

GO! 2025
NOVA GORICA
GORIZIA



Mediterranea 20 Young Artists Biennale
Nova Gorica/Gorizia, May 31st – June 4th 2025

OPEN CALL FOR ARTISTS



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General Information

BJCEM, GO25! European Capital of Culture 2025 and SKUC Association announce the launch of Mediterranea 20 Young Artists Biennale, an international multidisciplinary event, that takes place in Nova Gorica - Gorizia, from **May 31st to June 4th 2025**. It will bring together around 100 Euro-Mediterranean artists.

Started in 1985, the Biennale takes place every two years in a different city in the Mediterranean area and focuses on young artists and creators. BJCEM is an international network with around 50 members and partners from Europe, the Middle East and Africa that, thanks to their support, make the event possible ensuring the participation of artists from the territories they represent.

The aims of this international Network are to create opportunities for young artists to enable mobility, exchange, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue, collaboration and training. The Association supports their creativity processes and puts them in contact with local and international realities in order to help them to grow personally and professionally.

BJCEM believes that art and culture must play a role in society since they enable the values of different cultures to be discovered and learnt whilst enriching our own. Art is a tool that can be used to go beyond borders and conflicts, and it does not require the need to speak the same language because it implies a universal code.

The call is open to all creative – multidisciplinary artists, visual artists, filmmakers, writers, performers, musicians, designers and creative chefs from 18 to 34 years old (born from January 1st 1990). There are no submission fees and it is open to everyone regardless of gender, religion, social and political behaviours. However, artists that have participated in **more than** one previous edition cannot apply; priority will be given to artists that have never attended a Biennale before.

Selected artists will be hosted in Nova Gorica **from 31st to June 4th 2025**. During these days their works and performances will be displayed in specific venues of the cities. The exhibitions will remain open to the public until the end of June 2025.

The deadline for applications is October 31st 2024, 9pm CEST. The applications received after the deadline will be automatically rejected.

The names of the selected artists will be published on BJCEM's website (www.bjcem.org) on November 22nd 2024, at the latest .

1. Letter from the curators

Dear Bodies,

We are a body all together.

We are writing from a shared desk at the GO!25 Borderless office in Nova Gorica and following our site visits before the first local press get-together and before the call is live.

In the accompanying photo, a public sign in three languages, Slovene, Italian and English, communicates the name of the area under construction in three different ways of expressing the 'identity': TRG EVROPE, PIAZZA TRANSALPINA, and BORDERLESS SQUARE. Both cities—Nova Gorica and Gorizia—share flora and fauna, as well as the historical border and many cultural layers, materialising the umbrella phrase of the GO!2025 “borderless.” You can literally walk from one city centre to another in 5-10 minutes. This proximity will temporarily provide a setting for the emergence of a contemporary art micro-community engaging with the local population with all its complexities and niceties.

We had the opportunity to see that new urban developments and city planning will already impact and shape our exhibition map and events calendar. That is why we are inviting bodies to interact with contextually stacked locations, which include contemporary questions on our connections, separations, and boundaries.

One of the challenges of making the Young Artists Biennial within European borders alongside the Mediterranean focus means drawing the collective portrait of the new generations of young artists. Much older than many established biennials, this tradition will celebrate its 20th edition at a geographically relevant point of borderlessness.

Frustratingly yet hopefully under the guise of borderlessness, we believe that the gathering, coming together, and multiplicity of bodies are contextually relevant to today's frictions. Bringing young practices to senior-populated yet youthfully activated towns in the current political climate is an opportunity to talk about the problems and solutions of the future openly, internationally, intergenerationally, community-wide, and caringly.

We kindly invite you to reflect on contemporary art practices, which offer solutions between borders:

“We frame our biennial edition with a simple three-phrase formulation of what we find relevant to connect beings. The three crucial Fs (Forums, Forms, Food) and their adjectives are referential to today's contemporary art. All are shared and exchanged on horizontal levels:

Forum (critici) — (Artistic) Forms — (Ustvarjalna) hrana

We emphasise light forms of materiality in relation to the ethereal nature around us. This inspires us to address the future forms of artistic expression together and consider caringly what comes into this environment, careful of the term “waste” in relation to exhibition-making and display techniques.

We ask what is disposable between different borders? What happens when you cross a border, and who determines their positions? What can we let go and where to set boundaries? Faced with borders but responsible for our boundaries.

*We're looking for **dreamers, travellers, risk-takers, experimentalists, non-conformists, and those seeking belonging and connections** rather than self-designed subjects with an immediate expectation of exchange, branding, and networking.*

Welcome to break borders and set boundaries with us at Nova Gorica and Gorizia on 31 May 2025!"

2. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

Submit your **portfolio**.

Including a specific project proposal is optional but welcome if you'd like to add one.

- Explore the concept of borderlessness by examining connections and boundaries.
- Collaborate with others to build a temporary contemporary art micro-community.
- Engage with one of the three key themes: Critical Forums, Artistic Forms, and Creative Food.
- Encourage dialogue across international, intergenerational, and community levels.
- Critically examine and rethink the meaning of borders, focusing on what can be discarded and where boundaries should be maintained.
- Emphasise non-conformity, risk-taking, and experimentation in your art practice.
- Adopt ethical and environmentally sustainable methods in creating and displaying art.

- Foster open, caring, and thoughtful engagement with people and the environment.

3. MODALITIES OF PARTICIPATION

Artists interested to present their candidatures should send:

- [Application form duly filled in English and signed](#);
- Portfolio and CV in English language;
- **Adding for each discipline the following materials (in English language) related to the project you intend to present:**

Applied Arts: PDF composed of a maximum of three projects, which include 3D sketches, digital material and computerised work.

Cooking practices and edible art: Proposed menu, ingredients, and a brief summary of the cooking process. Please indicate connections and references to the local cuisines.

Film: A short plot (300 words count) and a screener through a Vimeo or WeTransfer link with a working password and enabled download option.

Literary Creation: If the text is ready, send it as a Word doc. For a work-in-progress, please send an outline with the main concept.

Music: A demo mp3 through Wetransfer; if there are lyrics, please include a Word doc.

Participatory practices, social space and relational art: Describe the context and conditions within an outline proposal with acts and steps of actions. Send as a Word doc.

Performance: Video documentation (edited within 5 minutes max) with a list of the performing artists. For a work-in-progress, include photos of the process, drawings, sketches, a list of the performing artists, and a script (if any). Please use Vimeo or WeTransfer.

Transdisciplinary positions: Please decide on a practical ground, present some research material, and list your methodological inquiries.

Visual Art: Artist portfolio focusing on recent projects and a proposal if necessary.

All video materials as Vimeo or WeTransfer links with all necessary passwords and download options.

All photos should be in good resolution (max 10MB), gathered in PDF format, or shared on Google Drive.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The candidatures have to be sent by October 31st 2024 directly to BJCEM member/partner as specified below. **THE DOSSIERS HAVE TO BE SENT IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT ONLY** (via email, WeTransfer, Dropbox folders etc.).
- In the object of the email, it must be clearly indicated: name and surname of the applicant, discipline, city/region/country.
- Please note that each BJCEM member will select a number of productions and disciplines defined by the Network on the basis of their budgetary availability.

4. SELECTION PROCEDURES

The selection of participants will be carried out by local and national juries of experts in different areas. Each jury, in collaboration with the two international curators, will select the artists on the basis of the presented dossiers. **The decisions of each jury are final and not subject to appeal and they will be documented in a report. Quality of work and the bearing on the guidelines will be basic selection criteria.**

5. ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES

The presentation of the candidature automatically implies the **complete acceptance** of the present regulations and the approval of reproduction of the pictures, visual and video of the selected works in the communication and promotional materials related to the event or the artists.

Each selected artist commits to be available to participate at Mediterranea 20 Young Artists Biennale from May 31st to June 4th 2025.

6. OBLIGATIONS OF THE ORGANISATION

BJCEM network and the local organisers will take care of artists' participation:

- The selected artists will receive a gross fee of 250 euro **per production** directly given by BJCEM members and partners on the basis of their internal rules.
- A round-trip **travel from and to the city indicated in the application form as city of residence, will be provided choosing the more sustainable and cheapest travel solution.**
- **Artists will be accommodated in double rooms (no single rooms will be guaranteed).**
- **Meals, artwork insurance and set up will be provided.**

7. RIGHTS OF THE ORGANISATION

Participants agree to non-exclusive right of BJCEM, only for promotional and non-commercial use, to publish and duplicate images, videos texts and other forms of documentation of the selected artists and artworks. These productions will be promoted under the logo of Mediterranea 20 Young Artists Biennale.

- By filling out the participation form, each artist authorises the use of their image/voice and the reproduction of their research outcome for promotional purposes and dissemination activities.

8. DATA PROTECTION

- By submitting this application, you consent to the collection, processing, and storage of your personal data for the purpose of evaluating your eligibility for participation in the project. Your data will be treated confidentially and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The present announcement shall be governed by the law of the country in which the artists send their application.

For general inquiries please write to: bjcem.aisbl@gmail.com

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES AND MAXIMUM OF ARTISTS SELECTED:

Please note that you can apply in your country of residency for all the disciplines but if you read 1 artist it means that only individual candidatures will be accepted. If you read more artists, it indicates the maximum number of artists that the member is able to support. They have the faculty to choose one production made by the maximum of artists indicated or more individual candidatures, on the basis of the quality of the candidatures that will be submitted. Please note that the fee given by BJCEM members is per production, not per artist.

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY BJCEM MEMBERS (the following countries are represented by one or more members of the BJCEM network; the members regularly pay the membership fees and financially support the participation of the selected artists).

ALBANIA: 4 artists

Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation and Municipality of Tirana

send the candidatures to: kultura@meki.gov.al

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: 1 artist

International Peace Center Sarajevo

send the candidatures to: sarajevowinter2024@gmail.com

CYPRUS: 6 artists

Department of Modern and Contemporary Culture of the Deputy Ministry of Culture of Cyprus

send the candidature to: mediterraneabiennale@gmail.com

GREECE

Department for Culture and Youth Artistic Creativity, Youth Directorate, General Secretariat for Demography and Housing Policy, 3 artists

send the candidature to: biennale2025@minscfa.gov.gr

Municipality of Thessaloniki (only artists based in Thessaloniki), 3 artists

send the candidature to: m.papadaki@thessaloniki.gr

ITALY:

GAI- Association for the Circuit of the Young Italian Artists. (National Selection), 1 artist.

send the candidature to: mediterraneabiennale@gmail.com

ARCI NAZIONALE, ARCI EMILIA ROMAGNA, ARCI LOMBARDIA, ARCI TORINO (National selection), 5 artists

send the candidature to: areacultura@arcinazionale.it

Municipality of Turin (Only artists from Turin and suburbs), 1 artist

send the candidature to: mediterraneabiennale@gmail.com

Municipality of Milan (Only artists from Milan), 1 artist

send the candidatures to: mediterraneabiennale@gmail.com

Municipality of Padua (Only artists from Veneto Region), 1 artist

send the candidature to: pg.creativita@comune.padova.it

Municipality of Bologna (Only artists from Bologna), 1 artist

send the candidature to: mediterraneabiennale@gmail.com

Municipality of Roma Capitale (Only artists from Rome), 1 artist

Send the candidature to: mediterraneabiennale@gmail.com

Municipality of Campobasso (Only artists from Campobasso), 1 artist

send the candidature to: gianna.spirito@comune.campobasso.it
giovanna.viola@comune.campobasso.it

Puglia Region (Only artists from Puglia), 2 artists

send the candidature to: mediterraneabiennale@gmail.com

Sardegna Teatro (Only artists from Sardegna), 1 artist

send the candidature to: bjcem@sardeginateatro.it

LEBANON: 2 artists

Shams Association

send the candidature to anawar@shamslb.org / abdominable@hotmail.com

MALTA: 1 artist

Unfinished art space

send the candidature to: margherita@unfinishedartspace.org

NORWAY: 4 artists

FLUKS CENTER

send the candidatures to info@trafo.no

MONTENEGRO: 2 artists

Ministry of Culture and Media of Montenegro

send the candidature to: petar.kovacevic@mku.gov.me

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO: 9 artists

Istituti Culturali

send the candidature to: mediterraneabiennale@gmail.com

Università di San Marino

send the candidature to: mediterraneabiennale@gmail.com

PORTUGAL: 4 artists

CPAI

send the candidature to: mediterraneabiennale@gmail.com

SCOTLAND: 1 artist

Timespan

send the candidature to: mediterraneabiennale@gmail.com

SLOVENIA: 20 artists

ŠKUC Association

send the candidature to: bienale.mladih@skuc.org

UK 4 artists

UKNA

send the candidatures to: info@uknewartists.co.uk

OTHER ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES of the Mediterranean and former BJCEM members

Artists from countries that are currently not represented by any BJCEM member can apply but will only be able to participate if, upon selection, external funding can be managed (e.g. additional project funding, new partner or member of the BJCEM from country of origin, etc.)

Applications will be accepted from individuals from the following countries and a maximum of 5 artists will be selected:

Algeria, Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar (UK), Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Kosovo, Latvia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Palestine, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Syria, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Vatican City.

Considering that no call will be open in Austria (BJCEM external partner), Spain and Turkey (BJCEM members), artists from those countries are welcome to apply under the mentioned conditions.

Applications from any of the above countries must be sent only to: biennale.med.2025@gmail.com

If an organisation from one of the above-listed countries would like to support one or more artists from its territory, please contact BJCEM (bjcem.aisbl@gmail.com) to discuss the conditions.

To join the BJCEM network as a new member follow the instructions at the following [link](#).