

STQARRIJA GĦALL-ISTAMPA  
VALLETTA, Malta, 25 ta' Ottubru 2023

## maltabiennale 2024 Jifhabbru l-Padiljuni Nazzjonali.

Il-maltabiennale.art 2024 bi pjaċir iħabbar il-pajjiżi li ntgħażlu biex jarmaw il-padiljuni nazzjonali tal-ewwel biennale li se ssir f'Malta. Dawn huma l-Awstrija, iċ-Ċina, Franza, il-Ġermanja, l-Italja, Malta, il-Palestina, il-Polonja, is-Serbja, Spanja, it-Turkija u l-Ukrajna.

Membri tal-istampa internazzjonali raw is-siti storiċi u arkeoloġiċi li se jilqgħu fi ħdanhom il-Padiljun Ċentrali u l-Padiljuni Nazzjonali/Tematiċi, fosthom il-Palazz tal-Gran Mastru, taħt l-art tal-Belt Valletta u l-Park Arkeoloġiku tal-Ġgantija f'Għawdex. Dawn is-siti evokattivi jikkarakterizzaw il-wirt storiku espansiv tal-gżejjer Maltin li jiġbru fihom sebat elef, mitejn u tlieta u tletin sena ta' ċivilizzazzjoni u jipprovdu sfond perfett għat-tema ewlenija tal-maltabiennale.art: Baħar Abjad Imsaġar taż-Żebbuġ.

“Dawn is-siti, simboli tal-istorja ta' Malta u taċ-ċivilizzazzjoni Mediterranja, mhumiex sempliċiment imkejjen għall-interventi; l-ebda ambjent urban, wisq anqas teżor kulturali mimli storja, mhuwa qatt newtrali u sieket,” jgħid Sofia Baldi Pighi. Għalhekk, l-artisti kontemporanji li se jkunu qed jesebixxu xogħolhom f'dawn il-postijiet, jeħtieġ li jibnu mill-ġdid relazzjoni intima ma' dawn il-postijiet. “Biex nistħajlu l-ewwel edizzjoni tal-biennale f'art daqstant antika jeħtieġ li naħdmu id f'id mal-istorja tagħha.”

Mario Cutajar, il-President ta' maltabiennale.art u ċ-Chairman ta' Heritage Malta, jikkunsidra l-ammont ta' nies li rispondev għas-sejha li saret għal proposti ta' xogħlijiet artistiki kontemporanji għall-maltabiennale.art 2024 bħala prova li “l-artisti jixtiequ jsemmgħu leħinhom u għandhom bżonn l-ispazju u l-appoġġ biex jiddiskutu l-ambjent ta' madwarhom permezz tal-arti.” Jgħid li Malta għandha tkun kburiya li qed tipprova dan l-ispazju permezz tal-maltabiennale.art.

Dan il-biennale inawgurati twaqqaf b'approċċ interdixiplinari u qed jissieheb mad-Dipartiment ta' Taħt il-Baħar fi ħdan Heritage Malta; id-Dipartiment Arkeoloġiku fi ħdan Heritage Malta; il-Mużew Marittimu fi ħdan Heritage Malta; iċ-Ċentru għall-Istudji Postkolonjali u tal-Ġeneru fi ħdan il-Fakultà tal-Istudji Umanistiċi u x-Xjenzi Soċjali tal-Università L'Orientale (Napli); l-Università IULM (Milan); l-MCAST – il-Kulleġġ Malti għall-Arti, ix-Xjenza u t-Teknoloġija; l-Università ta' Malta; MADE – l-Akkademja tas-Snajja' tal-Ġmiel (Sirakuża); in-Northwestern University (Boston, l-Istati Uniti); MAM – Matri-Archivio del Mediterraneo; Magna Żmien (Malta).

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Wieħed mill-aspetti uniċi tal-festival huwa li nħoloq għal komunitajiet żgħir u speċifiċi li ta' spiss jiġu esklużi mill-esperjenzi tal-mużewijiet tradizzjonali. Il-programm ħa jmur lil hinn mill-wirjiet artistiki minn artisti individwali u mill-padjuni nazzjonali, u se jinkludi workshops, wirjiet interattivi, laqgħat organiċi, masterclasses interdixiplinarji, attivitajiet intimi, inizjattivi komunitarji u programm ċinematografiku bl-għan li jinħoloq pont bejn l-arti kontemporanja u udjenzi ġodda. B'hekk l-approċċ ikun wieħed inklussiv u interġenerazzjonali.

*maltabiennale.art* jinsab online:

Sit elettroniku uffiċjali: [www.maltabiennale.art](http://www.maltabiennale.art)

Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn: @maltabiennale.art

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

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## PRESS RELEASE

VALLETTA, Malta, 25th October 2023

### **Maltabiennale.art 2024 National Pavilions announced.**

The maltabiennale.art 2024 is pleased to announce the countries that have been selected to set up the national pavilions in the first ever biennale to be held in Malta. These are Austria, China, France, Germany, Italy, Malta, Palestine, Poland, Serbia, Spain, Turkey and Ukraine.

Members of the international press were shown round the historical and archaeological sites that will host the Central Pavilion and the National/Thematic Pavilions, including the Grandmaster's Palace, Underground Valletta and Ġgantija Archaeological Park in Gozo. These evocative sites characterise the Maltese islands' expansive historic heritage encompassing seven thousand, two hundred and twenty-three years of civilisation and provide the perfect backdrop for the main theme of maltabiennale.art: Baħar Abjad Imsaġar taż-Żebbuġ.

"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", says Sofia Baldi Pighi. Thus, the contemporary artists who will be exhibiting in these venues, must rebuild an intimate relationship with these locations. "To envision the first edition of the biennale in such an ancient land necessitates working in tandem with its history."

Mario Cutajar, maltabiennale.art's President and Chairman of Heritage Malta, considers the overwhelming response to the call for contemporary art proposals for maltabiennale.art 2024 to be proof that "the artist wants to speak up and needs the space and support to discuss their surroundings through their art." He says that Malta should be proud to be providing this space through maltabiennale.art.

This inaugural biennale was conceived with an interdisciplinary approach and is teaming up with the Underwater Department at Heritage Malta; the Archeological Department at Heritage Malta; the Maritime Museum at Heritage Malta; L'Orientale University, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Centre for Postcolonial and Gender Studies (Naples); IULM University (Milan); MCAST – The Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology; University of Malta; MADE Fine Arts Academy (Syracuse); Northwestern University (Boston, USA); MAM – Matri-Archivio del Mediterraneo; Magna Żmien (Malta).

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One of the unique aspects of the festival is its targeting of specific micro-communities that are often excluded from traditional museum experiences. The programme will go beyond art exhibitions by individual artists and national pavilions, and will include workshops, interactive performance, organic gatherings, interdisciplinary masterclasses, intimate activities, community initiatives and cinema programming in an effort to bridge the gap between contemporary art and a non-sector audience, fostering an inclusive and intergenerational approach.

*maltabiennale.art is online:*

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