malta biennale .art 2024

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STQARRIJA GĦALL-ISTAMPA

L-ewwel edizzjoni tal-*maltabiennale.art*

GĦANDU JKUN L-AVVENIMENT KULTURALI PRINĊIPALI GĦAS-SENA D-DIEĦLA

L-ewwel edizzjoni tal-maltabiennale.art li se ssir is-sena d-dieħla għandha tkun l-avveniment kulturali principali għall-2024. Bi 80 artist ġejjin minn 23 pajjiż differenti, 24 minnhom Maltin, inkluż 2 mid-diaspora Maltija, kif ukoll iktar minn 20 padiljun nazzjonali u tematiku mifruxa ma' Malta u Għawdex f'21 sit storiku, 17 minnhom ta' Heritage Malta, dan il-festival internazzjonali tal-arti kontemporanja se jkun qed joffri lil Malta bħala centru ta' kreattività artistika bejn Marzu u Mejju kemm għall-Maltin kif ukoll għall-barranin li jkunu qed iżuruna.

Dan tħabbar mill-Ministru għall-Wirt Nazzjonali, l-Arti, u l-Gvern Lokali, Dr Owen Bonnici, waqt konferenza li matulha tħabbru l-ewwel dettalji għall-maltabiennale.art 2024. Dal-biennale, l-ewwel wieħed tax-xorta tiegħu għal Malta, qed jiġi mtella' minn Heritage Malta, li magħha ssieħeb il-Kunsill Malti għall-Arti bħala sieħeb prinċipali, u magħhom l-Awtorità Maltija għat-Turizmu, l-aġenzija Malta Libraries, l-Aġenzija Kulturali għall-Belt Valletta, l-MCAST, Festivals Malta, u Spazju Kreattiv, bl-għajnuna tal-Ministeru għall-Affarijiet Barranin u Kummerċ, u l-Ministeru għal Għawdex permezz tad-Direttorat għall-Kultura.

F'dan l-ewwel biennale Malti se jkunu qed jipparteċipaw fil-programm pubbliku tal-biennale l-Universitajiet L'Orientale ta' Napli, l-IULM ta' Milan, l-Akkademja tal-Arti ta' Firenze, Image Threads minn New York, u żewġ biennali oħra – dawk ta' Larnaca u l-Biennale de la photographie de Mulhouse, kif ukoll l-International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites tal-UNESCO. Minn pajjiżna, Heritage Malta, l-MCAST, Magna Żmien, ŻfinMalta, KorMalta, Teatru Manoel, l-Orkestra Filarmonika ta' Malta, l-Aġenzija Kulturali għall-Belt Valletta, u Festivals Malta.

Dan hu biennale b'differenza minn kull biennale ieħor għax ilaqqa' flimkien il-wirt nazzjonali tagħna mal-arti kontemporanja. Tippreżenta sfida daqs kemm toffri ispirazzjoni

mill-aqwa għall-artisti li qed jipparteċipaw li fosthom irid jingħad li hemm ismijiet stabbiliti internazzjonalment għall-arti tagħhom bħal Tania Bruguera minn Kuba, Andrea Ferrero mill-Messiku, Barbra Kapusta mill-Awstrija, Dew Kim mill-Korea t'Isfel, Edson Chagas mill-Angola, Amy Bravo mill-Istati Uniti tal-Amerika, Anna Anderegg mill-Iżvizzera, u l-kollettiv Post Disaster u Agnes Questionmark mill-Italja fost oħrajn kif ukoll il-Maltin Austin Camilleri, Norbert Attard, Trevor Borg, Romeo Roxman Gatt u Martina Georgina.

"Kienet it-tlaqqiegħa u d-djalogu bejn l-istorja u l-arti kontemporanja li ġibdet ukoll il-patrunaġġ għal dal-biennale mill-UNESCO li ingħaqad mal-patrunaġġ tal-Eċċellenza Tiegħu l-President ta' Malta, Dr George Vella biex tabilħaqq dal-biennale jieħu xejra nazzjonali daqskemm hu internazzjonali. Nazzjonali ukoll għax għaqqad miegħu għadd ta' entitajiet mis-settur kulturali li ingħaqdu ma' Heritage Malta biex il-maltabiennale.art jingħata edizzjoni inawgurali mill-aqwa li fuqha jistrieħu edizzjonijiet tal-ġejjieni," qal il-Ministru Bonnici fid-diskors tiegħu fi tmiem il-konferenza li kienet qed issir fil-Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arkeologija fil-Belt Valletta.

Tkellem ukoll Mario Cutajar, iċ-Chairman ta' Heritage Malta u l-President tal-maltabiennale.art 2024 li fisser l-għanijiet li fuqhom huwa msejjes dan l-ewwel biennale f'Malta. "L-ewwel nett fuq kull għan hemm it-tema ġenerali għal dal-biennale u l-edizzjonijiet futuri tiegħu, li hija l-Mediterran: baħar abjad imsaġar taż-żebbuġ tfisser it-tfittxija dejjiema ta' dar-reġjun għall-paċi. F'daż-żmien dit-tema ma setgħetx tkun aħjar," fisser Cutajar.

Huwa mbagħad semma' t-tlett għanijiet ewlenin li jreġu lil dan il-festival internazzjonali tal-arti. L-ewwel id-djalogu bejn ilbieraħ u llum, bejn l-istorja u l-arti kontemporanja; ninterpretaw ilbieraħ biex nifhmu aħjar illum u nħarsu aħjar lejn għada. Għalhekk hija Heritage Malta li qed tixpruna dal-biennale. Fisser kif il-pajjiż f'dal-biennale qed jgħid l-istorja tiegħu li f'diversi żminijiet laqa' fih għadd ta' artisti. Caravaggio, Preti, Favray, Laparelli, Ġlormu Cassar għal żmienhom kienu kontemporanji daqs Pasmore, Barry, Piano. Pajjiżna fin-nofs ta' dal-baħar abjad li għandu laqa' kulturi differenti u għadu hekk sal-lum. "M'hawnx post ieħor fejn il-Mediterran jista' jsib lilu nnifsu u jiġi interpretat," tenna Mario Cutajar.

Huwa kompla jispjega li mbagħad hemm l-għan l-ieħor ta' djalogu bejn l-arti Maltija, diġà b'saħħitha, titlaqqa' ma dik ta' artisti minn diversi pajjiżi oħra. Hekk nifhmu li nistgħu insaħħu l-arti Maltija u nifirxu iktar l-arti tagħna. L-għan l-ieħor li npoġġu lil pajjiżna fil-kalendarju kulturali dinji forsi wieħed jista' jgħid li diġà ersaqna biex jintlaħaq meta l-maltabiennale.art ġibed lejh iktar minn 2,500 proposta artistika minn iktar minn 100 pajjiż differenti. "Barra li jinftiehem allura l-proċess iebes ta' għażla li sar mit-tim kuratorjali tal-maltabiennale.art jinftiehem ukoll li isem pajjiżna jissaħħaħ f'dal-kalendarju dinji bil-livell artistiku li għandu jilħaq," temm Cutajar.

Tkellmet Sofia Baldi Pighi, Taljana bbażata Milan li diġà għandha esperjenza fil-qasam kuratorjali tal-arti kontemporanja li nħatret Direttriċi Artistika tal-maltabiennale.art u li qed tmexxi tim kuratorjali magħmul minn Elisa Carollo, Taljana bbażata New York, Emma Mattei u Nigel Baldacchino is-set designer tal-biennale, it-tnejn Maltin. Baldi Pighi fissret kif it-tema tal-Mediterran għal dan il-biennale se tinqasam f'erba' temi ta' diskussjoni artistika: il-Mararkivju li se tkun qed tħares lejn in-nisa fir-reġjun; il-post-kolonjaliżmu li hija tema attwali għal bosta pajjiżi fil-Mediterran u madwaru; il-baħar li hu l-Mediterran innifsu; u l-piraterija li hija attwali llum daqskemm kienet ilbieraħ matul l-istorja. Kull tema se tkun miġbura f'numru ta' siti qrib xulxin li se jospitaw ukoll laqta Maltija ta' waqtiet mill-istorja għanja tagħha skont it-tema.

Baldi Pighi fissret li kienet kuntenta immens li qed tikkontribwixxi għal dal-biennale f'pajjiż b'tant storja kbira ta' eluf ta' snin li żgur kienet fattur importanti biex ġibdet daqstant interess mhux biss mill-artisti kontemporanji li huma l-qofol tal-maltabiennale.art imma anki ta' viżitaturi li diġà urew interess li jżuru lil Malta fil-perjodu tal-biennale. Hija semmiet ukoll il-programm pubbliku li se jkun hemm abbinat mal-wirjiet tal-arti li fih se jieħdu sehem istituzzjonijiet kulturali internazzjonali li se jiġu apposta għal maltabiennale.art. Il-programm pubbliku se jkun immirat għal udjenzi ta' kull età u se jinkludi workshops, taħdidiet u konferenzi li se jkunu mifruxa matul il-biennale kollu.

Min-naħa tiegħu Albert Marshall, Chairman Eżekuttiv tal-Kunsill Malti għall-Arti spjega li l-Kunsill daħal mal-ewwel bħala msieħeb fil-maltabiennale.art mhux biss għax huwa

avveniment artistiku imma ukoll għax l-għanijiet li għalih qed jiġi xprunat minn Heritage Malta huma għanijiet li huma tal-Kunsill Malta għall-Arti ukoll. Marshall fisser li dal-biennale mhux se jkun wieħed li jirriżerva lilu nnifsu għal dawk biss li japprezzaw l-arti kontemporanja li xi drabi taħsad u tidher stramba. Il-maltabiennale se jkun qed jistieden lill-Maltin u lil min ikun qed iżurna biex jifhem iktar l-arti tal-lum, bi programm pubbliku abbinat magħha li jolqot lil kulħadd u b'attivitajiet kulturali li jmorru lil hinn mill-arti kontemporanja imma jmissu dritt mat-temi magħżula għal dal-biennale.

Matul il-konferenza ġew iffirmati memoranda ta' ftehim minn sitt entitajiet kulturali li se jkunu qed itellgħu avvenimenti kulturali waqt il-biennale. Dan huwa programm ikkordinat mill-Kunsill Malti għall-Arti. L-entitajiet huma ŻfinMalta, Teatru Manoel, l-Orkestra Filarmonika ta' Malta, Kor Malta, l-Aġenzija Kulturali għall-Belt Valletta, u Festivals Malta. Il-programm ta' avvenimenti kulturali li se jkunu qed itellgħu dawn l-entitajiet se jkun qed jappoġġja l-programm pubbliku prinċipali kulturali u edukattiv li se jkun parti integrali mill-maltabiennale.art.

maltabiennale.art hija inizjattiva ta' Heritage Malta tramite MUŻA, il-Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arti, bi sħubija mal-Kunsill Malti għall-Arti, taħt il-patrunaġġ tal-E.T. il-President ta' Malta u l-UNESCO. Il-biennale huwa ppreżentat b'koperazzjoni mal-Ministeri għall-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej u l-Kummerċ, il-Wirt Nazzjonali, l-Arti, u l-Gvern Lokali, u Għawdex, kif ukoll Visit Malta, Malta Libraries, MCAST, Festivals Malta u l-Aġenzija Kulturali għall-Belt Valletta.

maltabiennale.art huwa online:
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PRESS RELEASE

The first edition of *maltabiennale.art*

SET TO BE THE CULTURAL HIGHLIGHT OF THE COMING YEAR

The first edition of maltabiennale.art, which will be held in the coming year, is set to be the cultural event of 2024. With 80 artists hailing from 23 nations, 24 of whom are Maltese, including 2 from the Maltese diaspora, as well as over 20 national and thematic pavilions spread throughout Malta and Gozo in 21 historic sites, 17 of which are under Heritage Malta's care, this international contemporary art festival offers Malta as the centre of artistic creativity between March and May for locals and visitors alike.

This was announced by the Minister for Local Heritage, the Arts, and Local Government, Dr Owen Bonnici, during a conference where the first details on maltabiennale.art 2024 were shared. The biennale, the first of its kind for Malta, is a Heritage Malta initiative, with Arts Council Malta as its main partner, as well as the Malta Tourism Authority, Malta Libraries, the Valletta Cultural Agency, MCAST, Festivals Malta, and Spazju Kreattiv, supported by the Ministries for Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Gozo, through the Culture Directorate.

This first Maltese biennale will also feature a public program which will include participants such as Naples' L'Orientale and Milan's IULM Universities, Florence's Academy of Arts, New York's Image Threads, two other biennales – Larnaca's and Mulhouse's Biennale de la photographie, as well as UNESCO's International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites. Malta's own Heritage Malta, MCAST, Magna Żmien, ŻfinMalta, KorMalta, Manoel Theatre, the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, the Valletta Cultural Agency, and Festivals Malta will also be participating.

This biennale stands out from other similar events in that it weds national heritage with contemporary art, a challenge but also an incredible source of inspiration for participating artists, including notable names such as Cuba's Tania Bruguera, Mexico's Andrea Ferrero, Austria's Barbra Kapusta, South Korea's Dew Kim, Angola's Edson Chagas,

the USA's Amy Bravo, Swtizerland's Anna Anderegg, and Italy's Post Disaster Collective and Agnes Questionmark, among others. Maltese artists Austin Camilleri, Norbert Attard, Trevor Borg, Romeo Roxman Gatt, and Martina Georgina will also be among the artists featuring in maltabiennale.art.

"It is this unique merging of the historical and contemporary which attracted UNESCO's patronage, together with His Excellency the President of Malta, Dr George Vella's own patronage, to the biennale, which will truly be equal parts a national and international event. National, as it brought entities from the cultural sector together to truly create the best inaugural edition of the biennale, upon which future editions will build," Minister Bonnici said in his closing remarks at the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta.

Mario Cutajar, Heritage Malta Chairman and maltabiennale.art President, explained the themes which make up this first biennale in Malta. "Firstly, there is an overarching theme for this biennale and future editions thereof, which is the Mediterranean: white sea olive groves reflects on the region's constant search for peace. Our current times make this theme even more urgent," explained Cutajar.

Delving into the three main goals of this international art festival, Cutajar spoke on the dialogue between past and present, history and contemporary art, and the interpretation of the past to understand the present and examine the future better, highlighting the importance of a biennale that is led by Heritage Malta. Through this biennale, the nation is recounting its history, which, throughout centuries, has hosted several artists. Caravaggio, Preti, Favray, Laparelli, Ġlormu Cassar were contemporaries for their age as much as Pasmore, Barry, Piano. Our nation in the midst of this white sea has hosted different cultures, and this remains to this day. "Malta is the only adequate place where the Mediterranean can find and interpret itself," held Cutajar.

Cutajar also explained that the biennale would serve to enhance dialogue between Maltese art and that which lies beyond its shores, strengthening an already thriving sector and diversifying it. The event will also certainly place Malta on the international cultural calendar, an aspiration which one could say has already been reached, when

considering that the biennale has already attracted over 2,500 artistic proposals from over 100 nations. "Certainly, this has made the curatorial team's selection process quite challenging, and has raised the bar for the artistic level which our country should reach," said Cutajar.

Artistic Director Sofia Baldi Pighi, an Italian based in Milan with curatorial experience in contemporary art, is leading the maltabiennale.art curatorial team, consisting of Elisa Carollo, an Italian based in New York, and Maltese Emma Mattei and Nigel Baldacchino, the biennale's set designer. Baldi Pighi intervened to reveal the four artistic themes for the biennale: the Matri-archive, exploring women in the region; post-colonialism, an ever-relevant theme for the Mediterranean region; the Mediterranean itself; and Piracy and its present meaning. Each theme will be grouped in a number of sites which will be hosting Maltese aspects relevant to each theme.

Baldi Pighi expressed her satisfaction at her ability to contribute to a biennale in a nation so rich in history, which history undoubtedly served to attract considerable attraction to the event, not just from contemporary artists who will be at the heart of the biennale, but also individuals who have already expressed their intention to visit the islands between March and May. The Artistic Director also referred to the public program which will be including international cultural institutions, and which will be aimed at audiences of all ages, and will include workshops, discussions, and conferences spread throughout the biennale period.

Arts Council Malta's Chairman, Albert Marshall, explained that the Council's decision to partner with Heritage Malta for maltabiennale.art was easily made, given that the biennale is an artistic event with goals that align with the Council's. Marshall said that the biennale will go beyond the contemporary art crowds, and will seek to attract locals and foreigners alike to understand contemporary art, which may at times feel strange, or shocking. The public program, Marshall stated, will be for everyone, and will include cultural events beyond the contemporary, but remain faithful to the biennale's themes.

During the conference memoranda of understanding were also signed by six cultural entities: ŻfinMalta, Manoel Theatre, the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, KorMalta, the Valletta Cultural Agency, and Festivals Malta. Under the coordination of Arts Council Malta, these entities will be organising cultural events throughout the biennale, which will be complementing the main cultural and educational public program, which will be integral to maltabiennale.art.

maltabiennale.art is a Heritage Malta initiative through MUŻA, the Malta National Community Art Museum, in partnership with Arts Council Malta under the Patronage of H.E. the President of Malta and UNESCO. 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, MCAST, Festivals Malta and the Valletta Cultural Agency.

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