinction. In 1986 she was accepted for a three year internship with the museums department, studying in the process at the Art & Design Centre in Valletta. In 1989, she studied nude figure drawing and etching at the Accademia, Pietro Vannucci in Perugia. She is employed as a graphic designer with Heritage Malta, forming part of a team designing permanent and temporary exhibitions in Malta and abroad. She is an ex-student and member of the Malta Society of Arts where she had the opportunity to participate in collective exhibitions.

Artist

Karyn Olivier

American

Title

**Drift (Tributary),
2023**

Karyn Olivier (b 1968. Trinidad and Tobago) creates sculptures, installations and public art. In 2024, Olivier will unveil two memorials in Philadelphia (USA) honouring a former slave at Stenton House, and commemorating more than 5,000 African Americans buried at Bethel Burying Ground. In 2022, Olivier participated in Documenta; Gwangju and Busan biennials; World Festival of Black Arts and Culture (Dakar, Senegal); Studio Museum, Harlem; Whitney Museum of Art; MoMA P.S.1; Sculpture Center, ICA Philadelphia; ICA Watershed Boston; and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Artist

Leo Chircop

Maltese

Title

**Sea Paladin, Rising
Fossil, 2024**

Leo Chircop (b.1996, Malta) is an emerging artist and photographer from Malta. Their motivation in image making emerges from their academic Art Historical background and interest in contemporary photography. The blue sky is a principal recurring element in their imagery, giving constant reference to life and beyond. Their primary interest is to photograph imagery that presents, in one way or another, the delicate relationship between nature and civilisation.

Artist

Simon Benjamin

Jamaican

Title

Pillars, 2024

Simon Benjamin (b.1979, Kingston, Jamaica) is a Jamaican multi-disciplinary artist and filmmaker based in New York. His practice considers how the past ripples into the present in unexpected ways. Using the sea and coastal space as frameworks, his current body of work explores how lesser-known histories and colonial legacies impact our present and contribute to an interconnected future. Exhibitions and screenings include documenta 15, Germany (2022); Kingston Biennial, Jamaica (2022); Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York (2022); Trinidad+Tobago Film Festival, Trinidad (2021); Ghetto Biennial, Port Au Prince, Haiti (2018), and the Jamaica Biennial, Jamaica (2017).

Artist

Siwani Buhlebezwe

South African

Title

Ziyayokozela, 2017

Buhlebezwe Siwani (1987, Johannesburg, South Africa) works with performance, photography, sculpture and installation questioning the patriarchal framing of the black female body and experience rooted in the South African context. As a Sangoma, a spiritual healer that works within the space of the death and the living, Siwani focused her artistic practice into rituality and the relationship between Christianity and African spirituality, between ancestral rituals and modern life, touching social and political topics such as the female body, black communities, histories of colonisation and the paradoxes of our contemporary society, all seen through the filter of the artist's own biography and experience.

Artist

Tania Bruguera

Cuban

Title

**The Poor Treatment
of Migrants
Today Will Be
Our Disgrace
Tomorrow, 2011**

Tania Bruguera (b.1968, Havana, Cuba) is the leading international artist and activist examining political power structures and their effect on injustice with her politically engaged art practices. The Velázquez Prize, Arnold Bode Prize, Robert Rauschenberg Award and the Herb Alpert Award, are among her recognitions. She holds a Doctor Honoris Causa at the Maryland Institute College of Art and at her alma mater. She has shown at Documenta (2002, 2022), Venice Biennales (2001, 2005, 2009, 2015), Guggenheim Museum, MoMA, Tate Modern, MMK and the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de La Habana. She is a Senior Lecturer at Harvard University and the founding director of INSTAR.

Artist

Teresa Busuttill

Australian

Title

Fregatina, 2024

Teresa Busuttill (b.1993, Australia) is an Australian artist of Maltese heritage. Her practice blends personal stories, family history and fantasy through multidisciplinary forms of art that includes sculpture, installation and moving images. Busuttill draws on an ocean kitsch aesthetic and religious iconography to explore themes of culture, grief, memory and power at various levels, influenced by her connection to Malta and her experiences within the Maltese diaspora.

Artist

Zineb Sedira

French/Algerian

Title

MiddleSea, 2008

Zineb Sedira (b.1963, Paris, France) lives in London and Paris. Her solo shows have been held at Photographers' Gallery; Bildmuseet; Nikolaj Kunsthal; Blaffer Art Museum, USA, Charles H. Scott Gallery; Sharjah Art Foundation; Beirut Art Center: Jeu de Paume & IVAM, SMOCA & the French Pavilion at the 59th Venice Biennale; Hamburger Bahnhof. Group shows: Tate Britain; Centre Pompidou; Mori Museum; Brooklyn Museum; Museum MMK Für Moderne Kunst; Power Plant & Smithsonian; Guggenheim Museum, Museum Coleção Berardo; Whitechapel Gallery Biennials / triennials: Venice Biennale; ICP Triennial (2003); Folkestone Triennial and Prospect.

Artist

Rethinking Lampedusa

Italian

Title

Il mare mi ha rifiutato, 2024

Rethinking Lampedusa research group, on the occasion of the biennial, will involve the students of MADE Program (Syracuse, Sicily) and MCAST (Malta) for an international alliance between creative institutions, emphasising the need to think about the Mediterranean as the crossroads of the most important political challenges of the contemporary, in a metaphorical bridge between the two islands that best exemplify its contradictions and resources – Lampedusa and Malta.

Thematic Pavilion

Inquisitor's Palace

**Main Gate Street,
Birgu**

Thematic Pavilion

Mediterraneo: Mosaico di C(OU)lture

Curators

**Alessia Montani, in
collaboration with
Frank Alva Buecheler**

Artists

Toni Campo

Danila Mancuso

Chicco Margaroli

Marianna Masciolini

Fernando Miglietta

Nicholas Peall

Domenico Pellegrino

**Rossella Pezzino de
Geronimo**

**Michelangelo
Pistoletto**

Franco Politano

**MariaGrazia
Pontorno**

Giulio Rigoni

Alex Turco

ONE Sky Academy:

Simon Alhenawi

Fares Alsawaf

Ali Amam

Anas Homsy

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00-18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

Closed on 29 March

Mediterraneo: Mosaic di Coulture (The Mediterranean, a Mosaic of Crops and Cultures) represents a piece of a wider journey started with the birth of the Park of the Soul, a creative laboratory that binds Nature and Art in a project in progress, to study new forms of balance between Man and Nature, recovering ancient crops and cultures in Italy and the Mediterranean. The Pavilion is supported by Piazza Armerina, in Central Sicily, recognised by UNESCO for its heritage and timeless mosaics. These mosaics are living metaphors for life's complexities and diversity. Just as mosaic pieces come harmoniously together to form one whole, so does the Pavilion, becoming an emblem of plurality, embracing history and contemporary challenges for future generations.



Photo Steven Psaila

Thematic Pavilion

Fort St Angelo

**Xatt I-Assedju
I-Kbir 1565, Birgu**

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00–18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

Closed on 29 March

Thematic Pavilion
Sea Pavilion

Curator
Ali Hasanzadeh

Artist
Nikolay Koshelev

The narration begins with a painting suggesting a multidimensional mainsail, featuring various blurred colors that embody the potential assimilation of the viewer into its atonal, non-flag realm. An anonymous black silhouette of Venus, possibly born in Malta, presides over the scene. The second moment unfolds with a collaborative sculpture of a boat, symbolising 'the now' and the communal achievement of taking root in an island. The final moment is a retrospective and personal ceramic sculpture, reflecting the artist's experience in Malta and turning back to explore the artist's sense of intimacy with nature, the seashore, and the land.



Photo Steven Psaila

National Pavilions

Villa Portelli

**Triq Fra
Giovanni Bichi,
Kalkara**

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00–18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

Closed on 29 March

Ukrainian Pavilion From South to North

**Curators
Kateryna
Semenyuk
& Oksana
Dovgoplova**

**Artist
Alevtina Kakhidze**

This exhibition explores the complex narratives of decolonisation and shared imperial pasts between Ukraine and Malta, repositioning Odesa as the North of the Mediterranean rather than the South of the Empire. Kakhidze's project reveals the paradoxical interweavings of human destinies in imperial spaces and the weird mutual blindness provoked by imperial optics. Both countries share the experience of imperial silencing, cultural appropriation, and the denial of political tradition. These common threads reveal themselves when examining such seemingly disparate colonies as Ukraine and Malta.

Italian Pavilion Informal Inclusion

**Curators
Francesca
Guerisoli &
Nicolas Martino**

**Artist
Eugenio Tibaldi**

In *Informal Inclusion*, Eugenio Tibaldi explores the dynamics of inclusion through marginal spaces. The artist, with the collaboration of Heritage Malta, fills the rooms of Villa Portelli without a defined temporality, aiming to highlight the times of the various lives that have passed through it. The installation, on the one hand, brings forth stories and gives visibility to the invisible. On the other hand, it deconstructs the history that, from a particular perspective, has shaped a singular narrative about Europe and the Mediterranean, constructing hierarchies and cultural subordinations immediately traceable to economic and power relations. In shedding light on the past, *Informal Inclusion* reveals the violence of contemporary colonial relationships linked to migratory processes that redraw the maps of our territories and reintroduce the trauma of repressed history.

Spanish Pavilion
No one is an island

Curator
Angel Moya Garcia

Artist
Avelino Sala

The pavilion works on the concept of identity in a multiple and plural dimension, where the encounter and exchange with other cultures is its fundamental axis and where the concept of the island is understood as a place of possibilities. Without exclusions, without limits, without fear, without rejection. Avelino Sala's work interrogates the cultural and social reality from a romantic perspective with a critical point of view, continuously exploring the social imaginary, identifying its weak points and verifying the credibility of conceiving and implementing alternatives.

Polish Pavilion
Polonia

Curator
**Krzysztof
Stanisławski**

Artists
**Zbigniew Maciej
Dowgiałło
Ryszard Grzyb
Zdzisław Nitka
Krzysztof Skarbek
Mariusz Trelinski**

Operating on three distinct levels, this installation produces a multi-faceted experience. Firstly, artists were invited to showcase intriguing, original, and trends in contemporary Polish art. On a deeper level, the artists were encouraged to reflect on a pivotal archetype in European culture – the biblical story of St John and his death at the request of Salome. This narrative holds particular significance to Malta, given its Catholic heritage and the island being home to Caravaggio's masterwork *The Beheading of St John the Baptist*. In this light, the artists have recontextualised the John and Salome archetype through a contemporary lens.



GOZO

1 Ċittadella & Victoria

Main Pavilion | p. 64

Gozo Cultural Centre

Republic Street

Castle Hill street

Grain Silos

**2 Ġgantija Archaeological
Park, Xagħra**

Main Pavilion | p. 72

Main Pavilion

Cittadella & Victoria

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00–18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

Closed on 29 March

Curators

Sofia Baldi Pighi

Elisa Carollo

Emma Mattei

The Counterpower of Piracy

Unveiling the role of piracy in the history of Malta and the Mediterranean, this section explores the counterpower and counterhistory of the parallel society it established across the fluid space of the seas and oceans, beyond national borders and international politics. Piracy serves us to reconsider the meaning of the Mediterranean, which continues to be the 'mirror boundary' between seemingly disparate cultures and diverse denominations, in the hope for a future of fruitful exchange and coexistence.

Artist

Daniel Jablonski

Brazilian

Title

**Hy Brazil,
2018 – 2024**

Daniel Jablonski (b.1985, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) is an artist and researcher. His multifaceted work has been exhibited in solo and group shows in important venues such as Instituto Tomie Ohtake, Fundación ArtNexus and Fondazione Ratti. His writings can be found in art magazines such as *Serrote* and *Octopus Notes*, and journals such as *Concinnitas* and *Revista Poi-Ã©sis*. He has won several prizes and participated in residencies as Fonderie Darling, CitÃ© des Arts and Terra Foundation. He also taught in Parque Lage in Rio de Janeiro and coordinated the Modern and Contemporary programs at the So Paulo Museum of Art. He is currently doing a project-led PhD at the  cole nationale sup rieure d'arts de Paris-Clergy.

Artist

Dijana Protić

Croatian

Title

Night Tide, 2024

Dijana Protić (b.1985, Zagreb, Croatia) has a Master of Fine Art (MFA) degree in dramaturgy from The Academy of Dramatic Art in Zagreb. She is a collaborator in the Center for Innovative Media, Academy of Applied Arts in Rijeka. She is the director of several short and documentary films, and the leader of film workshops, author of VR project *The Shipbuilders of the Mistral*. Currently, she is finishing a dissertation entitled *Multimedia and Digital Art in Croatia and Slovenia 1988-2008*. Her scientific interest is linked to multimedia and digital art, while the focus of artistic research is on innovative artistic practice, the history of the Mediterranean, feminism, and strategies of resistance.

**Republic Street &
Castle Hill Street,
Victoria**

Artist

Pedro Reyes

Mexican

Title

**ARTISTS AGAINST
THE BOMB,
ongoing**

Pedro Reyes (b.1972, Mexico City) designs ongoing projects that propose playful solutions to social problems in what he describes as Social Sculptures. His solo exhibitions were held at SITE Santa Fe; MARTa Herford; Museum of Contemporary Art of Monterrey; MAAT, Lisbon; Museum Tinguely, Basel; SCAD, Georgia; Creative Time; Dallas Contemporary; La Tallera; Hammer Museum; ICA, Miami; The Power Plant, Toronto; Walker Art Center; Guggenheim Museum, New York; CCA Kitakyushu, and Bass Museum and San Francisco Art Institute. He has participated in group exhibitions and Biennales including Beijing Biennale; dOCUMENTA (13); Liverpool Biennial; Gwangju Biennial; Lyon Biennale, and 50th Venice Biennale.

Artist

Franziska von Stenglin

German

Title

Bahar Biss, 2024

Franziska von Stenglin (b.1984, Munich, Germany) is an artist and filmmaker based in Berlin. She grew up in the Czech Republic, Senegal, India and Germany. She studied photography in London and fine art at the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Her works link aspects of her own biography with local myths, people and their stories, which she encounters on her travels and artist residencies. She often incorporates the entire exhibition space into her installations. Her first feature length film, *The Dust of Modern Life* (2021), had its world premiere at FID Marseille and was screened at DOK Leipzig, CPH Dox and the ICA Frames of Representation in London, amongst others.

Artist

**Goldschmied
& Chiari (Sara
Goldschmied,
Eleonora Chiari)**

Italian

Title

**Action, 2023
Cloud, 2023**

Goldschmied & Chiari formed the duo in 2001. Based in Milan, they work with various media such as photography, performance, video and installation; exploring the concepts of history, identity and memory with a provocative approach. They have achieved international recognition working with: Venice Biennale, FRAC Bretagne, Rennes; Serlachius Museums, Mänttä; NMWA, Washington; Museo Novecento, Florence; GNAM, Rome; Museion, Bolzano, Italy; Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona; Passerelle, Brest; MAMbo, Bologna; Goethe Institut, Brussels; Castello di Rivoli, Turin; La Galerie, Noisy-le-Sec, Paris; MOCA, Shanghai; Musée de Grenoble; and the Fondazione Sandretto, Turin.

Artist

Matteo Vettorello

Italian

Title

**Environmental
decongestion
tuner, 2020**

Matteo Vettorello (b.1986, Venice, Italy) lives and works in Milan. His research is aimed at the realisation of devices, biometric tuners balancing relationships between people. By questioning the concept of efficiency, the electromechanical devices he develops become moments of bringing people together and sharing. He has participated in several exhibitions of international significance, BJCEM, Biennale Mediterranea 18, Tirana (2017); Art Stays festival, Ptuij (2019). More recent public installations include Pressione Simpatica, Edicola Radetzky, Milan (2019); Life Beyond Plastic, Istituto Oikos, Piazza XXVI Maggio, Milan (2020); and the Sincronie, Auditorium Parco della Musica, Rome (2022).

Artist

Mel Chin

American

Title

**Cross for the
Unforgiven, 2002**

Mel Chin employs a wide range of approaches, from unique, idiosyncratic objects to multi-disciplinary, collaborative operations. His public projects present a rigorous pragmatism and an elevated poetic. Studio work is suffused with a deeply considered restraint or excess to promote an unpredictable aesthetic without a signature style. His 2014 retrospective curator, Miranda Lash, described his practice as a mutative strategy, depending on concepts to derive the materials of its realisation, from actions, to films, to objects, as necessary. He is the recipient of many awards, grants, including the MacArthur Fellowship, 2019, and election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, 2021.

Artist
**Republic of Suez
Canal**

*Republic of Suez
Canal*

Title
Embassy, 2024

The Republic of the Suez Canal is an ideal stateless nation conceived as a community that fits into the geopolitics of trade routes to deconstruct the strategies of current and future consumerism. Taking the Suez Canal, born from European imperialist ambition, as its symbol, the Republic designs global trajectories by imagining new models of common citizenship and coexistence, above any state interests. In this way, it builds nomadic architectures of welcome, relief and resistance for its citizens, united only by the economic–financial system in which they live. Their first appearance was the project Marco Polo Returns through Suez at the Swamp Pavilion (16th Venice Architecture Biennale).

Artist
Tom Van Malderen
Belgian

Title
**Pop-up Territory,
2024**

Tom Van Malderen (b.1973, Belgium) is a Malta-based architect who probes the intersections of art, design and architecture in his work. He contemplates the diverse ways we use our environments, takes a close look at the intricate web of cultural references embedded in their objects and materials, and prompts reflection on questions of utility, value, ambiguity and accessibility. Van Malderen invites visitors and users to imagine and experience the fictions and frictions of our inhabited space, its politics, its history, its materiality and other real and unreal constructs.

Grain Silos, Cittadella

Artist

Dolphin Club

*Maltese/French/
German*

Title

The Oracle, 2024

Dolphin Club is an artist collective based in Malta since 2018. Their technically ambitious works explore the intersection of nature and phenomenological experience using immersive presentation formats. Their work tightly incorporates music, film, lights, sculpture and VR with the intent to create intense and multi-sensorial immersive experiences. Deep technical work and complex systems design usually underlies their practice, with principles and techniques borrowed from fields such as games, instrument design, robotics and physical simulation.



Main Pavilion

Ġgantija Archaeological Park

**Triq John Otto
Bayer, Ix-Xaghra**

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00–18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

Closed on 29 March

Curators

Sofia Baldi Pighi

Elisa Carollo

Emma Mattei

Decolonising Malta: Polyphony Is Us

Reflecting on the multiple linguistic identities found across the Maltese Islands, this section aims to highlight how the resulting vitality of culture is a necessary starting point to understand what decolonising might mean today. Malta as an archipelago at the centre of Mediterranean migratory and geopolitical history, becomes the perfect stage to exercise a necessary polyphony in a globalised world, and embrace new methodologies of coexistence and relationships beyond borders.

Artist

Ibrahim Mahama

Ghanian

Title

**Garden of Scars,
2022 – 2024**

Ibrahim Mahama (b.1987, Tamale, Ghana) uses the transformation of materials to explore themes of commodity, migration, globalisation and economic exchange. He presented internationally at the 22nd Biennale of Sydney; Stellenbosch Triennale; 6th Lubumbashi Biennale; University of Manchester; Inaugural Ghana Pavilion, 58th Venice Biennale; Norval Foundation, Cape Town; Documenta 14; 56th Venice Biennale; K21, Düsseldorf; The Broad Art Museum, Michigan; Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, and Tel Aviv Art Museum, Israel (2016). Over the last years, Mahama opened the artist-run project space Savannah Centre for Contemporary Art (SCCA), Red Clay and Nkrumah Volini, all in Tamale, Ghana.



Photo Steven Psaila



Public Programme

Encounters and Dialogue Within the Community

Concept

maltabiennale.art is offering a Public Programme aimed at bringing contemporary art closer to the public. The initiative is driven by the understanding that currently participation in cultural life and the enjoyment of heritage requires extra special attention. Well-researched methods of creating pathways, allotting resources and ultimately reframing the existing *modus operandi* have been implemented.

The Public Programme is a commitment to breaking down barriers and creating a more inclusive and vibrant cultural scene across the islands. It aims to be a transformative initiative that not only showcases contemporary art but also empowers communities and individuals to become active participants in their own cultural heritage.

Embracing the spirit of creativity with a celebration of contemporary art that goes beyond the traditional exhibition format, the Public Programme is a pivotal component of maltabiennale.art designed to engage diverse audiences, whilst ensuring accessibility to all, regardless of age, background or ability.

Public performances, hands-on workshops, neighbourhood gatherings, interdisciplinary masterclasses, cinema programming and even journeys across the sea, aim to span the diverse needs within the sociocultural



For full details of the programme and instructions on how to register for events please visit our website.

Photo Pierre Balzic

context of the islands. Works at the vanguard of current cultural expression will sit side by side with open, inclusive opportunities, recognising the need for deep-layered consideration.

The workshops are carefully crafted to inspire participants by connecting them with the themes and techniques of contemporary art. From painting and sculpture to multimedia installations, attendees can experiment with different mediums under the guidance of experienced and world-renowned artists. This not only fosters artistic skills but nurtures a deeper understanding of the creative process, encouraging a sense of ownership and connection to the artworks produced.

At the heart of the Public Programme lies a commitment to fostering creativity and artistic exploration. Multiple venues of cultural importance such as the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta, the Inquisitor's Palace in Birgu and the magnificent Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park are some of the venues hosting workshops, talks, gatherings and performances, bringing together local and international creatives in collaborative works with multiple participants. The choice of locations aims to foster a dynamic dialogue between the past and the present within the very walls that have witnessed centuries of history.



Photo Steven Psaila



Photo Steven Psaila



Photo Steven Psaila



Photo Pierre Balzia

maltabiennale.art 2024

Supporting event organisers

A varied and populous programme of events will be held between 13 March and 31 May 2024.

KorMalta

KorMalta, Malta's National Choir, is an initiative of the Arts Council Malta within the Ministry for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government. Founded in 2018, KorMalta has undertaken intense work to make the national choir a qualified choral group, meeting even the most demanding and the widest range of choral repertoire.

ŻfinMalta

ŻfinMalta education programmes provide tailor-made experiences for individuals of all ages and backgrounds, with or without an existing relationship with dance. Through programmes targeted at schools, community, and dance as a discipline, our aim is to spread and share a belief that dance is a means by which anyone can experience and explore their creativity and imagination.

The Philharmonic Orchestra

The orchestra was founded in April 1968, and served as the theatre's resident orchestra until September 1997, when it became an independent orchestra, taking up the name National Orchestra of Malta. It rebranded into the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in 2008 when it expanded into a full-size symphony orchestra bringing together musicians from Malta, Europe and beyond.



The Valletta Cultural Agency

The Valletta Cultural Agency (VCA) sustains and strengthens the capital city's vibrant cultural life through the creation of an annual programme of creative events developed in collaboration with artists and other Public Cultural Organisations.

Festivals Malta

Festivals Malta was launched in 2017 and entrusted with a varied portfolio of festivals to foster creativity, professionalism, participation and cultural education in the sector. It is responsible for an annual calendar of more than 160 separate activities across 8 engaging and accessible festivals and 5 national events.

Teatru Manoel

"The Manoel", as it is affectionately referred to by the locals, is Malta's National Theatre, the best equipped performing arts venue on the Island and a major contributor to the local performing arts scene. It is one of the finest examples of Baroque architecture and one of the oldest working theatres in Europe.

Scan the QR code for more information



malta biennale .art

13 March – 31 May 2024

Valletta

- 1 MUŻA
- 2 National Museum of Archaeology
- 3 Underground Valletta
- 4 Republic Square
- 5 National Library
- 6 Grand Master's Palace
- 7 Main Guard
- 8 Auberge d'Aragon
- 9 Tal-Pilar Church
- 10 Fort St Elmo
- 11 St Elmo Granaries

Cottonera

- 1 Dock 1 – Hall 1, Hall 2
- 2 Birgu Armoury
- 3 Inquisitor's Palace
- 4 Fort St Angelo
- 5 Villa Portelli

Gozo

- 1 Ċittadella & Victoria – Gozo Cultural Centre, Republic Street, Castle Hill, Grain Silos
- 2 Ġgantija Archaeological Park