PRESS RELEASE

VALLETTA, Malta, 1st September 2023

Over 2500 proposals from 75 countries received for maltabiennale.art

International call for contemporary art proposals now closed

2527 artists from 75 countries have answered the maltabiennale's call for contemporary art proposals to form part of this international art festival's very first edition. The international call closed last Friday at noon, and the selection process is now set to start imminently.

maltabiennale.art will be taking place in the coming spring, between March 11th and the end of May, throughout historic sites managed by Heritage Malta across Malta and Gozo.

The selection process will involve an international curatorial team, led by Artistic Director Sofia Baldi Pighi, and is expected to be finalised by October. Among the applicants, several artists of international fame were noted, setting the tone for what will be the main cultural event for Malta in 2024. The main art exhibition will be spread throughout several Heritage Malta sites in Valletta, Birgu, Xagħra, and Ċittadella. The main theme, Baħar Abjad Imsaġar taż-Żebbuġ, is deeply Mediterranean, and explores four themes through art.

UNESCO has also granted its patronage to maltabiennale.art, an early recognition to this international art festival. UNESCO will also be observing the biennale as a case study in itself, analysing the relationship between world heritage sites such as the ones managed by Heritage Malta, and the contemporary art displayed within them, which is what will be presented in maltabiennale.art.

Mario Cutajar, maltabiennale.art's President and Chairman of Heritage Malta, explained how the festival will go beyond art exhibitions by individual artists and national pavilions. Plans are in motion for parallel programmes, including educational ones for all ages, public events from cultural entities, workshops, and academic talks, as well as programmes organised by other entities in support of the biennale throughout its duration.

"The encouraging response we've had to our call for contemporary art proposals for maltabiennale.art reveals that the artist wants to speak up, and needs the space and support to discuss their surroundings through their art. We should be proud that Malta will be providing this space through maltabiennale.art," says Mario Cutajar.

maltabiennale.art is organised by Heritage Malta through MUŻA, 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, Malta Libraries, and the Valletta Cultural Agency.

STQARRIJA GĦALL-ISTAMPA

VALLETTA, Malta, 1 ta' Setembru 2023

Il-maltabiennale.art jirċievi iktar minn 2500 proposta minn 75 pajjiż

Tagħlaq is-sejħa internazzjonali għall-proposti ta' arti kontemporanja

Kienu 2527 il-proposti ta' arti kontemporanja li ddaħħlu minn artisti minn 75 pajjiż differenti biex jieħdu sehem fl-ewwel edizzjoni tal-maltabiennale.art. Is-sejħa internazzjonali għalqet nhar il-Ġimgħa li għaddiet f'nofsinhar, biex fil-jiem li ġejjin jibda l-proċess ta' għazla biex jiġi stabbilit liema mill-proposti se jkunu qed jiffurmaw parti mill-maltabiennale.art.

Dan il-festival internazzjonali tal-arti huwa l-ewwel tax-xorta tiegħu għal pajjiżna, u se jsir is-sena d-dieħla, bejn il-11 ta' Marzu u tmiem Mejju madwar Malta u Għawdex - prinċipalment f'siti storiċi mmexxija minn Heritage Malta.

Il-proċess ta' għażla se jkun qed isir minn tim kuratorjali internazzjonali immexxi mid-Direttur Artistiku Sofia Baldi Pighi, u għandu jintemm sa Ottubru li ġej. Ġie nnutat li diversi ismijiet ta' fama internazzjonali fil-qasam tal-arti kontemporanja wieġbu għas-sejħa biex jieħdu sehem fil-maltabiennale.art, li għandu jkun l-avveniment ewlieni kulturali għas-sena li ġejja f'pajjiżna. Il-wirja ewlenija tal-arti se tkun mifruxa f'diversi postijiet immexxija minn Heritage Malta fil-Belt Valletta, fil-Birgu, fix-Xagħra, u fiċ-Ċittadella. It-tema prinċipali tal-maltabiennale.art hija waħda Mediterranja, intitolata Baħar Abjad Imsaġar taż-Żebbug, li minnha se jiġu trattati erba' temi permezz tal-arti.

Il-maltabiennale.art għadha kemm ingħatat il-patrunaġġ mill-UNESCO, rikonoxximent bikri għal dan il-festival internazzjonali tal-arti. Il-UNESCO se tkun qed tosserva dal-biennale wkoll bħala studju speċifiku biex tanalizza r-relazzjoni bejn is-siti ta' patrimonju dinji, bħal dawk li tmexxi f'pajjiżna Heritage Malta, u l-arti kontemporanja murija fihom, bħalma se jsir fil-maltabiennale.art.

Mario Cutajar, il-President ta' maltabiennale.art u Chairman ta' Heritage Malta fisser li dal-festival tal-arti mhux se jieqaf mal-wirjiet li se jkollu minn artisti individwali u minn padiljuni nazzjonali, imma se jkollu programmi oħra għaddejin matul ix-xahrejn u nofs li se jdum għaddej. Fost dawn il-programmi se jkun hemm dawk edukattivi għal kull età tal-popolazzjoni, avvenimenti pubbliċi differenti minn entitajiet kulturali, workshops, u taħdidiet akkademiċi, kif ukoll programmi minn entitajiet oħra lil hinn mill-biennale, imma fl-okkażjoni tiegħu.

"L-ammont inkoraġġanti ħafna ta' proposti ta' arti kontemporanja għall-maltabiennale.art huwa xhieda ċara li l-artist irid jgħid tiegħu, u jinħtieġ l-ispazju u l-appoġġ biex jiddiskuti madwaru bl-arti. Għandna nkunu sodisfatti ferm li Malta se tkun qed tagħti dan l-ispazju bil-maltabiennale.art," qal Mario Cutajar.

Il-maltabiennale.art qed ikun organizzat minn Heritage Malta permezz ta' MUŻA, il-mużew nazzjonali tal-arti fil-komunità, imsieħba mal-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Arti, u bil-koperazzjoni tal-aġenziji Malta Libraries u Valletta Cultural Agency, Spazju Kreattiv, Visit Malta, u l-Ministeri għall-Affarijiet Barranin, għal Għawdex, u għall-Wirt Nazzjonali, l-Arti u l-Gvern Lokali.

maltabiennale.art is online:
Official website: www.maltabiennale.art
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