



**MANIFESTA  
PALERMO 12**

NEWS RELEASE 13 July 2017

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## **“Aspettando Manifesta 12” opens in Palermo**

**Manifesta 12 launches a specific programme for Palermitans in the historical Teatro Garibaldi, inviting the local community to share ideas with Manifesta 12 before the biennial opens in Palermo in 2018**

On Thursday, 13 July at 6 pm, an iconic historical building in Palermo, the Teatro Garibaldi reopened its doors with an exciting cultural programme in anticipation of the Manifesta 12 biennial to be held in Palermo in 2018. **“Aspettando Manifesta 12”** (Waiting for Manifesta 12) is a multi-layered program designed to raise awareness among Palermitans about the fact that Manifesta 12 is coming to their city and to provide them with a social hub to proactively learn about and share ideas with Manifesta 12. Access to “Aspettando Manifesta 12” in Teatro Garibaldi is free of charge. The program is open to visitors from Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 7 pm from 13 July 2017 until 29 October 2017.

### **Manifesta Cultural Histories**

Within the program, visitors can explore the biennial’s history with an archival exhibition created by the Manifesta team called “Manifesta Cultural Histories”. The exhibition uses photographs, video, text and artefacts to reveal the stories and ideas behind previous Manifesta editions. Free guided tours are available throughout July from Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 7 pm for groups of up to 15 people. A reservation is required and can be made via telephone: +39-333.6330044 or email: [m12booking@manifesta.org](mailto:m12booking@manifesta.org) during booking hours (Monday to Friday from 10 am to 7 pm).

### **Manifesta 12 Pop-Up Library**

Palermitans are also invited to visit the new Manifesta 12 pop-up library, which features a selection of books and publications on contemporary art, architecture and visual culture from the

Manifesta archive, as well as donations from Italian publishers and cultural institutions. It includes a special children's section, as well as a café serving drinks and light bites, creating a convivial space within Teatro Garibaldi.

The Manifesta 12 pop-up library will also feature "Fatimide's Tales", a project initiated by the Manifesta 12 education team with Palermo-born artist **Gabriella Ciancimino** and students from the **Amari Roncalli Ferrara School** and kids of Piazza Magione, situated next to Teatro Garibaldi. In a series of workshops, the artist and children have explored past and future stories of the square, reflecting on what it has been and what it could become. These stories were brought to life in a series of drawings by the children, which were collected into a large handmade book, and available to read in the Manifesta 12 pop-up library. The artist Gabriella Ciancimino has recreated the drawings into illustrations for the windows of the Manifesta 12 pop-up library, which will be unveiled during the public opening of "Aspettando Manifesta 12" on Thursday, 13 July.

In addition to the exhibition, pop-up library and café, "Aspettando Manifesta 12" will host film screenings, including the unique **ArtDocs** produced for Manifesta 11 in Zurich in 2016 by the edition's curator Christian Jankowski. ArtDocs is a collaborative documentary series created by students, teenagers, artists and local professionals for Manifesta 11. Through experimental storytelling and filmmaking, the documentaries offer a glimpse into the making-of process of each newly commissioned work for Manifesta 11.

In the autumn, a series of lectures, workshops and discussions dedicated to the ideas behind Manifesta's past editions will be held in Teatro Garibaldi as part of "Aspettando Manifesta 12". The team is working on organising events with a diverse range of artists, curators and creatives who have participated in previous Manifesta editions and will be invited to Palermo to share ideas and stimulate international networking within the local community.

"Aspettando Manifesta 12" is open to the public on **Thursday, 13 July at 18.00** with an informal inauguration event that includes complimentary drinks and bites, Sicilian wine provided by the sponsor of the event, Tasca D'Almerita, and live music by Palermitan DJ, Sergio Cataldi.

"The nomadic nature of the Manifesta biennial requires the proactive engagement and participation of local audiences and communities well ahead of the biennial, which will allow for a seamless passage from 'Aspettando Manifesta 12' to the making of Manifesta 12". – **Hedwig Fijen, Director of Manifesta**

“After necessary security work, Teatro Garibaldi re-opens to the city as the Manifesta 12 headquarter. Once the biennial is over, Teatro Garibaldi will become a city theater again. It is another example of a historical building that has been returned to the city in anticipation of Palermo becoming the Italian Capital of Culture in 2018.” – **Leoluca Orlando, Mayor of Palermo, and Andrea Cusumano, Councilor of Culture**

**Manifesta 12 Palermo Dates:**

16.06.18 – 04.11.18

TV and local press preview: 13.06.18

VIP, professional and international press previews: 14.06 – 15.06.18

Opening weekend: 16.06 – 17.06.18

**Manifesta 12 Palermo Initiators:**

Manifesta

The City of Palermo

**Manifesta 12 Palermo Creative Mediators:**

Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli, Italian architect and partner at OMA

Bregtje van der Haak, Dutch filmmaker and journalist

Andrés Jaque, Spanish architect, artist and scholar based in New York

Mirjam Varadinis, Swiss contemporary art curator

**Manifesta 12 Digital:**

[www.manifesta12.org](http://www.manifesta12.org)

#Manifesta12Palermo

Facebook: manifestabiennial

Instagram: manifestabiennial

**About Manifesta:**

Manifesta, the European Nomadic Biennial, originated in the early 1990s in response to the political, economic and social change following the end of the Cold War and the subsequent steps towards European integration. Since it began, Manifesta has developed into a platform for dialogue between art and society in Europe, by inviting the cultural and artistic community to produce new creative experiences with, not just for, the context in which it takes place.

Manifesta was founded and is still run by Dutch art historian, Hedwig Fijen, in Amsterdam. Each new edition is started and fundraised individually, while being managed by a permanent team of international specialists. Manifesta works from offices in Amsterdam and Palermo, with a new office soon to be based in Marseille. Led by Hedwig Fijen and Peter Paul Kainrath, the permanent team consists of Tatiana Tarragó, Paul Domela, Esther Regueira, Yana Klichuk, Asell Yusupova, Marieke van Hal and Mikaela Poltz, as well as Manifesta 12 general manager Roberto Albergoni and coordinator Francesca Verga. In its next decade, Manifesta will focus on evolving from an influential contemporary art biennial to an interdisciplinary European platform that investigates and catalyses positive social change in Europe through contemporary culture.

### **Previous Manifesta Host Cities**

Manifesta 1, Rotterdam (Netherlands, 1996)  
Manifesta 2, Luxembourg (Luxembourg, 1998)  
Manifesta 3, Ljubljana (Slovenia, 2000)  
Manifesta 4, Frankfurt (Germany, 2002)  
Manifesta 5, Donostia-San Sebastián (Spain, 2004)  
Manifesta 6, Nicosia (Cyprus, 2006 – cancelled)  
Manifesta 7, Trentino-Alto Adige (Italy, 2008)  
Manifesta 8, Murcia - Cartagena (Spain, 2010)  
Manifesta 9, Genk-Limburg (Belgium, 2012)  
Manifesta 10, St. Petersburg (Russia, 2014)  
Manifesta 11, Zurich (Switzerland, 2016)

**For further information about Manifesta, please contact:**

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