

# manifesta<sup>o</sup>



Città di Palermo

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## Palermo selected as Host-City for Manifesta 12 in 2018



**Manifesta, the European Biennial of Contemporary Art, and the City of Palermo, Italy are proud to announce that the 12th edition of Manifesta in 2018 will take place in Palermo.**

**This and the first steps of the programme were announced today by Hedwig Fijen, Director of Manifesta and Leoluca Orlando, Mayor of the City of Palermo.**

**Manifesta, the nomadic European Contemporary Art Biennial**, originated in the early nineties in response to the political, economic and social changes following the end of the Cold War and the subsequent steps towards European integration. Since then, Manifesta has developed into a travelling platform that focuses on the dialogue between art and society in Europe. Manifesta is a project based on community: its success depends on the collaboration between the international and local actors and the involvement and engagement of the local communities.

# MANIFESTA<sup>o</sup>



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The City of Palermo was important for Manifesta's selection board for its representation of two important themes that identify contemporary Europe: **migration** and **climate changes** and how these issues impact our cities. The multi-layered and deeply condensed history of Palermo – being occupied by almost every European civilization and having long-term connections with Northern Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean over the last 2000 years – has left its traces throughout this multi-cultural society at the heart of the Mediterranean area.

Hedwig Fijen, Manifesta Director:

*"Manifesta 12 in Palermo is a great challenge to rethink how far cultural interventions can play a role in helping re-shaping one of the most iconic Mediterranean crossroads in our history as part of a long term transformation process. Manifesta 12 will raise questions such as: "Who owns the city of Palermo?" and "how to claim back the city?" The city's migration problems are symbolic of the far wider crisis situation which the whole of Europe is facing right now."*

Leoluca Orlando, Mayor of Palermo:

*"Manifesta 12 in Palermo in 2018 will be a fantastic opportunity for the city to reinvigorate its local and international identity. It is a moment for Europe to appreciate the significance of its Mediterranean dimension and identity: Palermo brings Manifesta to the Mediterranean and the Mediterranean to Europe. Manifesta 12 is an opportunity to celebrate Palermo for what it really is: a laboratory for the humanities, arts and culture. The city will be able to renew itself and pave a way for its future."*

Manifesta 12's main ambition is to work in a truly **interdisciplinary way** with local communities in order to rethink the basic architectural, urban, economic, social and cultural structures of the city. Manifesta 12 can investigate how great the role of cultural intervention can be in allowing the Palermitani citizens to take back ownership of their city. Manifesta 12 in Palermo can act as a grass-root incubator supporting the local communities with cultural interventions: this will help to rethink the city in their socio-economical and cultural structures and will use the existing informal profile of the city to act as a platform for social change.

The **next steps** for the Manifesta 12 team in 2015 are - according to Director Hedwig Fijen - the implementation of the organisational framework for M12 to work within city and to create a structure in which Manifesta 12 can imbed its ideas within the local communities and continue the work they have already done. The interdisciplinary context in which Manifesta 12 will operate requires the nomination of a specialized team of creative mediators who can realize the ambition of rethinking the City of Palermo from a multiple range of perspectives. The nomination of the creative team is expected in the beginning of 2016, in order to allow them to work for the full 2,5 years in advance of the opening of the biennial in 2018.

The upcoming **pre-biennial program** will start in building the process for a sustainable theoretical framework and will set out the parameters of the city's revitalisation process. In this phase, Manifesta would like to activate the communities of Palermo in the identification of its mission statement and objectives, as well as the challenges, expectations and outcomes of Manifesta 12.

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About



Città di Palermo Manifesta

Manifesta is a foundation based in Amsterdam. The establishment of Manifesta goes back to the early 1990s and the radical economic and social changes of the era, which followed the Cold War and began the formation of a new European identity. Manifesta has since become a European 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 artists from various backgrounds and nationalities in the intensive two years of preparation in the run-up to each edition.

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

## **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, Cartagena (Spain, 2010)  
Manifesta 9, Genk-Limburg (Belgium, 2012)  
Manifesta 10, St. Petersburg (Russia, 2014)  
Manifesta 11, Zurich (Switzerland, 2016 – current)

Manifesta 11 is taking place in Zurich from 9 th of June till the 19 th of September 2016 and is curated by Christian Jankowski with the title: "What People do for Money: Some Joint Ventures". Accreditation for Zurich will start in April 2016.

[www.manifesta11.org](http://www.manifesta11.org)

## **For further information about Manifesta please contact the Manifesta Foundation**

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