STQARRIJA GĦALL-ISTAMPA

VALLETTA, Malta, 3 ta' Ġunju 2024

IL-maltabiennale.art 2024 JIĠI FI TMIEMU

L-edizzjoni inawgurali tal-maltabiennale.art intemmet uffiċjalment fi tmiem il-ġimgħa mill-Eċċellenza tagħha l-President ta' Malta Myriam Spiteri Debono, li tat il-patroċinju tagħha lil dan l-ewwel biennale Malti. Il-maltabiennale.art fetaħ il-bibien tiegħu f'nofs Marzu li għadda, u għal ħdax-il ġimgħa sħaħ, sal-aħħar ta' Mejju, għamel minn Malta ċentru internazzjonali ta' kreattività bl-arti, u ċentru ta' djalogu fuq temi predominanti fir-reġjun tal-Mediterran u f'Malta. Dal-biennale Malti kellu wkoll l-patroċinju tal-UNESCO, li ddeskriviet il-prinċipji tal-maltabiennale.art bħala simili ħafna għal tagħha.

F'din l-ewwel edizzjoni tal-maltabiennale.art taw sehemhom aktar minn 100 artist minn 35 pajjiż, inkluż Malta, li tellgħu ix-xogħlijiet tagħhom fi 17-il sit storiku, il-kotra assoluta tagħhom siti mmexxija minn Heritage Malta. Il-wirjiet tal-arti kienu primarjament fil-Belt Valletta, fil-Kottonera u fix-Xagħra, u fiċ-Ċittadella f'Għawdex. It-temi diskussi kienu kollha konnessi mal-Mediterran, u messu r-rwol tan-nisa fil-kulturi diversi mediterranji, il-piraterija u r-relevanza tagħha llum, il-baħar li jdawwarna, u l-post-kolonjaliżmu. Uħud mix-xogħlijiet qajmu diskussjoni wiesgħa, l-aktar dawk li jikkonċernaw il-perjodu kolonjali ta' pajjiżna u r-rilevanza tiegħu llum.

Fil-maltabiennale.art kien hemm ukoll 15-il padiljun b'taħlita ta' padiljuni nazzjonali u oħrajn tematiċi. Il-pajjiżi li ħadu sehem f'dan l-ewwel biennale tax-xorta tiegħu kienu Franza, il-Ġermanja, iċ-Ċina, l-Awstrija, il-Polonja, is-Serbja, l-Ukrajna, l-Italja, Spanja, u Malta.

It-tħejjijiet għal dal-maltabiennale.art ilhom li bdew min-nofs l-2022. Meta ħarġet is-sejħa internazzjonali għal xogħlijiet tal-arti, daħlu iktar minn 2,500 proposta artistika minn 118-il pajjiż. Numru ta' ismijiet stabbiliti fid-dinja tal-arti kontemporanja kienu fost l-artisti li riedu jieħdu sehem f'dan il-festival tal-arti kontemporanja. Ġurnali u rivisti awtorevoli f'diversi pajjiżi innutaw u bdew jiktbu minn kmieni fuq l-aspettattivi għal dal-biennale Malti. Saħansitra uħud minnhom sejħu lil Malta l-pajjiż li wieħed għandu jżur matul il-maltabiennale.art 2024.

Il-maltabiennale.art 2024 ġie fi tmiemu fi tmiem il-ġimgħa li għadda f'serata fil-Palazz Verdala fil-limiti tas-Siġġiewi li matulha ingħatat ħarsa lejn dak li kienet din l-ewwel edizzjoni tal-maltabiennale.art u t-tħejjijiet għall-ġejjieni. Matulha wkoll l-Eċċellenza tagħha l-President ta' Malta Myriam Spiteri Debono, il-Ministru għall-Wirt Nazzjonali, l-Arti, u l-Gvern Lokali Owen Bonnici, u l-President u fundatur tal-

maltabiennale.art Mario Cutajar ippreżentaw il-premji, f'forma ta' Falkun Malti, kif ġej:

L-aħjar biċċa xogħol tal-arti:

Teresa Antignani bix-xogħol *Deposizione* 2024 (żejt fuq tila) li kien esebit fil-Palazz tal-Gran Mastru fil-Belt Valletta fis-sezzjoni Il-Matri-Arkivju tal-Mediterran. Xogħol ikkummissjonat mill-maltabiennale.art.

L-ahjar padiljun:

The Clean Room li kien imtella' fil-Mużew tal-Arkeologija, fil-Belt Valletta. Kuraturi Azad Asifovich u Asli Samadova; artista Sofie Muller. Padiljun ikkummissjonat minn La Musee.

L-għażla tan-nies:

Dolphin Club bix-xogħol *The Oracle 2024* (metalli u apparat elettroniku), esebit fis-Silos tal-Qamħ fiċ-Ċittadella, Għawdex. Xogħol ikkummissjonat għal maltabiennale.art 2024.

maltabiennale.art kien 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:

Sit uffiċjali: www.maltabiennale.art

Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn: @maltabiennale.art

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PRESS RELEASE

VALLETTA, Malta, 3rd June 2024

maltabiennale.art 2024 COMES TO AN END

The inaugural edition of maltabiennale.art came to an official end at the end of this week, with Her Excellency the President of Malta, Myriam Spiteri Debono, who granted her patronage to this first Maltese biennale, hosting its closing. Maltabiennale.art opened its doors earlier this year in mid-March, and throughout eleven weeks, up until the end of May, it transformed Malta into an international hub of creativity, with art and dialogue focusing on the predominant Mediterranean and Maltese themes at its core. The Maltese biennale was also granted UNESCO's patronage, which described the biennale's values as close to its very own.

Over 100 artists hailing from 35 nations, including Malta, came together for the first edition of maltabiennale.art. Their works were spread throughout 17 historic sites, the majority of which are administered by Heritage Malta. The primary sites were located in the capital, Valletta, Cottonera and Xgħajra, and Gozo's Cittadella. The themes explored were closely related to the Mediterranean, womanhood in Mediterranean cultures, Piracy and its modern-day relevance, the Mediterranean Sea itself, and post-colonialism. The artistic works prompted considerable debate, particularly those inviting thoughts on the nation's colonial period and its modern-day legacy.

The biennale also featured a total of 15 pavilions, consisting of a variety of national and thematic pavilions. France, Germany, China, Austria, Poland, Serbia, Ukraine, Italy, Spain, and Malta were the first nations to take part in maltabiennale.art.

The first preparations for this edition of maltabiennale.art commenced as early as 2022, with the international call for artists piquing the interest of over 2,500 applicants from 118 nations, including established names in the contemporary art world. Indeed, the biennale has been on the radar of several authoritative papers and magazines, which began writing on their expectations for the Maltese biennale. Several of them went as far as to name Malta as the place to visit during maltabiennale.art 2024.

maltabiennale.art 2024 came to an official close at the end of last week during an evening at Verdala Palace, limits of Siġġiewi, which also served as an opportunity to look back at this first edition of maltabiennale.art, as well as to look towards preparations for the future. During this evening, prizes in the likeness of the Maltese Falcon were also given out by Her Excellency the President of Malta, Myriam Spiteri Debono, the Minister for National Heritage, the Arts, and Local Government, Owen Bonnici, and the President and founder of maltabiennale.art, Mario Cutajar as follows:

Best work of art:

Teresa Antignani for her work *Deposizione* 2024 (oil on canvas) as shown in the Grandmaster's Palace in Valletta, in the section titled The Matri-archive of the Mediterranean. Work commissioned by maltabiennale.art.

Best pavilion:

The Clean Room, displayed in the Archaeological Museum in Valletta. Curated by Azad Asifovich and Asli Samadova; artist Sofie Muller. Pavilion commissioned by La Musee.

People's choice:

Dolphin Club for their work *The Oracle 2024* (metals and electronics), as shown in the Wheat Silos in Gozo's Cittadella. Work commissioned for maltabiennale.art 2024.

maltabiennale.art was 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.

maltabiennale.art is online:

Official website: www.maltabiennale.art

Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn: @maltabiennale.art

Email: info@maltabiennale.art