

## PRESS RELEASE

VALLETTA, Malta, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023

### **maltabiennale.art 2024 has been granted UNESCO patronage**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO, has just granted its patronage to maltabiennale.art, which will be held in Malta for the first time in the coming year. UNESCO's patronage is considered as a high form of recognition for this art festival, which while still in its infancy, has already garnered a strong and encouraging global response from artists, and is clearly set to become the focal cultural event of 2024 in Malta.

Through contemporary art, maltabiennale.art will be investigating the Mediterranean, reflected in the theme for the biennale's first edition: Baħar Abjad Imsaġar taż-Żebbuġ (White Sea Olive Groves). The biennale will unfold across Malta and Gozo, mainly within Heritage Malta's historic sites, many of which have been declared by UNESCO as being World Heritage Sites, including Valletta, the capital, and Gozo's Ģgantija.

In her letter, UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay expressed how UNESCO's aims are perfectly reflected in maltabiennale.art's dialogue between Mediterranean art and cultures, and how this led the organisation to grant its patronage to the maltabiennale.art 2024.

Her Excellency also congratulated maltabiennale.art's president, Mario Cutajar, as well as Heritage Malta for this initiative, and wished them the greatest success. The letter was delivered by Malta's ambassador to UNESCO, Mgr. Joseph Vella Gauci.

maltabiennale.art 2024 will be opening its doors on the 11th March 2024, and will welcome visitors until the end of May 2024. With just one week remaining for artists to submit their proposals for participation in Malta's largest cultural event in 2024, over 500 applications hailing from 80 states have already been received.

maltabiennale.art will be officially inaugurated by the President of Malta, his Excellency Dr George Vella.

maltabiennale.art is a Heritage Malta initiative through MUŽA, the Malta National Community Art Museum, in partnership with Arts Council Malta. The biennale is also presented in cooperation with the Ministries for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government, and Gozo, as well as with Visit Malta, Spazju Kreattiv, Malta Libraries, and the Valletta Cultural Agency.

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)

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**STQARRIJA GHALL-ISTAMPA  
VALLETTA, Malta, 23 ta' Awwissu 2023**

**Il-maltabiennale.art 2024 ġie mogħti l-patrunaġġ mill-UNESCO**

L-UNESCO, l-Organizzazzjoni tan-Nazzjonijiet Magħquda għall-Edukazzjoni, ix-Xjenza, u l-Kultura, għadha kemm tat il-patrunaġġ tagħha lil maltabiennale.art, li se jkun qed isir għall-ewwel darba f'Malta is-sena d-dieħla. Dan qed jitqies bħala rikonoxximent b'saħħtu ħafna għal dan il-festival internazzjonali tal-arti, li għalkemm se jkun qed jittella' għall-ewwel darba, ir-rispons għalih mill-artisti minn madwar id-dinja kollha huwa wieħed inkoraġġanti u jaiegħed lill-maltabiennale.art bħala l-avveniment kulturali prinċipali għas-sena li ġejjha f'pajjiżna.

Il-maltabiennale.art se jkun qed jiddiskuti bl-arti kontemporanja l-Mediterran, li jingħabar fit-tēma għal din l-ewwel edizzjoni tiegħi: Baħar Abjad Imsaġar taż-Żebbuġ. Il-biennale se jkun mirfrux ma' Malta u Għawdex, l-iktar fis-siti storici ta' Heritage Malta, uħud minnhom dikjarati mill-UNESCO bħala Wirt ta' Patrimonju Dinji, bħalma hija l-belt kapitali, Valletta, u l-Ğgantija f'Għawdex.

Fl-ittra tagħha, id-Direttur Generali tal-UNESCO Audrey Azoulay fissret li d-djalogu bejn il-kulturi u l-arti fil-Mediterran u dwaru li qed jiġi jippromovi l-maltabiennale.art 2024 huwa l-istess bhall-ghaniżiet li għandha l-UNESCO, u b'hekk l-organizzazzjoni ddeċidiet li tagħti l-patrunaġġ tagħha għall-maltabiennale.art 2024.

Fl-ittra tagħha, l-Eċċellenza Tagħha Audrey Azoulay ferħet lill-President tal-maltabiennale.art, Mario Cutajar, u lill-Heritage Malta għal din l-inizjattiva, u awguratilhom l-ikbar suċċess għall-biennale. L-ittra twasslet mill-Ambaxxatur ta' Malta għall-UNESCO, Mons. Dr Joseph Vella Gauci.

Il-maltabiennale.art 2024 se jkun qed jiftaħ il-bibien tiegħi fil-11 ta' Marzu 2024, u jibqa' għaddej sa tmiem Mejju tal-istess sena. Meta għad fadal ġimġha biss biex jagħlqu l-applikazzjonijiet għall-Proposti minn artisti biex jipparteċipaw f'dan l-ikbar avveniment kulturali f'pajjiżna għall-2024, s'issa daħlu iktar minn 500 applikazzjoni minn iktar minn 80 pajjiż minn madwar id-dinja.

Il-maltabiennale.art 2024 se jkun qed jiġi inawgurat uffiċjalment mill-Eċċellenza Tiegħi l-President ta' Malta, Dr George Vella.

Għalkemm il-maltabiennale.art huwa inizjattiva ta' Heritage Malta permezz ta' MUŽA, il-Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arti fil-Komunità fil-Belt Valletta, ma' din l-aġenzija hemm imsieħeb il-Kunsill Malti għall-Arti. Il-biennale qed jittella' wkoll bil-koperazzjoni tal-Ministeri għall-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej u l-Kummerċ, għall-Wirt Nazzjonali, l-Arti u Gvern Lokali, u għal Għawdex, kif ukoll ta' Visit Malta, Spazju Kreattiv, Malta Libraries, u l-Aġenzja Kulturali għall-Belt Valletta.

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