

## STQARRIJA GĦALL-ISTAMPA

VALLETTA, Malta, 11 ta' Marzu 2024

### Mistednin u ġurnalisti minn madwar id-dinja jingħataw l-ewwel togħma tal-maltabiennale.art

Issa li l-ftuħ uffiċjali tal-maltabiennale.art qed joqrob ġmielu, l-ewwel togħma tiegħu ngħatat matul dawra speċjali gwidata mid-Direttriċi Artistika ta' dan l-avveniment, Sofia Baldi Pighi, u mill-President, Mario Cutajar, li hu wkoll iċ-Chairman ta' Heritage Malta. Id-dawra gwidata saret fis-siti ewlenin fejn se jkunu għall-wiri x-xogħlijiet tal-maltabiennale.art, u għaliha attendew mistednin Maltin u barranin.

Dawn, flimkien ma' 20 ġurnalist internazzjonali li se jwasslu l-maltabiennale.art lill-bajja tad-dinja, ġew introdotti mat-temi ta' dan l-avveniment, mas-siti storiċi fejn huma esebiti l-installazzjonijiet, mal-artisti nfushom u ma' xogħlijet hom, biex b'hekk fehmu l-ispirtu ta' din iċ-ċelebrazzjoni artistika estensiva li se tibqa' għaddejja sal-31 ta' Mejju li ġej. Dawk li ħadu sehem f'din id-dawra gwidata segwew ukoll wirjiet minn diversi artisti, li komplew jagħtu l-ħajja lit-temi u d-diskussjonijiet tal-biennale f'esperjenza immersiva.

"Huwa unur kbir għalina li nilqgħu fostna lil dawn il-mistednin distinti, li ħafna minnhom huma artisti viżjonarji u jinsabu fuq quddiem nett tax-xena kulturali. It-tnejn jgħal din id-dawra gwidata saru b'mod metikoluż ħafna, u kull waqfa kienet maħsuba biex tkattar it-tifsira u l-kuntest tat-tema ċentrali tal-biennale – baħar abjad imsaġar taż-żebbuġ. Din id-dawra wittiet it-triq għat-ton u l-ispirtu tad-djalogu u d-diskussjoni li nixtiequ nqanqlu fost l-udjenzi tagħna dwar ir-rwol tal-arti kontemporanja biex tixhet dawl ġdid fuq il-patrimonju tagħna," qalet Sofia Baldi Pighi, kuratriċi indipendenti Taljana li mill-2017 'l hawn iffokat fuq it-tlaqqiġ tal-arti mal-wirt storiku u naturali permezz ta' wirjiet ta' arti kontemporanja, programmi pubbliċi, u workshops dwar it-terapija bl-arti għal istituzzjonijiet pubbliċi u privati.

L-ewwel jum tad-dawra gwidata ħa lill-mistednin fis-siti tal-biennale li jinsabu fil-Belt Valletta. Filgħodu l-mistednin ittiefdu fil-Palazz tal-Gran Mastru, fejn it-tema tax-xogħlijiet esebiti hija "Il-Matri-arkivju tal-Mediterran". Minn hemm, il-mistednin baqgħu sejrin il-Main Guard u l-Biblijoteka Nazzjonali, u aktar tard żaru MUŻA, il-Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arkeoloġija, il-Knisja tal-Pilar, il-Berġa ta' Aragona, u

Underground Valletta, fejn ġew żvelati aktar temi mill-padiljun prinċipali. Il-jum intemm b'festin fl-okkażjoni tal-biennale, li sar fil-Forti Sant'Iermu fejn ukoll qed jiġu esebiti xogħlijiet bħala parti mill-biennale.

“Hadna gost insiru nafu lill-mistednin tagħna mill-qrib u naqsmu magħhom il-kreattività u t-talenti kbar li joffri l-maltabiennale.art. Ir-rispons ġeneruż li rċevejna s'issa jgawwilna qalbna tassew, u huwa l-pjaċir tagħna li naraw li x-xogħol bla heda li sar mit-tim tagħna u mill-artisti nfushom diġà qed inibbet diskussjonijiet profondi dwar il-perspettivi Mediterranji. Grazi mill-qalb lil dawk li ngħaqdu magħna f'din id-dawra gwidata. Nistennew b'herqa biex nilqgħu aktar mistednin barranin li se jesploraw lil pajjiżna, jesperjenzaw is-siti storiċi uniċi tagħna u jsiru haġa waħda mal-arti viżjonarja matul il-biennale,” qal Mario Cutajar.

L-attenzjoni issa ddr fuq iċ-ċerimonja tal-ftuħ uffiċjali tal-maltabiennale.art, l-ewwel biennale li qatt sar f'Malta. Il-biennale se jiġi inawgurat mill-Eċċellenza Tiegħu George Vella, il-President ta' Malta, fis-Sala tat-Tron fil-Palazz tal-Gran Mastru, il-Belt Valletta, fit-12 ta' Marzu. Wara l-inawgurazzjoni, din il-festa kulturali tilqa' lill-pubbliku fi ħdanha u tippreżentalu opportunità biex jimraħ qalb għażla wiesgħa ta' arti kontemporanja li tolqot l-emozzjoni u l-ħsieb u li se tkun mifruxa f'aktar minn 20 sit storiku f'Malta u Għawdex.

*maltabiennale.art hija inizzjattiva tal-Heritage Malta permezz ta' MUŻA, il-Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arti, bi sħubija mal-Kunsill Malti tal-Arti. maltabiennale.art hija ppreżentata wkoll b'kollaborazzjoni mal-Ministeru tal-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej u l-Kummerċ, mal-Ministeru għall-Wirt Nazzjonali, l-Arti u l-Gvern Lokali, mal-Ministeru ta' Għawdex, kif ukoll ma' Visit Malta, Malta Libraries, MCAST, Festivals Malta, L-Aġenzija Kulturali għall-Belt Valletta u Spazju Kreattiv. L-inizzjattiva tinkludi s-sehem tal-Iskola tal-Arti Viżiva u Performattiva f'Malta, AUM, ŻfinMalta, KorMalta, Teatru Manoel, L-Orkestra Filarmonika ta' Malta, Franco La Cecla, IULM University Milan, id-Dipartiment tal-Istudji Umanistiċi, il-Fakultà tal-Arti u Turizmu, id-Dipartiment tal-Wirt Kulturali ta' Taħt il-Baħar ta' Heritage Malta, id-Dipartiment Arkeoloġiku ta' Heritage Malta u l-Mużew Marittimu ta' Heritage Malta.*

*maltabiennale.art tista' ssibhom online:  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

VALLETTA, Malta, 11th March 2024

### **Esteemed guests and international press enjoy whirlwind preview tour of maltabiennale.art**

As the grand unveiling of maltabiennale.art to the public approaches, the cultural fervour kicked off in earnest with a special Artistic Director's preview tour. Led by Artistic Director, Sofia Baldi Pighi, and President of maltabiennale.art and Chairman of Heritage Malta, Mario Cutajar, this curated journey welcomed esteemed guests, both local and international, to the heart of maltabiennale.art's main sites.

With 20 international journalists in tow, who will be showcasing this momentous cultural event in Malta to the world, the tour introduced the event's themes, the heritage sites hosting the installations, the brilliant artists and their creations, and encapsulated the spirit of this extensive artistic celebration which will run until May 31, 2024. Attendees were also treated to exclusive live performances from various artists, further bringing the biennale's themes and discussions to life in an immersive experience.

"It's a tremendous honour to host such distinguished guests, many of whom are visionary artists and leading cultural figures in their own right, to this momentous occasion. The preparation of this preview tour was meticulous, designed to take our guests on a whirlwind journey, where each stop adds more meaning and context to the biennale's central theme, white sea olive groves. The preview tour set the tone and spirit for the dialogues and conversations we aim to inspire among our audiences regarding the role of contemporary art in shedding new light on our heritage," explains Artist Director Sofia Baldi Pighi, an independent Italian curator who since 2017 has been focusing on the encounter between art, historical and landscape heritage through contemporary art exhibitions, public programs and art therapy workshops for public and private institutions.

Day one of the preview tour centred on the diverse biennale sites in Valletta. The morning commenced with a visit to the Grand Master's Palace hosting compelling exhibitions themed around "The Matri-archive of the Mediterranean," before moving on to tours of the installations at the Main Guard and the National Library. In the afternoon, the tour explored MUŻA, the National Museum of Archaeology, Tal-Pilar church, Auberge d' Aragon, and Underground

Valletta, where additional main pavilion themes were further revealed. The day culminated with the official maltabiennale.art pre-party at Fort St Elmo, featuring additional artworks contributing to the rich tapestry of the national and thematic pavilions.

"It's been a pleasure getting to know our guests, sharing the creativity and incredible talent that maltabiennale.art has to offer. The generosity of feedback we've received thus far is truly heartening, and it's encouraging to see that the hard work by our team and talented artists is already sparking meaningful conversations on challenging perspectives within the Mediterranean. A heartfelt thank you to all our guests for joining us on this preview journey. We look forward to hosting more international visitors, inviting them to explore our shores, experience our unique heritage sites, and immerse themselves in the visionary artwork throughout the biennale," expresses Mario Cutajar, President of maltabiennale.art.

The focus now shifts to the official opening ceremony of maltabiennale.art. This significant event extends a warm invitation to special guests and artists, marking the inauguration of this first-ever biennale in Malta. His Excellency, the President of Malta, Dr. George Vella, will grace the ceremony in the Throne Room of the Grandmaster's Palace in Valletta on March 12, following which, the cultural feast will open its arms to the public, presenting an opportunity to explore a diverse range of emotionally enriching and thought-provoking contemporary artworks scattered across more than 20 heritage sites throughout Malta and Gozo.

*maltabiennale.art is a Heritage Malta initiative through MUŻA, the Malta National Community Art Museum, in partnership with Arts Council Malta. maltabiennale.art 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 and Spazju Kreattiv. With the participation of Malta School of Art, AUM, ŻfinMalta, KorMalta, Teatru Manoel, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, Franco La Cecla, IULM University, Milan, Department of Humanities Studies, Faculty of Arts and Tourism, Underwater Department Heritage Malta, Archaeological Department Heritage Malta and Maritime Museum Heritage Malta.*

*maltabiennale.art is online:*

*Official website: [www.maltabiennale.art](http://www.maltabiennale.art)*

*Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn: @maltabiennale.art*

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His Excellency the President of Malta  
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