

## PRESS RELEASE

VALLETTA, Malta, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023

[maltabiennale.art](https://maltabiennale.art) is pleased to announce the appointment of Sofia Baldi Pighi as Artistic Director and Head Curator, who will lead a curatorial team composed of Maltese and international professionals working across various disciplines.

Sofia Baldi Pighi brings to [maltabiennale.art](https://maltabiennale.art) her vision of a Mediterranean biennale that intends to investigate insular thinking, perceiving these islands not as a postcard utopia, but as a delimitation that produces learning and encounters.

Cultural heritage 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: "Located in the centre of the Mediterranean, the island of Malta is an ideal observatory to question current issues in the area and to imagine new possible futures alongside the artists' vision."

The curatorial team is composed of architect and artist Nigel Baldacchino, whose extensive local knowledge of exhibition spaces will allow for the experiencing of art in unprecedented spaces, giving back sustainable and accessible exhibition design to the community. Curator and art advisor Elisa Carollo will facilitate connections with international galleries and artists with the aim of transcending European borders and delivering an international scope to the biennale. Journalist and cultural producer Emma Mattei will engage her cross-cultural networks and communication for [maltabiennale.art](https://maltabiennale.art).

Organised by [Heritage Malta's MUŻA](#), in collaboration with [Arts Council Malta](#), and with the cooperation of the [Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade](#), [Visit Malta](#), the [Valletta Cultural Agency](#), [Spazju Kreattiv](#) and [Malta Libraries](#), [maltabiennale.art 2024](https://maltabiennale.art) is especially focused on the core and edges of the geographic and cultural Mediterranean landscape.

This first edition of [maltabiennale.art](https://maltabiennale.art) - titled *baħar abjad imsaġar taż-żebbuġ* – is set to become an international event which seeks to reflect on both the predominant and overlooked narratives that the Mediterranean cultural landscape has inherited from past generations, to inform insight into the present, to catalyse new encounters, and to forge ideas for the future.

[maltabiennale.art](https://maltabiennale.art) will take place across impressive locations and sites of historical and cultural prestige, scattered across the islands of Malta and Gozo from March to May in the spring of 2024. Numerous buildings and locations across Valletta, the capital city and UNESCO World Heritage site, together with the megalithic temples of Ġgantija in Gozo, and majestic palazzos in the harbour town of Birgu, will allow audiences to experience and engage with contemporary art in magnificent historical settings.

## Curatorial Team



**Sofia Baldi Pighi**  
Artistic Director  
and Head Curator



**Nigel Baldacchino**  
Deputy Artistic Director  
and Setup Designer



**Elisa Carollo**  
Curator



**Emma Mattei**  
Curator

*Click on photos to see the bios of the Curatorial Team.*

## Curatorial Statement

[Click to download the curatorial statement.](#)

*maltabiennale.art is online:*

Official website: [www.maltabiennale.art](http://www.maltabiennale.art)

Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn: @maltabiennale

Email: [info@maltabiennale.art](mailto:info@maltabiennale.art)

Organizing bodies



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