

The President of Malta welcomes maltabiennale.art 2024 team



The maltabiennale.art 2024 team, led by Mr Mario Cutajar – President of maltabiennale.art and Chairman of Heritage Malta – today visited His Excellency George Vella, President of Malta, to offer their best wishes for the new year; the year of the first biennale in Malta.

The biennale, the first of its kind in Malta, is set to be the cultural highlight of 2024. It has been granted patronage by UNESCO as it will unfold across a number of Heritage Malta's historic sites, many of which have been declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO, including Valletta, Malta's capital, and Ġgantija in Gozo.

The President has also granted the biennale his patronage. Mr Cutajar emphasised the significance of His Excellency's patronage, which makes the biennale a national event that brings together the main actors from the local cultural sector,

thus strengthening an already thriving sector and diversifying it, while serving as a conduit between Maltese art and beyond. The theme of the biennale's first edition – Baħar Abjad Imsaġar taż-Żebbuġ (White Sea Olive Groves) – reflects the fact that Malta exists in the midst of a sea that has hosted different cultures and, as such, is the only place where the Mediterranean can find and interpret itself through contemporary art.

"Firstly, there is an overarching theme for this biennale and future editions thereof, which is reflected on the region's constant search for peace. Our current times make this theme even more urgent," explained Cutajar.

maltabiennale.art is a Heritage Malta initiative 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, MCAST, Festivals Malta, Valletta Cultural Agency, Malta School of Art and AUM with the participation of ŻfinMalta,

KorMalta, Manoel Theatre, the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, Franco La Cecla, the Department of Humanities Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Tourism at IULM University in Milan, the Centre for Postcolonial and Gender Studies within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at University of Naples L'Orientale, Matri-archivio del Mediterraneo (MAM), Heritage Malta's Underwater Department, Heritage Malta's Archaeological Department, and Heritage Malta's Maritime Museum.

**malta
biennale
.art 2024**

has been granted

**The President
of Malta's
patronage**