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Manifesta 12 Palermo Announcement of OMA as Creative Mediator

Leoluca Orlando, Mayor of the City of Palermo, Hedwig Fijen, Director of Manifesta, and Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli, partner at OMA, are delighted to announce the Creative Mediator team for the 12th edition of Manifesta, held in Palermo, Italy, 2018.

The Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) has been invited by the Director of Manifesta, Hedwig Fijen, to mediate the complex architectural and urban structure of the city of Palermo.

OMA will put together an interdisciplinary team to investigate the role of city governance and address how contemporary cities are affected by tourism, gentrification, migration and climate change.

The OMA team, led by partner Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli, will investigate the urban, social and cultural transformations of Palermo and will work together with specialists from the fields of contemporary art, sociology, music, cinema and architecture. Manifesta 12 will feature a series of interactive, interdisciplinary, performative and artistic interventions.

Leoluca Orlando, Mayor of Palermo:

After being listed as a Unesco World Heritage site with its "Arab-Norman Palermo and the Cathedral Churches of Cefalù and Monreale", Palermo has confirmed its nomadic and migrant vocation. As a nomadic and migrant focused city, we consider "Manifesta" as one of the main international events for contemporary culture and the arts. We expect this occasion to be another milestone in the development path of Palermo; a social and economic enhancement based on culture and the arts, addressing the issue of human mobility. The complex organisation of Manifesta, that today has taken another step forward to confirm its high profile with the presentation of the Creative Mediator, is working to ensure the Biennial is a relevant and true cultural event, which will bring many visitors and contemporary art lovers to Palermo.

Hedwig Fijen, Manifesta Director:

I have invited Sicilian born Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli and his team at OMA to join Manifesta 12 as Creative Mediator in the City of Palermo. For this next edition, I felt the need to change the curatorial model. Therefore, having worked with a single artist as curator for Manifesta 11 Zurich, the Palermo edition will also feature an interdisciplinary sustainable project. The focus is on how Manifesta 12 can help to develop new rules or instruments for local communities to reclaim their city. OMA, as an architecture office and research centre, is the right partner for Manifesta 12 because of their broad interest in how cities are affected by major geo-political issues. OMA's team of specialists will help to translate the programmatic vision into an accessible biennial program in 2018, taking place in various locations in Palermo.

Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli, OMA:

We are honored to work with the city of Palermo for the next Manifesta 12. In the current political climate, Palermo's history and character make it the ideal laboratory to re-imagine, from a Mediterranean perspective, the liberal values we share, and to address crucial issues for the present and future of the European city. On a personal level, being Italian and Sicilian born, but like many of my generation having worked abroad for many years, I feel particularly privileged to contribute to this edition of Manifesta.

Palermo's dense history – it was occupied by almost every European civilisation and has been deeply connected to North Africa and the eastern Mediterranean for the past 2000 years – has left its traces throughout this multi-cultural society at the heart of the Mediterranean. The city's complex cultural stratification will be staged by Manifesta 12 through contemporary art, scenography, music, cinema, spatial studies, technology and education.

With this intention, Manifesta 12 has invited a Creative Mediator with experience in both urbanism and cultural analysis to collaborate with a team of co-mediators. The key goal of Manifesta 12 is to work with local communities in a truly interdisciplinary way to engage with the basic architectural, urban, economic, social and cultural structures of Palermo, and to trace a connection between the city and the wider Mediterranean and European perspectives.

The concept for Manifesta 12 and the team of specialists will be announced beginning of 2017.

About Manifesta

Manifesta is the third most influential European Biennial. The establishment of Manifesta goes back to the early 1990s and its radical economic and social changes, which followed the era of the Cold War and began the formation of a new European identity. Manifesta has since become an interdisciplinary platform, which, through intensive research into its own location and the production of new artworks, has established a dialogue between international and local players about questions of art and society in Europe. From exhibitions and performances to multi-media experiments and radio and TV programmes: Manifesta always emphasises critical thought, scientific research and artistic experimentation. To achieve this, it has involved artists and groups of experts from various backgrounds and nationalities in the intensive years of preparation in the run-up to each edition.

www.manifesta.org

About OMA

OMA is an international practice operating within the traditional boundaries of architecture and urbanism. AMO, a research and design studio, applies architectural thinking to domains beyond. OMA is led by nine partners - Rem Koolhaas, Ellen van Loon, Reinier de Graaf, Shohei Shigematsu, Iyad Alsaka, David Gianotten, Chris van Duijn, Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli, Jason Long - and maintains offices in Rotterdam, New York, Beijing, Hong Kong, Doha, Dubai and Perth. OMA-designed buildings currently under construction include Taipei Performing Arts Centre, Qatar National Library, Qatar Foundation Headquarters, and a new corporate headquarters for the Axel Springer media group in Berlin. Recent completions include the Faena District in Miami, the Fondaco dei Tedeschi in Venice, the Design Museum and Holland Green apartments in London, and a new building for the Musee national des beaux-arts du Quebec.

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:

Manifesta Foundation
Herengracht 474
1017 CA Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 20 672 14 35
E-mail: m12press@manifesta.org

Fondazione Manifesta 12 Palermo
Via Dante 53
90141 Palermo
E-Mail: m12 press@manifesta.org