STQARRIJA GĦALL-ISTAMPA

VALLETTA, Malta, 18 ta' Marzu 2024

Siti storiċi Għawdxin ittrasformati f'tili għall-arti kontemporanja waqt il-maltabiennale.art

It-tmiem tal-ġita preliminari mmexxija mid-Direttur Artistiku tal-maltabiennale.art laħaq il-milja tiegħu bi vjaġġ mill-isbaħ lejn Għawdex. Bosta artisti u ġurnalisti telqu mill-Belt Valletta u permezz ta' lanċa bdew l-esplorazzjoni tagħhom ta' għadd ta' installazzjonijiet ta' arti kontemporanja fi ħdan siti storiċi mferrxin madwar il-gżira Għawdxija.

Mal-wasla tagħhom, l-artisti u l-mistednin intlaqgħu mill-Ministru għal Għawdex Clint Camilleri flimkien maċ-Chairman ta' Heritage Malta u l-President tal-maltabiennale.art Mario Cutajar. Flimkien, inawguraw il-wirja fuq din il-gżira. Il-Ministru Camilleri enfasizza l-isforzi sinifikanti li saru biex il-belt storika taċ-Ċittadella, li bħalissa qed jintwerew fiha għadd ta' installazzjonijiet sinifikanti bħala parti mill-maltabiennale.art, tingħata l-ħajja mill-ġdid. Dan jenfasizza l-wirt kulturali rikk ta' Għawdex, li jistieden lill-viżitaturi biex jintefgħu f'esplorazzjoni immersiva ta' arti kontemporanja mitfugħa quddiem l-isfond ta' siti storiċi Għawdxin.

"Mill-bidu, l-għan tagħna kien li nassiguraw li dan l-ewwel biennale jkun aċċessibbli għan-nies tal-post u għall-viżitaturi huma u jesploraw il-gżejjer tagħna, filwaqt li nipprovdulhom l-opportunità unika biex jesperjenzaw l-arti u l-wirt storiku permezz tad-diversità kulturali ta' Malta u Għawdex. Għawdex għandu post speċjali fl-istorja, mit-tempji l-qodma tal-Ġgantija għall-grandjożità taċ-Ċittadella u lil hinn. Għalhekk, kien xieraq li l-biennale nestenduh għall-gżira sabiħa ta' Għawdex," stqarr Mario Cutajar, il-President tal-maltabiennale.art.

It-tielet jum ta' din il-ġita preliminari beda fiċ-Ċentru Kulturali ta' Għawdex, fejn qed jintwerew xogħlijiet artistiċi mill-Padiljun Prinċipali bit-tema "Il-Kontropoter tal-Piraterija." It-tema tesplora r-rabtiet storiċi ta' Malta u Għawdex mal-piraterija f'paralleliżmu ma' movimenti kontemporanji li juru l-piraterija bħala simbolu ta' kontropoter li jispira lill-attivisti moderni, lill-hackers, u lill-organizzazzjonijiet lokali. Iċ-ċentru qed jospita kollezzjoni diversa ta' xogħlijiet minn artisti rinomati bħalma huma Mel Chin, Goldschmied & Chiari, Daniel Jablonski, Republic of the Suez

Canal, Dijana Protic, Tom Van Malderen, Matteo Vettorello, u Franziska von Stenglin, li qed joffru lill-viżitaturi esplorazzjoni varjata ta' din it-tema interessanti.

Hekk kif komplew bil-ġita tagħhom, dawk preżenti żaru l-fosos storiċi tal-qamħ u l-ħwienet tal-ikel taċ-Ċittadella, li issa ġew ittrasformati fi spazji miżgħuda installazzjonijiet immersivi maħdumin mill-kollettiv ta' artisti bbażat f'Malta li jġib l-isem ta' Dolphin Club. Il-waqfa li jmiss kienet iċ-Ċentru tal-Viżitaturi taċ-Ċittadella, fejn setgħu jaraw l-installazzjoni ta' Artists Against the Bomb, proġett immexxi mill-artist Messikan Pedro Reyes, li wkoll hi bbażata fuq it-tema "Il-Kontropoter tal-Piraterija." L-esperjenza żżewqet permezz ta' wirjiet performattivi minn Republic of the Suez Canal u Goldschmied & Chiari, bil-ġmiel bla tmiem taċ-Ċittadella fl-isfond.

Waranofsinhar, il-ġita ntemmet fil-Park Arkeoloġiku tal-Ġgantija, fejn kienet qed tistenniehom installazzjoni mill-artist Ghanjan Ibrahim Mahama. Bħala parti mill-esplorazzjoni tematika "Niddekolonizzaw lil Malta: Polifonija Aħna," din l-installazzjoni tittratta l-istorja kumplessa ta' Malta bħala kolonja u l-impatt profond tagħha fuq l-identità kollettiva tagħna. Dan kollu qed isir f'post denju għaliex il-Ġgantija laqgħet fi ħdanha wħud mill-ewwel nies li għexu fl-arċipelogu Malti, fatt li jfakkarna fid-diversità minsuġa fl-istorja tagħna.

Bit-tmiem tal-ġita preliminari mmexxija mid-Direttur Artistiku u biċ-ċerimonja tal-ftuħ, il-maltabiennale.art 2024 uffiċjalment fetaħ il-bibien tiegħu u qed jistieden lill-pubbliku biex ikun parti minn dan il-vjaġġ kulturali mifrux madwar 20 sit storiku prestiġjuż f'Malta u Għawdex. Il-viżitaturi jistgħu jesploraw bosta padiljuni nazzjonali u tematiċi li fihom qed jintwerew ix-xogħlijiet kontemporanji ta' 70 artist internazzjonali minn 23 pajjiż li qed jagħtu l-ħajja lil dawn l-imkejjen storikament sinifikanti u jittrasformawhom għall-ewwel darba fi spazji immersivi għall-wirjiet.

Esplora l-programm sħiħ tal-biennale – li jinkludi dettalji dwar il-padiljuni prinċipali, il-padiljuni nazzjonali u tematiċi, workshops, kif ukoll mużika anċillari, teatru, u żfin – billi żżur is-sit maltabiennale.art.

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PRESS RELEASE

VALLETTA, Malta, 18th March 2024

Gozo heritage sites transformed into canvases for contemporary art as part of maltabiennale.art

The finale of the maltabiennale.art Artistic Director's preview tour culminated with a fascinating journey to Gozo. Artists and journalists embarked from Valletta on a ferry, venturing to explore a plethora of contemporary art installations within heritage sites across Gozo.

Upon arrival, artists and guests were graciously welcomed by Minister of Gozo Clint Camilleri, alongside Mario Cutajar, Chairman of Heritage Malta, and President of maltabiennale.art. Together, they inaugurated the maltabiennale.art exhibition on the island. Minister Camilleri highlighted the significant revitalisation efforts undertaken in the historic Cittadella, now proudly showcasing pivotal installations by artists as part of maltabiennale.art, further underscoring Gozo's rich cultural heritage, which invites visitors to delve into an immersive exploration of contemporary art against the backdrop of storied Gozitan sites.

"From the outset, our goal has been to ensure that this inaugural biennale is accessible to locals and visitors exploring our islands, providing them with enriching opportunities to experience art and heritage through the diverse cultural tapestry of Malta and Gozo. Gozo holds a special place in our history, from the ancient Ggantija temples to the majestic Citadella and beyond. It was only fitting that the biennale extends its cultural embrace to our enchanting sister island," says Mario Cutajar, President of maltabiennale.art.

Day three of the preview tour commenced at the Gozo Cultural Centre, where artworks under the Main Pavilion theme "The Counter Power of Piracy" are being displayed. The theme delves into Malta and Gozo's historical ties with piracy, drawing parallels to contemporary movements to portray piracy as a symbol of counterpower that inspires modern activists, hackers, and grassroots organisations. The centre is hosting a diverse collection of works by renowned artists such as Mel Chin, Goldschmied and Chiari, Daniel Jablonski, Republic of the Suez Canal, Dijana Proticic, Tom Van Malderen, Matteo Vettorello, and Franziska Von Stenglin, offering visitors a multifaceted exploration of this intriguing theme.

Continuing the tour, attendees ventured to the historic Grain Silos and food stores within the Citadella, now transformed into a biennale space showcasing an immersive installation crafted by the Malta-based artist collective Dolphin Club. Next on the itinerary was a visit to the Ċittadella Visitors Centre, where they encountered an installation by Artists Against the Bomb, a project led by Mexican artist Pedro Reyes, also centered around the theme of "The Counterpower of Piracy." Enriching the experience, visitors were treated to performances by Republic of the Suez Canal and Goldschimdt and Chiari against the backdrop of the Citadella's timeless beauty.

In the afternoon, the tour came to a close at Ġgantija Archaeological Park, where an installation by Ghanaian artist Ibrahim Mahama awaits. Forming part of the thematic exploration of "Decolonising Malta: Polyphony is Us," the exhibit delves into Malta's complex history of colonisation and its profound impact on our collective identity within a fitting location, as Ġgantija bears witness to some of the earliest settlers of the Maltese archipelago, echoing the theme of diversity woven throughout our history.

With the conclusion of the Artistic Director's preview tour and the opening ceremony, maltabiennale.art 2024 has officially opened its doors, inviting the public to engage in a cultural journey across 20 prestigious heritage sites in Malta and Gozo. Visitors can explore an array of national and thematic pavilions, showcasing contemporary works of 70 international artists from 23 countries, who are breathing life into historically significant locations, transforming many of them into immersive exhibition spaces for the very first time.

Explore the complete biennale programme, featuring details on all main pavilions, national and thematic pavilions, workshops, as well as ancillary music, theatre, and dance events, by visiting maltabiennale.art.

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.

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