

# Press Kit

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Malta Biennale '20

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MB'26

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MUŻA, Auberge D'Italie,  
Merchants Street, Valletta,  
Malta, VLT 1170



# About the Malta Biennale

The Malta Biennale was launched in 2024, across 11 weeks, from mid-March until the end of May. The contemporary art platform, which focused on several themes pertinent to and prevalent within the Mediterranean, transformed the Maltese Islands into a melting pot of international artistic activity. The Malta Biennale remains the sole artistic platform to have been granted the distinguished patronage of UNESCO as well as that of the President of the Republic of Malta for its first edition.

The brainchild of Heritage Malta Chairman, Mario Cutajar, the Malta Biennale is a unique platform, in that it stands out among other international art festivals, in concept as well as format. This Biennale lies at the intersection of contemporary art and cultural heritage, marrying the two together through the presentation of all projects and exhibitions within extant venues of historical significance. Museums and sites are transformed for this 11-week period, adding new layers to an already complex and colourful history; thereby presenting an unprecedented challenge, yet also an opportunity for participating artists, practitioners and professionals.

So much so, over 100 artists hailing from 35 nations, came together for the first edition of the Malta Biennale, selected out of some 2,500 applications and proposals. Their work was showcased across 21 historic sites, the majority of which administered by Heritage Malta.

In 2024, the capital city of Valletta was host to some of the primary exhibition sites of the Biennale, with The Three Cities, and Gozo's Cittadella also presenting major 'backdrops' for the artistic platform. The themes explored by 2024 Biennale, related to the Mediterranean and its culture, to womanhood, piracy and its modern-day relevance, and post-colonialism. The Biennale also featured a total of 14 national and thematic pavilions. France, Germany, China, Austria, Poland, Serbia, Ukraine, Italy, Spain, and Malta were the first nations to take part in 2024 edition.

The second edition of the Malta Biennale will be held from March 11 to May 29, 2026, with acclaimed international curator, Rosa Martinez, at its helm, as artistic director. The theme chosen for the second edition is: Clean | Clear | Cut.

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# Curatorial Team

## Rosa Martinez Artistic Director

Rosa Martínez is a curator, writer and art collections consultant based in Spain. Most notably, she was Artistic Director of the Venice Biennale in 2005, making her one of the first female curators in the 110-year history of this international exhibition. She was also Artistic Director / curator of biennials in Barcelona (1988-1992), Rotterdam (1996), Istanbul (1997), Santa Fe, New Mexico, US (1999), Busan, Korea (2000), Sao Paolo (2006) and Moscow (2005- 2007).

Rosa Martinez was also Chief Curator of the Museum of Modern Art in Istanbul (2004-2007). Additionally, she curated several prestigious projects and exhibitions, including shows at Guggenheim Bilbao, in 2007, at the National Museum of Sculpture in Valladolid, Spain (2015-2016); Centro Cultural Metropolitano, Quito, Ecuador (2017), and at the Picasso Museum (2019), among others. She has also curated the work of internationally-acclaimed artists such as Anish Kapoor in Murcia, Spain; Tania Berta Judith in Barcelona, or Saskia Calderon in Ecuador, as well as several prestigious group shows.

In 2018, she was invited to Malta to curate the project: Constellation Malta, as part of the celebrations held in Valletta for European Capital of Culture, and in 2022, she curated Austin Camilleri's LEIVA solo exhibition at Spazju Kreattiv. Presently, she is curating a touring exhibition for the British Museum and Fundació La Caixa that will be shown in various venues.

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# Curatorial Team

## Antoine Borg Micallef

### Curatorial team

Antoine Borg Micallef (b. 1988, Malta) is a Maltese cultural project manager and writer based in Malta. His work centres on contemporary visual arts, research, and participatory projects. He has managed exhibitions including *The Sound of You Dreaming* (Spazju Kreattiv, Valletta, 2025) and *LE.IVA | ANGERISALAZYFORMOFGRIEF* (Spazju Kreattiv, Valletta, 2022), and previously coordinated large-scale cultural programmes for Valletta 2018, including the multisite exhibition *Constellation Malta* curated by Rosa Martínez. His writing has appeared in *Times of Malta*, *Il-Bizzilla*, and *The Malta ArtPaper*. He holds an MSc in Environment, Science and Society from University College London.

## Alexia Medici

### Curatorial team

Alexia Medici (b. 1980, Malta) is a Barcelona-based independent curator and educator whose work investigates the temporal conditions through which knowledge is produced. Her site-responsive exhibitions often revolve around historical and architectural contexts, engaging with themes of shared narratives situated between public space and institutional frameworks.

Recent projects include *Māter* (2024) at the Malta National Archives and the Diputació Historic Archives in Barcelona, supported by Arts Council Malta and the Spanish Embassy in Malta; *Exterior | Interior* (2023) at Fundació Suñol, supported by the les Corts local government; and *Temporals* (2022), supported by ICUB (Barcelona's Cultural Institute).

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# Curatorial Team

## Gonzalo Pastor & Jesús De Los Ojos Exhibition designers

A strategic and complementary partnership established between a production company and an architecture studio, with the aim of developing comprehensive design, production, and installation projects for exhibitions, fairs, concerts, presentations, and other temporary events on an international scale.

This collaboration has been present in renowned cultural events and institutions, including works in Istanbul, Quito, Malta, the Seville Biennial, the Museo Reina Sofía in Madrid, Museo Del Prado in Madrid, MUSAC in León, providing high-level technical and creative solutions.

Red Producciones, led by Gonzalo Pastor, and Oaestudio, directed by Jesús de los Ojos, form a professional alliance that combines experience, rigor, and innovation to develop cultural and exhibition projects in both national and international contexts.

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# MUŻA - The National Community Art Museum

Auberge D'Italie Merchants Street, Valletta

## Opening Hours


Monday to Sunday: 10.00-18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

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National Pavilion

## Wonderland: Kaos Kontemporanju Maltese Pavilion

### Curator

Katya Micallef

### Artists

Ġulja Holland, Pierre Portelli, Roderick Camilleri, Victor Agius, Vince Briffa

Drawing inspiration from Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, the Malta Pavilion invites visitors down the rabbit hole to question the illusion of perfection shaped by advanced technology, globalisation, and industrialisation – forces that, rather than bringing order, conjure a curious kind of chaos in contemporary life. Conceived as an immersive and thoughtprovoking journey, the pavilion unfolds as a space of wonder and disquiet, where familiar narratives of progress are gently unsettled. Through art, material, and idea, it reflects Malta's position at the crossroads of cultures while encouraging visitors to pause, reflect, and reimagine the fragile balance between innovation, humanity, and the natural world.

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## International Exhibition

1. The Return, 2023
2. The Return II, 2023
3. Mummy Whirl, 2024
4. The Rise, 2025
5. Dreamery, 2025

### Artist

Amanda Holiday | b. 1964, Sierra Leone

Amanda Holiday studied Fine Art at Wimbledon School of Art and exhibited in landmark black art shows in the 1980s. Between 2001 and 2010 she lived in Cape Town. In 2024 she received the Peut Guard artist award. In 2025 her 1987 drawing *Red Riding Hood* was shown in *Women in Revolt!* touring from Tate Britain to Whitworth, Manchester, and she undertook a UKRI Trave fellowship to the Smithsonian's NMAAHC, Washington. She is represented by Felix and Spear gallery in London.

## Nine Nights of Malta: the journey of a tomato sepal to become a Star, 2025

### Artist


Concetta Modica | b. 1969, Italy

Concetta Modica was born in Modica and lives in Milan. Her work focuses on the present and its paradoxes, especially the idea of a contemporary epic, conceived through remnants and relationships with matter and sculpture-related media. Her solo exhibitions include *Excoperta* at GAMeC, Bergamo, and *Trilogia di Orlando*. Her project *La Notte di Sant'Anna* won PAC2021. In 2023 she published *28 notti*.

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## Laugh, Cry, Fight, 2026

### Artist

Guerrilla Girls | est. 1985, United States

The Guerrilla Girls are anonymous artist activists who use bold visuals, disruptive headlines, and statistics to expose gender and ethnic bias and corruption in art, film, politics, and popular culture. Working from an intersectional feminist position, they challenge dominant narratives by revealing exclusion and inequality. Since 1985, they have produced hundreds of projects worldwide, including posters, banners, books, videos, museum interventions, and exhibitions. In 2025–26, the Getty Research Institute's *How to Be a Guerrilla Girl* marked their 40th anniversary with a major retrospective and new commission.

## The Woman's Bible (A field guide to the absence), 2026

### Artist

Sandra Zaffarese | b. 1976, Malta

Sandra Zaffarese is a Maltese-English artist based in Malta. Trained as a sculptor, she holds a degree in sculpture from Camberwell College of Arts, London. Her multidisciplinary practice is rooted in research and often begins with a story or a book, frequently overlooked, or forgotten texts, which are shared, reproduced, and reactivated. Rooted in sculpture but unbound by medium, her work navigates material, context, and intuition, exploring how narratives endure and circulate.

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# In Place. Where the Land Holds, 2025-2026

## Artist

Therese Debono | b. 1977, Malta

Therese Debono is a Maltese photographer whose practice develops through long-term engagement with specific places. She is concerned with what cannot be seen: traces, erasure, and the quiet presence of what has taken place. Her work focuses on sites that have been altered, erased, or rebuilt, and are now becoming ordinary while still holding layers of lived experience and, at times, trauma. Rather than explain or reconstruct events, her photographs allow absence to remain visible. Her practice is shaped by repetition, restraint, and time. Alongside her artistic work, she lectures on photography and visual culture.

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# National Museum of Archaeology

Auberge de Provence, Republic Street, Valletta

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Last entry: 17.30hrs

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## International Exhibition

1. Birth of my Daughter, 2005
2. Umbilical Self-portrait, 2013

### Artist

Ana Álvarez- Errecalde | b. 1973, Argentina

Ana Álvarez-Errecalde is an artist, migrant, and mother whose work reflects her lived experiences. She explores the complexities of motherhood, addressing gestation, caregiving, and themes such as illness, disability, and death as intrinsic to life. Her work has been exhibited across Europe and Latin America, including Caixaforum (Spain), the Royal College of Art (UK), and the Museum of Latin American Art (Argentina). She is the author of two photographic books and currently works at Can Fugarolas, a community initiative, while volunteering with people in their final stages of life.

## Nine Nights of Malta: the journey of a tomato sepal to become a Star, 2025

### Artist

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## Calendars in stone – c.5,000 BC, 1992-2025

### Artist

Daniel Cilia | b. 1963, Malta

Daniel Cilia has pursued photography since the age of thirteen. Self-taught, he maintains that photography is shaped not by equipment but by light, which defines form and perception. His first major exhibition was at the Museum of Fine Arts, Valletta, in 1986. He lectured photography at the College of Arts, Crafts and Design in Oslo (1989), and headed the photography department at the Art Institute of Florence, Lorenzo de' Medici (1990- 95). Cilia specialises in editorial photographic design, with more than 160 photographic books on the Maltese Islands to his credit.

## Neste país sem olhos e sem boca, 2024-2025

### Artist

João Marques | b. 2001, Portugal

João Marques is a Portuguese emerging visual artist born in 2001 in Coimbra. He lives and works between Lisbon and Leiria. His recent artistic research focuses on ideas of earth and matter within drawing and installation.

## Kappakli, 2022

### Artist

Melita Couta | b. 1974, Cyprus

Melita Couta is a visual artist working across sculpture, installation, performance, and siteresponsive practices. Her work explores memory, material, and landscape through long-term research and material engagement. She creates hollow ceramic vessels described as “fossils in reverse” and has exhibited internationally across Europe and the Mediterranean.

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# Grand Master's Palace

St George's Square, Valletta

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Last entry: 17.30hrs

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## International Exhibition

### Lumen, 2025

#### Artist

Austin Camilleri | b. 1972, Malta

Austin Camilleri is a visual artist whose practice spans installation, painting, drawing, sculpture, architectural interventions, and video. His work reflects an inquiry into the human condition and its relationship with the non-human, rooted in notions of transience and polarity. These concerns inform a spiritual discernment, political scrutiny, and environmental sensitivity across his practice. Camilleri's work has been exhibited extensively in biennales, as well as solo and group exhibitions in museums, private galleries, and public spaces across Europe, America, and Asia.

### Nine Nights of Malta: the journey of a tomato sepal to become a Star, 2025

#### Artist

Concetta Modica | b. 1969, Italy

Concetta Modica was born in Modica and lives in Milan. Her work focuses on the present and its paradoxes, especially the idea of a contemporary epic, conceived through remnants and relationships with matter and sculpture-related media. Her solo exhibitions include Excoperta at GAMEC, Bergamo, and *Trilogia di Orlando*. Her project *La Notte di Sant'Anna* won PAC2021. In 2023 she published *28 notti*.

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## Il-Kelb tad-Dar, 1994-2026

1. Il-Kelb tad-dar, a performance gift 2026
2. Il-Kelb tad-dar, Palestine National Dog stamps, 1994
3. Il-Kelb tad-dar, video, 2026
4. Il-Kelb tad-dar, stone sculpture, 2026
5. Il-Kelb tad-dar, tapestries, 2026
6. Il-Kelb tad-dar, stone carving installation, 2026

### Artist

Emily Jacir | b. 1976, Mediterranean

Emily Jacir's interdisciplinary practice spans film, photography, installation, performance, sound, and text. Her work explores personal and collective movement through time and public space, examining trans-Mediterranean geographies and temporalities. Through historical and archival research, her work is rooted in gathering, community, and social affiliations. She has received international recognition including a Golden Lion at the 52nd Venice Biennale (2007), the Hugo Boss Prize (2008), the Andrew W. Mellon Rome Prize Fellowship (2015), and prizes in 2023 from NCAD, Dublin, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

1. Star Wars: Knights of Malta vs Ottoman Drones, 2026
2. Star Wars: Royal Hunt, 2023

### Artist

Halil Altindere | b. 1971, Turkey

Halil Altindere (b. 1971) produces work in various mediums and collaborates with ballet dancers, opera singers, hip hop artists, guides, police officers, and architects. His practice inquires political, social and cultural codes, addressing resistance against oppressive systems. He works with people with first-hand experience, positioning himself as a mediator. His recent works focus on fantastically absurd situations encountered in daily life, confronting audiences with realities that appear imaginary.

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## 12 Horses – Homage to Jannis Kounellis, 2018

### Artist

Lara Nickel | b. 1985, United States

Lara Nickel is an installation-based painter and published author. She is known for *12 Horses – Homage to Jannis Kounellis*, first exhibited in 2019 at Museum Fondazione 107, Turin. In 2022, Skira published a trilingual book on her work. She is currently based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she teaches drawing at the Institute of American Indian Arts.

## Untitled, 2018

### Artist

Maurizio Cattelan | b. 1960, Italy

Maurizio Cattelan is an Italian conceptual artist renowned for his irreverent, subversive practice that employs satire, provocation, and appropriation to critique art, power, and society. Drawing from real people and objects, his works challenge institutions through playful yet unsettling gestures. Key works include *La Nona Ora* (1999), *L.O.V.E.* (2010), and *America* (2016), a fully functioning 18-karat gold toilet installed at the Guggenheim Museum. His work has been exhibited internationally in major museums, biennials, and public spaces.

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## The Economy of Power Pays the Price, 2018-ongoing

### Artist

Mohamed Ibrahim Elmasry | b. 1978, Egypt

Mohamed Elmasry is a visual artist whose practice is grounded in long-term research, experimentation, and critical analysis. His work transforms information, symbols, and everyday observations into visual structures that interrogate dominant narratives of history, politics, and geography. Working between Cairo, Beirut, and Dubai, he employs industrial and systematic production methods to develop works with sustained conceptual and material impact. His practice operates at the intersection of academic research and lived experience, using art as an analytical framework rather than representation.

## The Weight Of Blood. A Contemporary Ritual, 2026

### Artist

Priscilla Monge | b. 1968, Costa Rica

Priscilla Monge is a conceptual artist born in 1968 in San José, Costa Rica. Active internationally since the early 1990s, she has participated in major biennials, including Venice and São Paulo, and exhibited at institutions such as Museo Reina Sofía and MoMA PS1. Her work explores violence, femininity, power, and vulnerability.

## The Sitting is Open, 2024-2026

### Artist

Raphael Vella | b. 1967, Malta

Raphael Vella is a Maltese artist working with drawing, animation, and installation. His practice addresses politics, identity, and society. He has exhibited internationally, published widely, and cocurated the Malta Pavilion at the Venice Biennale. He has been selected as one of the artists for the Malta Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2026.

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## Cut Papers #24, 2026

### Artist

Sachiko Abe | b. 1975, Japan

Sachiko Abe is a Japanese artist whose practice spans performance, drawing, film, and installation. Since 1995 she has cut paper daily, initiating the performance project *Cut Papers* in 2003. Her work explores time, discipline, and embodied concentration and has been presented in 23 cities across 11 countries.

## Before we were human, 2023-2026

### Artist

Tau Luna | b. 1989, Colombia

Tau Luna is an artist and researcher whose practice develops through artistic research, mediation, and pedagogy. Their work examines the effects of coloniality on territories and bodies in the Global South, human migration as one of its consequences, and shared memory with more-than-human migrant beings through intersections of ancestral, scientific, and intuitive technologies. They have contributed to research on cultural policies and funding, publishing the *Guide to Careful Funding* (PAAC, Barcelona) and the *Lumbre* guide for migrants. Between 2022 and 2024, they co-directed *La creatura re[d]productora feminista* in Barcelona and promoted the Urdimbre transfeminist educational programme.

## Carne Vale, 2026

### Artist

Vasco Araújo | b. 1975, Portugal

Vasco Araújo (b. 1975, Lisbon), completed a degree in sculpture at FBAUL in 1999 and attended the Advanced Course in Visual Arts at Maumaus. In 2003 he received the EDP Prize for New Artists, Portugal. He has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions internationally.

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# Fort St Elmo and the National War Museum

Mediterranean Street, Valletta

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Monday to Sunday: 10.00-18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

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## National/Thematic Pavilions

### Chinese Pavilion

# The Realm of Clarity: Ecological Foresight and Civilisational Exchange in Oriental Wisdom

### Curator

Ying Jinfei

### Artists

Cao Ou, Chen Jian, Chen Qi, Dong Minjie, Fang Limin, Ji Renping, Li Hongbo, Liang Quan, Wang Chao, Wang Xiao, Xu Chentao, Ying Jinfei, Zhang Dazhen

### Embassy

People's Republic of China

*The Realm of Clarity* explores the philosophical depth of Eastern water culture within the Malta Biennale 2026 theme "Clean Clear Cut." The exhibition unfolds in two parts: "Clarifying All Rivers" highlights water's diversity and inclusiveness as a metaphor for civilisational exchange, while "Nourishing All Beings" presents water's ecological wisdom as guidance for sustainable development. Together, they chart a path from understanding to practice, expressing a vision in which humanity and nature coexist harmoniously. The pavilion offers a contemporary interpretation of Chinese ecological thought, contributing water-like clarity, resilience, and openness to global dialogue.

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## Armenian Pavilion

# The Sound of What Was Never Seen

### Curator

Sona Hovhannisyan

### Artist

Raffi Yedalian

### Embassy

Republic of Armenia

*The Sound of What Was Never Seen* invites visitors into a meditative Armenian landscape shaped by silence, memory, and the elusive rhythm of an unseen water drop. Through Raffi Yedalian's works, fragments hint at imagined wholeness, and absence becomes a form of presence. The pavilion reflects Armenia's histories of resilience and imposed quiet, offering a space where fragility becomes endurance and silence becomes testimony. In dialogue with Malta's own relationship to water, the exhibition asks visitors to listen differently – to sense how what is hidden, hushed, or never seen can still resonate with profound clarity.

## Finnish Pavilion

# Bastion of Refugia

### Artist

Anna Pesonen

### Embassy

Republic of Finland

The Finnish Pavilion presents *Bastion of Refugia*, an exploration of how we rebuild presence in an age of engineered disconnection. Anna Pesonen's Post Futurism transforms Malta's architectures of surveillance into instruments of resonance, linking Karelian *kelkettely*, Maltese għana, and ancient acoustic sites such as Ħaġar Qim and the Hypogeum. A monumental sound mirror at Fort St Elmo broadcasts endangered vocal traditions, inverting colonial technologies into communal infrastructures. Drawing on millennia-old systems of listening and alignment, the pavilion proposes rupture as possibility and sound as a technology for sustaining collective life.

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## French Pavilion

# Facing the Challenge

### Curator

Dominique Moulon

### Artist

Louis-Paul Caron

### Embassy

Republic of France

*Facing the Challenge* brings together the twin urgencies of climate change and artificial intelligence. French artist Louis-Paul Caron presents *Incendies*, a series of AI-generated fire sequences where serene interior scenes contrast with burning landscapes beyond the window. The works echo Jacques Chirac's warning that "our house is burning", urging viewers to confront environmental responsibility rather than look away. By using generative technologies while questioning their impact, the exhibition highlights AI as both a contributor to and a tool for addressing global crises. It invites visitors to reflect, understand, and act within their own capacities.

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## **Polish Pavilion**

# Archive of Hesitations

### **Curator**

Ada Piekarska

### **Artist**

Weronika Zalewska

### **Embassy**

Republic of Poland

*Archive of Hesitations* is a two-channel installation by Weronika Zalewska that contrasts rigid, hierarchical models of knowledge with embodied, affective ways of understanding. One channel adopts the language of a game show to expose the desire for clear criteria and instant judgement. The other assembles poetic, non-linear fragments from the Educational Film Studio archive, resisting coherence and standardisation. Mila Nowacka's visual intervention, built from delicate feedback loops, reveals the image's material instability. Together, these elements create tension between formatted knowledge and lived experience, proposing uncertainty as a generative space where questions matter more than definitive answers.

## **Serbian Pavilion**

# Where to Escape? In Search of Oneself

### **Curator**

Stevan Martinović

### **Artists**

Milorad Panić, Miloš Šarić, Sonja Žugić

### **Embassy**

Republic of Serbia

*Where to Escape? In Search of Oneself* brings together artists who explore solitude, memory, and the search for meaning through recycled materials and symbolic forms.

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Their sculptures and images reflect on family, tradition, and contemporary loneliness, revealing how personal and collective histories shape our sense of self. By transforming familiar objects and natural elements into poetic structures, the Pavilion invites visitors to contemplate time, transcendence, and the fragile balance between past and future. It becomes a space for introspection, where fragments of memory open pathways toward renewal

### **Spanish Pavilion**

## Vessels of Silence.

## The Journey and Memory in the Mediterranean

### **Curator**

Elvira Cámara

### **Artist**

Concha García

### **Embassy**

The Kingdom of Spain

The project is part of the continuity of the Mediterranean ceramic tradition, establishing a dialogue between the memory of a craft and forms derived from the medieval Christian imagination. The artist recovers plaster moulds found in a pottery workshop and incorporates them into her creation, establishing a link between tradition and contemporary art. Each piece articulates a journey through space and time, in which different concepts such as craftsmanship, spirituality, vestiges and travels subtly emerge. These works function as starting points for a metaphorical journey across the Mediterranean, evoking the connections that have united its peoples throughout history.

### **Thematic Pavilion**

## Umanissima Sopravvivenza Curators studioamatoriale (Angelo Castucci, Francesco Tola)

### **Artist**

Sergio Racanati

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The light of awareness serves as a guide toward collective renewal. The walls of a casemate at Fort St Elmo are flooded with light and clad to hold the void of the Gozo quarries. Although the emptiness of the quarries is the result of an extractive process with no inherent connection to spirituality, it is precisely here that a space for reflection and collective introspection is created. Here, faith is not understood as religiosity, but as an inspiring force for desired change, a reclaiming of the future, an ecosophy of coexistence – an *Umanissima Sopravvivenza*.

## **Thematic Pavilion** Last Ice Stand

**Curator**  
Antar Works

**Artist**  
Antar Daya

*Last Ice Stand* reinterprets the Malta Biennale theme through the language of glacial memory. Clean popsicles appear colourless and minimal, evoking the purity of recent ice. Clear forms reveal mid-depth layers, transparent and softly turquoise, suggesting emotional immediacy. Cut pieces represent ancient ice – deep blue, fractured, and fading – each a slice of disappearing time. Mobile and quietly disruptive, the installation inserts itself into public space with a familiar yet unsettling form. Through wit and precision, *Last Ice Stand* transforms nostalgia into climate awareness, inviting viewers into a subtle but urgent conversation about a warming world.

## **Thematic Pavilion** Okuzingiramu

**Curator**  
Nyanzi Wamala

**Artists**  
Namata Birungi Tereza Maria, Joshua Mulungi Yiga

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At St Elmo's colonial post, the artist presents *Okuzingiramu* – Luganda for entanglement – as a living metaphor for the nurturing, complicated ties that sustain bodies, ecosystems, and communities. Drawing on hybrid identities and the friction of living between worlds, she works with mycelial thinking and fragile materials such as raffia, cardboard, and voile. Suspended fluid tapestries form organic webs that evoke interdependence and feminist principles of collective care. These architectures reject isolation and productivity as measures of worth, proposing instead that identity is multiple, autonomy relational, and thriving only possible through shared, entangled support.

## **Thematic Pavilion**

# Qatgħa

### **Curator**

Aditya Singh Bhadoria

### **Artist**

Aditya Singh Bhadoria

*Qatgħa* is a site-adaptive architectural Pavilion that explores the act of cutting as a spatial, material, and ethical operation. Rather than functioning as a static object, the Pavilion unfolds as a sequence, guiding visitors through moments of compression, openness, and pause. Constructed using reclaimed timber and recycled wood composites, the structure employs dryjointed and modular assembly techniques that allow for disassembly, reuse, and minimal material waste. Cutting is articulated not as destruction, but as precision – where what is removed, simplified, or left open

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becomes as significant as what is constructed. Drawing from vernacular intelligence and contemporary ecological concerns, QATGHA positions restraint as a design value, proposing architecture as an act of clarity and responsibility.

### **Thematic Pavilion**

## Sea Pavilion: Nothing Precious, Precious Nothing

### **Curators**

Azad Asifovich, Vlad Sludskiy

### **Artists**

Aziza Shaden, Luca Resta

*The Sea Pavilion* invites visitors into a shifting ecology of value, where objects drift between treasure and trash, ownership and abandonment. Spread across Malta's coasts, heritage sites, and underwater zones, the Pavilion treats the sea as both stage and metaphor for circulation, loss, and rediscovery. Working with artists and local partners, it transforms discarded materials into works that question how worth is assigned, stolen, or dissolved. By dispersing artworks and inverting visibility – sometimes submerging pieces entirely – the Pavilion mirrors the fluidity of maritime space, revealing value as something always in motion, never fixed, and continually renegotiated.

### **Thematic Pavilion**

## Take the Sky Out of Your Belly

### **Curator**

Hara Shin

### **Artists**

Hara Shin

*Take the Sky Out of Your Belly* reimagines Malta's skies, seas, fortresses, and temples as a living ecology of breath, vibration, and cyclical transformation. The Pavilion dissolves boundaries between human and non-human rhythms, drawing climate

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data, spores, bodies, and architectures into continuous circulation. Four interwoven works – Breathing Circles, The Shattered Greenhouse, Omnipresent Cyclops, and The Protruding Community – activate Malta’s historical sites as porous, resonant platforms rather than static monuments. Through these shifting flows, the Pavilion becomes a metabolising organism where memory, climate, and collective presence cocreate new possibilities for coexistence.

## International Exhibition

### The flies, 2026

#### Artist

Santiago Sierra | b. 1966, Spain

Santiago Sierra (b. 1966, Madrid, Spain), after graduating in fine arts at the Complutense University of Madrid, completed his artistic training in Hamburg. His work critically examines structures of power underlying labour exploitation, economic inequality, racial discrimination, and migration. Drawing on strategies associated with Minimal, Conceptual, and Performance Art of the 1960s and 1970s, Sierra produces interventions that confront viewers with the social and political realities embedded in contemporary systems of capital and control.

### Democracy is discussed on the golf course, 2025

#### Artist

Wilfredo Prieto | b. 1978, Cuba

Wilfredo Prieto’s (b. 1978, Havana, Cuba) work is characterised by the juxtaposition of materials, concepts, and forms, proposing poetic actions that reflect contemporary society. His practice foregrounds ideas as the core of his artistic language.

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# Floriana Underpass

Triq l-Indipendenza, Floriana

## Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: all hours

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## International Exhibition

# The Woman's Bible (A field guide to the absence), 2026

### Artist

Sandra Zaffarese | b. 1978, Malta

Sandra Zaffarese is a Maltese-English artist based in Malta. Trained as a sculptor, she holds a degree in sculpture from Camberwell College of Arts, London. Her multidisciplinary practice is rooted in research and often begins with a story or a book, frequently overlooked, or forgotten texts, which are shared, reproduced, and reactivated. Rooted in sculpture but unbound by medium, her work navigates material, context, and intuition, exploring how narratives endure and circulate.

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# Birgu Old Armoury

Armoury of the Knights of Malta, Triq Il-Kwartier, Birgu

## Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00-18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

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## Thematic Pavilion

### Thematic Pavilion

# A Wall That Isn't One

#### Artists

Klelia Siska, Arsenios Zachariadis

*A Wall That Isn't One* reinterprets Malta's *ħitan tas-sejjeħ* as a living meeting place rather than a boundary. Built through a public dry-stone workshop at the Knights' old armoury, the Pavilion grows into a shared structure that offers shade, rest, and space for conversation. Throughout the Biennale, it will host talks, demonstrations, and gatherings that celebrate local stone craft and landscape traditions. By transforming a traditional wall into a site of encounter, the project shows how heritage can remain active and communal, inviting visitors to imagine more generous ways of coming together.

### Thematic Pavilion

# Between Land and Sea

#### Curators

Badr el Hammami, Katharina Fink

#### Artists

Badr el Hammami, Driss Aroussi, Jaafar Akil, Katrin Ströbel, Mohammed Laouli, Yasmina Ben Ari, Yassine Balbziou

*Between Land and Sea* offers a contemporary portrait of Morocco at the meeting point of Africa, Europe, and the Mediterranean. Bringing together leading Moroccan artists, it addresses climate change, migration, social equity, technological shifts, and cultural hybridity as lived realities shaping daily life. Through installation, digital media, performance, and socially engaged practices, the Pavilion highlights the dialogue between heritage and innovation, where traditional forms and materials are reimagined for the present. Set within Vittoriosa's historic architecture, the Pavilion creates an immersive encounter that links Morocco's cultural depth with urgent global conversations, inviting reflection on identity, resilience, and transformation.

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## Thematic Pavilion

# Bullets of Flowers

### Curator

Eszter Csillag

### Artist

Maria Kulikovska

Artist Maria Kulykivska, known as Kulikovska (b. 1988, Crimea, Ukraine, ), is a Ukrainian artist and mother navigating life between Kyiv and Europe. Her work confronts the reality of the ongoing war while proposing an alternative to its killings. Drawing on traditional herbal healing learned from her grandmother in Crimea, she transforms inherited knowledge into a tool of survival and artistic practice. In *Bullets of Flowers*, medicinal herbs are embedded into bullets meant not to kill, but to mend, transforming weapons into instruments of care. Hanging body fragments evoke vulnerability, physical fragmentation, and the enduring value of the female form. In the second room, “the Table of Negotiation?” calls for recognition of lives lost to circumstances not of their choosing.

## Thematic Pavilion

# Doom Pop Curator

Expanded Media Lab

### Artists

Jeremy Ripley, Tra Bouscaren

*Doom Pop* is a visceral installation by Tra Bouscaren and Jeremy Ripley, that transforms commercial spectacle into a meditation on mortality. Suspended billboards form a tornado sculpture, encircled by body bags, also made from billboard material – symbols of consumption’s human toll. Giant American flags crafted from accident lawyer ads line the walls, recasting corporate imagery as monuments to disaster. The work critiques the seductive language of pop culture and its entanglement with violence, inviting viewers into a storm of reconfigured media. *Doom Pop* confronts the business of death, turning familiar slogans into haunting reminders of what society chooses to ignore.

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## Thematic Pavilion

# Dwelling in Fracture

### Curator

Minji Kim

### Artist

Jiwon Yu

*Dwelling in Fracture* presents Yu Jiwon's sculptural environments built from reconfigured fragments of urban material. His modular structures evoke familiar architecture yet remain unsettled by cuts, voids, and ruptures. Made from humble materials such as cardboard and cement, the works balance solidity with fragility, proposing impermanence as a mode of inhabiting the world. Visitors move through a landscape of remnants that reveal memory, history, and the afterlives of the city. Rather than treating fracture as decay, the Pavilion frames it as a site of renewal, inviting reflection on how communities might rebuild through what has been broken.

## Thematic Pavilion

# Floating Fragments

### Curator

Rolf Laven

### Artists

Residents of the Correctional Facility

*Floating Fragments* is an immersive installation curated by Rolf Laven that brings together artworks and music created by people in prison. Transparent water-filled cubes suspend these fragments in space, evoking both confinement and the persistence of creativity. Visitors move among images, sounds, and reflections that form a constellation of human stories, revealing connection within fragmentation. The project introduces a rare reciprocity: public reflections are carried back into the prison and transformed into new artworks. Set within Malta's island landscape of passage and enclosure, the Pavilion invites contemplation on freedom, belonging, and the shared fragility of human experience.

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## Thematic Pavilion

# Isolation

### Curator

Ibrahim Shalabi

### Artist

Ibrahim Shalabi

*Isolation* recreates the artist's experience of medical confinement during the COVID19 pandemic, transforming a personal crisis into an immersive environment. The installation simulates an isolation room whose walls are covered with drug inserts, while a monumental circle of empty medicine boxes marks the relentless cycle of treatment. At its centre, a collapsing sculptural head releases a cascade of pills, embodying exhaustion and dependency. A faint heartbeat fills the space, drawing visitors into an intimate encounter with vulnerability, solitude, and the suspended sense of time. The work reflects on human fragility and the quiet endurance required to survive profound isolation.

## Thematic Pavilion

# Redefining. Polish- Ghanaian Textile Narratives

### Curator

Natalia Bradbury

### Artists

Eliza Proszczuk, Ernestina Mansa Doku, Marta Nadolle

*Redefining. Polish-Ghanaian Textile Narratives* presents a monumental textile installation created through collaboration between Polish and Ghanaian artists. Rooted in the Biennale's theme, the work revisits a little-known history of solidarity between Poland and Ghana, transforming it into a hopeful vision for future cooperation. Guided by the philosophy of Ubuntu – "I am because we are" – the installation celebrates interdependence, empathy, and shared humanity. Textiles, sound, and site-specific design weave together narratives of cultural exchange, recalling 1960s educational partnerships and Łódź's textile heritage. The Pavilion invites visitors to imagine renewed internationalism grounded in dignity, creativity, and collective care.

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## Thematic Pavilion

# Repertoire in Intermedial Mode

### Curators

Caterina Riva, Sara d'Alessandro Manozzo

### Artist

Francesco Bertelé

*Repertoire in Intermedial Mode* presents Francesco Bertelé's immersive exploration of borders, bodies, and digital perception. Through video, virtual reality, and site-specific actions carried out along Malta's coastline, the artist investigates how technology and geography shape our understanding of movement and identity. At the pavilion's centre is *#REL1=OFF*, a new work created in Malta that transforms a climbing journey into a panoramic video fresco, blending reality and technological hallucination. Together with the VR installation *Hic sunt dracones*, the exhibition invites visitors to reflect on migration, transformation, and the shifting boundaries that define contemporary life.

## Thematic Pavilion

# So Good to Feel Real

### Curator

Francesca Guerisoli

### Artists

The Cool Couple (Simone Santilli, Niccolò Benetton)

*So Good to Feel Real* by The Cool Couple examines how digital cultures turn violence into playful spectacle. The installation, composed by a group of sculptures inspired by video game aesthetics and toy design, are combined with a monologue to present a near-future dystopian scenario in which the boundaries between virtual and real, inside and outside, cognitive processes and computing, have collapsed. Laser beams and mirrors cut through the space, evoking digitised maps and fragmented online narratives. The installation reflects on a world where war becomes consumable content, questioning our growing desensitisation to real suffering.

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## Thematic Pavilion

# Counterpoint Pavilion

### Curator

Sofie Renap

### Artists

Iris Eysermans, Mahmoud Saleh Mohammadi, Maurizio Chiocchetti

*The Counterpoint Pavilion* offers a quiet, site-specific refuge in a world saturated with speed and noise. Formed from layered linen and silk, the Pavilion opens gradually into a centre of calm, where a gently swaying plumb bob marks the balance between movement and stillness. The installation invites visitors to slow down, attune their senses, and experience presence as a form of care. The work responds to Malta's layered landscape with poetic minimalism, offering stillness as a meaningful counterpoint to spectacle.

## Thematic Pavilion

# Troy Pavilion

### Curator

Çanakkale Biennial Initiative

### Artists

David Blandy, Georgios Katsagelos, Jakob Gaute, Katrin Korfmann & Jens Pfeife, Pinar Yolaçan, Seyhan Boztepe

*The Trojan Pavilion*, curated by the Çanakkale Biennial Initiative with the Troy Excavation Directorate, brings together artworks that explore the cultural, historical, and symbolic resonance of Troy. A UNESCO World Heritage Site and a cornerstone of Mediterranean imagination, Troy exists between mitos and logos – between epic narrative and archaeological inquiry. The Pavilion gathers international Artists whose practices question knowledge systems, reimagine ancient worlds, and reflect on contemporary ethical concerns. Conceived as a fictional national pavilion, it treats Troy as a mythohistorical landscape, inviting visitors to consider how legend, memory, and ruins continue to shape shared cultural identity across time.

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## Thematic Pavilion

# Unwashed - Black Madonnas and White Lies

### Curators

Peng Feng Lanfranco Aceti

### Artist

Lanfranco Aceti

*Unwashed* traces the suppressed histories of Southern Italian agrarian women – known as *schiafone* – whose identities were shaped by labour, land, and matriarchal knowledge systems. The project examines how modernisation, hygiene laws, and cultural “whitening” dismantled these traditions, from outlawed artisanal practices to the erasure of rural female economies. Anchored by the figure of the Black Madonna of Montevergine, *Unwashed* reveals how cleanliness became a tool of control, severing communities from embodied, ecological, and spiritual inheritances. Through sculpture, performance, and archival media, the work reanimates Mediterranean memories marginalised by Western ideals of purity and progress.

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# Inquisitor's Palace

Main Gate Street, Birgu

## Opening Hours

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Last entry: 17.30hrs

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## International Exhibition

### Arca – “Ritual” (Music Video), 2023

#### Artist

Albert Moya | b. 1989, Spain

Albert Moya is a Spanish filmmaker whose work spans music videos, documentaries, fashion films, and experimental cinema. His approach blends surreal imagery with strong narrative arcs, influenced by the Dogme 95 movement and directors like Rainer Werner Fassbinder and Carlos Reygadas. Moya has explored the intersection of film, design, and architecture, collaborating with fashion houses including Prada, Dior, Louis Vuitton, Gucci, and Loewe, as well as cultural institutions like the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion and Bofill Taller de Arquitectura. He is currently completing his first feature film, continuing his exploration of identity and transformation.

### Loess Doll, 2017

#### Artist

Amandine Arcelli | b. 1991, France

Born in 1991 in Montpellier, France, Amandine Arcelli lives and works in Paris. She is a sculptor whose work explores the relationship between humans and their environment. Her work has been shown in group exhibitions including *Thirties* (Kunsthalle Trier, 2023) and *Young International Artists* (Lyon Biennale, 2022), and in solo exhibitions such as *L'Art dans les chapelles* (Locmeltro, 2024). In 2024 she received the ART ECO-CONCEPTION award from Art of Change 21.

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# This Is Not an Upside-Down Map, 2026

## Artist

Amélie Giacomini | b. 1988, France  
Simohammed Fettaka | b. 1981, Morocco

Amélie Giacomini (b. 1988) lives and works between France and Morocco. Her practice, at the intersection of sculpture, performance, and the moving image, explores the relationship between the body and the environment and is often rooted in collaborative practices and notions of community. Born in Tangier in 1981, Simohammed Fettaka works in Morocco. His multidisciplinary practice explores representation, individuality, animality, and politics, and he founded the Nachia Cinema Festival at the Cinémathèque de Tanger in 2008.

# Luma, 2024

## Artist

Catalina Tuca | b. 1977, Chile

Catalina Tuca is a Chilean multidisciplinary visual artist, educator, and independent curator. Her practice addresses geographic identities, collective memories, and systems of collaboration through existing technologies. She is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Pratt Institute, New York, and lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

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# Nine Nights of Malta: the journey of a tomato sepal to become a Star, 2025

## Artist

Concetta Modica | b. 1969, Italy

Concetta Modica was born in Modica and lives in Milan. Her work focuses on the present and its paradoxes, especially the idea of a contemporary epic, conceived through remnants and relationships with matter and sculpture-related media. Her solo exhibitions include *Excoperta* at GAMeC, Bergamo, and *Trilogia di Orlando*. Her project *La Notte di Sant'Anna* won PAC2021. In 2023 she published *28 notti*.

# Phoenix, 2023

## Artist

Diyar Shivayi | b. 1995, Iran

Diyar Shivayi is a dancer from Shiraz, Iran. Her work draws on Iranian legends and cultural memory, using movement to evoke cycles of destruction and rebirth. Referencing the myth of the Phoenix, her practice reflects on Iran's history of endurance and regeneration through fire and ashes. Her work expresses a wish for freedom and is rooted in a land "accustomed to poetry, saturated with patterns and colors", connecting bodily expression to collective resilience and cultural identity.

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1. Dogs of War, 2024
2. Venus's Collapse, 2026
3. The Sorrow, 2024
4. A Divine Intervention, 2026

**Artist**

Ioulia Chante | b. 1991, Greece

Ioulia Chante is a Greek architect and ceramicist based in Malta and founder of Babau Ceramics. She holds a Master of Architecture from Democritus University of Thrace (2017). Since relocating to Malta in 2018, she has developed a ceramic practice encompassing functional and sculptural works informed by Mediterranean heritage.

1. em rebmemer # metric, 2026
2. em rebmemer # pictured at rest, 2026

**Artist**

Joseph Calleja | b. 1981, Malta

Clare Ghigo | b. 1986, Malta

Clare Ghigo is a Maltese mezzo-soprano and multidisciplinary artist, and Joseph Calleja is a Maltese visual artist working through collaborative and multidisciplinary practice. Together, they cofounded the audiovisual collective Odekrom. Their collaborative work explores perception, sound, voice, and spatial experience through site-specific installations. Their projects have been presented internationally, including works developed for the Tokyo Biennale, and frequently engage historical architecture, memory, and embodied listening through the intersection of visual art and vocal performance.

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## The Mantle / Wearing My Loss, 2002-2025

### Artist

Loredana Longo | b. 1967, Italy

Loredana Longo (b. 1967, Catania) lives and works in Milan. Her practice spans installation, sculpture, and performance, addressing themes of power, violence, and transformation. Fire is a recurring element in her work, used as a performative and symbolic gesture.

## Permits and Hammers, 2026

### Artist

Mahmoud Massad | b. 1967, Jordan

Mahmoud Massad is a Jordanian-Palestinian artist who creates documentaries addressing identity and displacement. His film *Recycle* (2007) received recognition at Sundance. Works such as *Blessed Benefit* combine dark comedy with socio-political insight. His recent film *Cinema Kawakeb* explores personal stories shaped by regional upheaval, reflecting on loss, memory, and resilience. His works have premiered at major international festivals including Cannes, Toronto, and IDFA.

## Plágio-4, 2023-2025

### Artist

Mathias Gramoso | b. 1990, Portugal

Roman Gebhardt | b. 1991, Germany

Mathias Gramoso is a French-Portuguese Artist living between Berlin and Porto whose multidisciplinary practice explores perception and natural phenomena. Roman Gebhardt is a Berlinbased sound-oriented practitioner working at the intersection of AI, sound, and physical systems. He co-founded the music intelligence company Cyanite.

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## A Night We Held Between, 2024

### Artist

Noor Abed | b. 1988, Palestine

Noor Abed works at the intersection of performance and film, combining forms of the staged and the documentary. She co-founded the School of Intrusions, an independent educational collective in Ramallah, Palestine. She was an assistant Curator for documenta fifteen, Kassel (2021-22), and an artist in residence at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam (2022-24). Her book *Stars at Midday* was published by Occasional Papers in October 2024, and *A Night We Held Between* received the e-flux Film Award 2024.

## Hooded Woman Seated Facing The Wall, 2023

### Artist

Santiago Sierra | b. 1966, Spain

Santiago Sierra (b. 1966, Madrid, Spain), after graduating in fine arts at the Complutense University of Madrid, completed his artistic training in Hamburg. His work critically examines structures of power underlying labour exploitation, economic inequality, racial discrimination, and migration. Drawing on strategies associated with Minimal, Conceptual, and Performance Art of the 1960s and 1970s, Sierra produces interventions that confront viewers with the social and political realities embedded in contemporary systems of capital and control.

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# Malta Maritime Museum

Xatt l-Assedju l-Kbir, Birgu

## Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00-18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

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## International Exhibition

# Nine Nights of Malta: the journey of a tomato sepal to become a Star, 2025

### Artist

Concetta Modica | b. 1969, Italy

Concetta Modica was born in Modica and lives in Milan. Her work focuses on the present and its paradoxes, especially the idea of a contemporary epic, conceived through remnants and relationships with matter and sculpture-related media. Her solo exhibitions include *Excoperta* at GAMeC, Bergamo, and *Trilogia di Orlando*. Her project *La Notte di Sant'Anna* won PAC2021. In 2023 she published *28 notti*.

# They don't know the way, 2026

### Artist


Daniel de la Barra | b. 1992, Peru

Daniel de la Barra is a Peruvian artist working across painting, video, and installation. His practice explores fiction and political imagination as regenerative forces to dismantle historical power structures and interrogate extractive economic models and colonial legacies. His work examines how spatial representations, materiality, scale, and visual codes operate as mechanisms of power and legitimization. He has exhibited internationally at venues including Delfina Foundation and Frieze (London), Fondazione Sandretto, La Casa Encendida and ARCO (Madrid), Mor Charpentier (Paris), Real Academia de España (Rome), and Museo Central (Lima).

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## Innocent Passage, 2026

### Artist

Núria Güell | b. 1981, Spain  
Rosa Casado | b. 1971, Spain

Núria Güell is a visual artist whose practice confronts moral evidence and social conventions. She graduated in Fine Arts at the University of Barcelona and studied at the Cátedra de Arte de Conducta in Havana, Cuba. Rosa Casado's practice focuses on performance and critical spatial practices. She holds a PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies from the University of Glasgow and has engaged in environmental studies, systems and complexity analysis, and physics. Together, they understand art as a social and political practice, and their work has been widely presented internationally.

## Global Tree Project: AXIS MUNDI, 2026

### Artist

Shinji Turner- Yamamoto | b. 1965, Japan

Shinji Turner-Yamamoto is a US-based Japanese artist, internationally recognised for the Global Tree Project, a series of site-specific installations using living or fallen trees. His work explores humanity's interconnection with nature through installations in historical and sacred sites worldwide.

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1. Do You Need a Safe Abortion?, 2026
2. The Loophole Artist, 2023
3. I Had an Abortion
4. Testimonials

**Artist**

Women on Waves est. 1999, Netherlands

Women on Waves, established in 1999 in the Netherlands, aims to prevent unsafe abortions and empower women to exercise their human rights to physical and mental autonomy. Founded by Dr Rebecca Gomperts, the organisation works to ensure access to medical abortion and accurate information. Its activities include sea voyages, drones, robots, art projects, legal actions, education, and online support, developed in close cooperation with local organisations to address unwanted pregnancy, illegal abortion, and restrictive laws.

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# Fort St Angelo

Xatt I-Assedju I-Kbir, Birgu

## Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 10.00-18.00hrs

Last entry: 17.30hrs

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## Settlers (Malta), 2026

### Artist

Anastasia Ax | b. 1979, Sweden

The artist's practice operates at the intersection of body, material, and language. Working with performance, installation, sound, and sculpture, they explore processes of rupture, breakdown, and transformation. Using materials such as paper, concrete, and plaster, the work unfolds through physical actions that activate material in real time. The body functions as a primary tool for listening, shaping, and dismantling, investigating memory, power, and the limits of language.

## Nine Nights of Malta: the journey of a tomato sepal to become a Star, 2025

### Artist

Concetta Modica | b. 1969, Italy

Concetta Modica was born in Modica and lives in Milan. Her work focuses on the present and its paradoxes, especially the idea of a contemporary epic, conceived through remnants and relationships with matter and sculpture-related media. Her solo exhibitions include *Excoperta* at GAMEC, Bergamo, and *Trilogia di Orlando*. Her project *La Notte di Sant'Anna* won PAC2021. In 2023 she published *28 notti*.

## To Fall with Grace, 2022

### Artist

Despina Charitonidi | b. 1991, Greece

Despina Charitonidi is a sculptor based in Athens, Greece. Her work focuses on stripping down primary elements found in urban and underwater construction sites and reforming them through processes of examination and material experimentation. Through these sculptural gestures, her practice reconsiders human environmental interference. Her work has been presented at Malta Biennale (2026), MT, Cittadellarte-

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Fondazione Pistoletto (2025), Theocharakis Foundation (2024), Ars Electronica X Cifra (2023), Microclima Festival – Cinema Galleggiante (2022), and Changwon Sculpture Biennale (2022).

## Mapping the Light, St Angelo, 2026

### Artist

Griet Dobbels | b. 1964, Belgium

Griet Dobbels is a Belgian visual artist living and working in Nazareth (B). She began her professional career in 1996 after graduating from the Royal College of Art, London. Her work explores landscapes from political, geographical, and archaeological perspectives and is realised through drawings, video installations, sculptures, and happenings.

## Estetica dell'Apocalisse, 2017-2024

### Artist

Pamela Diamante | b. 1985, Italy

Pamela Diamante (b. 1985, Bari) served in the Italian Army from 2002 to 2007, leaving with the rank of Corporal Major. She obtained a diploma in sculpture from the Academy of Fine Arts in Bari in 2016. Her multidisciplinary practice, encompassing audiovisual media, photography, sculpture, and installation, explores the relationship between social classes and the structures of political and economic power. Conceived as an open and dynamic process, her work questions viewer participation and critically engages with cultural, anthropological, and communicative mechanisms of knowledge and production.

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## Their Eyes Have No Lids, 2019

### Artist

Salvatore Arancio | b. 1974, Italy

Salvatore Arancio is an artist based in London and Nice, working across video, ceramics, sculpture, and installation. His practice investigates the transformative potential of images, exploring intersections of myth, science, nature, and spirituality. Ceramics, moving images, and immersive works function as sites of ambiguity, memory, and perception, reflecting the instability of knowledge and ecological fragility. Arancio has participated in major international biennials including the Venice Biennale, Shenzhen BI-CITY Biennale, and Manif d'Art, Quebec. His work is held in collections including MAXXI Rome, Museo Tamayo Mexico City, and the Galeries Lafayette Foundation.

## Holy Rollers – Time Landscape, 2020-2025

### Artist

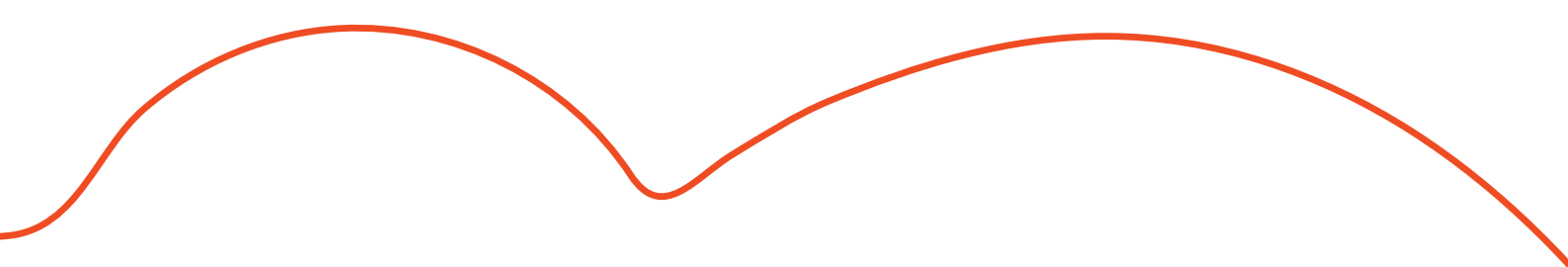
Victor Sonna | b. 1977, Cameroon

Victor Sonna (b. 1977) is a visual artist whose practice explores identity, malleability, and materiality. Born in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and raised in the Netherlands, he studied at the Design Academy Eindhoven and at AKV | St. Joost. He lives and works between Africa and the Netherlands. His work is informed by his personal history, negotiating between African roots and a European context, and spans paintings, sculptures, and large-scale installations. His work is held in museums and private collections.

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# Ċittadella & Victoria

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## International Exhibition

# Nine Nights of Malta: the journey of a tomato sepal to become a Star, 2025

### Artist

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# Conversations in fresh air, 2026

### Artist

Georgina Sleaf | b. 1987, United Kingdom

Georgina Sleaf is an artist living in Cairo. She trained at the University of the Arts, London, and Malmö Art Academy. In 2024 her solo exhibition *Lis-a-ma hel sitch* opened at the Ard Art Institution, Cairo. She has shown work at the Egyptian Museum, Cairo, Sir John Soane's Museum, London, and the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds. In 2023 she led a multidisciplinary research project funded by the Arts Council England.

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## Me in place and the place in me 2009 – ongoing

1. Portraits of the Rocks, 2025
2. Self-portraits with the rocks, 2025
3. Memory map of Malta, 2009
4. Mother land, 2026

### Artist

Nina Gerada | b. 1983, Malta

Nina Gerada is a Maltese artist who works with clay, landscape, and the body to explore embodiment. Born in Malta in 1983, she moved to London where she studied art, design, and architecture. Her career spans film production design, urban design, architecture, and sculpture. After 22 years abroad, she returned to Malta and this homecoming has become a central focus in her work. She has exhibited at the Malta Art Biennale (2024), the Malta Society of Arts (2024 and 2025), the British Ceramics Biennial (2023), and at 'Collect' in London (2022 and 2023)

## BADDANCEWITHTHEBADWEEDS, 2025

### Artist

Rocio Berenguer | b. 1987, Spain

Rocio Berenguer is an author and artistic director. She creates prospective narratives that question imaginaries of the future, primarily focusing on the themes of technology and ecology. Her creations predominantly take the form of dance/theatre shows and interactive installations.

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# Ġgantija Archaeological Park

Triq John Otto Bayer, Ix-Xagħra

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# The moons I did not see, 2021

### Artist

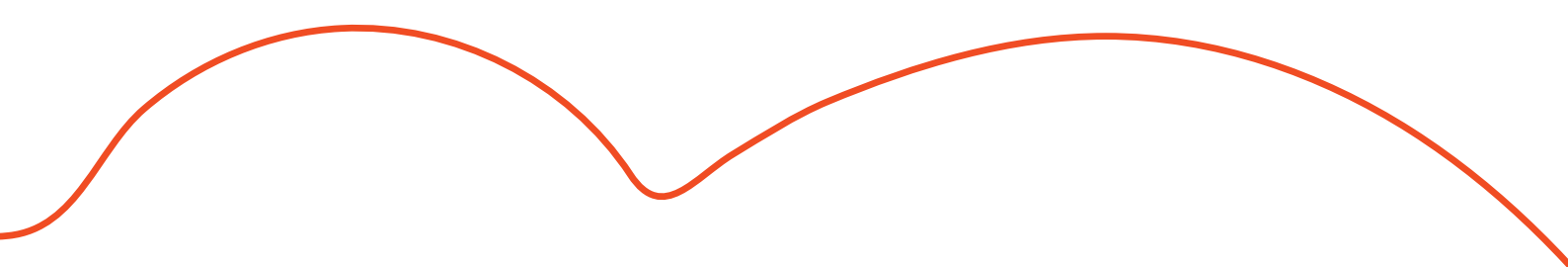
Saskia Calderón | b. 1981, Ecuador

Saskia Calderón is a visual artist and opera singer. She studied painting at the School of Plastic Arts in Quito in 1997 and holds a degree in plastic arts with a mention in engraving and painting from the Central University of Ecuador (2003). She also trained as a technician in lyrical singing at the National Conservatory of Music in Ecuador (2011). She has participated in over 70 contemporary art exhibitions worldwide with her video performances and sound works.

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# BLANK, 2026

## Artist

Therese Debono | b. 1977, Malta

Therese Debono is a Maltese photographer whose practice develops through long-term engagement with specific places. She is concerned with what cannot be seen: traces, erasure, and the quiet presence of what has taken place. Her work focuses on sites that have been altered, erased, or rebuilt, and are now becoming ordinary while still holding layers of lived experience and, at times, trauma. Rather than explain or reconstruct events, her photographs allow absence to remain visible. Her practice is shaped by repetition, restraint, and time. Alongside her artistic work, she lectures on photography and visual culture.

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# Ta' Kola Windmill

Il Bambina, Ix-Xagħra

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## International Exhibition

# Encryption #3 (Sima Bahous on violence against women in the digital space, Nov. 2025), 2026

### Artist

Bettina Hutschek | b. 1977, Germany

Bettina Hutschek is a visual artist based in Malta and Berlin. Working with text, drawing, video, installation and performance, she explores the construction and transmission of knowledge, deconstructing ideological narratives through stories, myths and speculative explanations. Her work blurs fiction and “truth” with a poetic and ironic sensibility. She was a Visiting Scholar at NYU Tisch School of the Arts, founded the NGO FRAGMENTA Malta (2013), co-curated the Maltese Pavilion at the 2017 Venice Biennale, and has worked as a cultural mediator and conference interpreter.

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## Songwashing, 2018

### Artist

Katia Sepúlveda | b. 1978, Chile

Katia Sepúlveda is a visual artist, filmmaker, and curator born in Santiago de Chile in 1978 and based in Cologne, Germany. Her practice engages with decolonial feminisms, critical theory, and political memory through moving image, archival research, and curatorial practice. She studied photography at the ARCOS Institute and film directing at the University of Chile and later pursued postgraduate studies at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne (KHM). She has participated in major international exhibitions, including the 32nd São Paulo Biennial.

## Katédesmoi in gold: the end of the hero, 2026

### Artist

Tania Berta Judith | b. 1988, Spain

Tania Berta Judith's practice draws on personal experience and genealogy to reinterpret history and women's knowledge. She uses embroidery as a politicised technique to reclaim authority for women's practices, structuring a symbolic world where orality, intuition, and the needle transmit knowledge.

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# 1. Ħobżna – A Ritual of Elements, 2026

## 2. Our Bread, 2026

### **Artist**

Victor Agius | b. 1982, Malta

Victor Agius is an artist based in Gozo, Malta, working across sculpture, painting, performance, and installation. Living near the prehistoric Ġgantija Archaeological Park, he explores the island through ritual documentation and the collection of materials from construction excavations. Using the local landscape as his primary medium, his practice addresses humanity's relationship with the earth through material transformation, ritual, and everyday labour. He trained at the University of Malta, with further studies in Perugia and at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, and is a member of the International Academy of Ceramics (IAC), Geneva.

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# Images

Images can be accessed [here](#).

Images of artworks and of respective Pavilions will be available after March 18.

All photos: courtesy of Heritage Malta / Malta Biennale 2026.

# Contact Details

For all media enquiries, please contact Lisa Gwen Chetcuti on:  
**[communications@maltabiennale.art](mailto:communications@maltabiennale.art)**

The Malta Biennale is online: **[www.maltabiennale.art](http://www.maltabiennale.art)**

Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn: **[@maltabiennale.art](#)**

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