



Empathy and Sustainability: The Art of Thinking Like a Mountain

2nd Newsletter

FEATURED EMPACT STORIES



UGM EVENT IN BERLIN



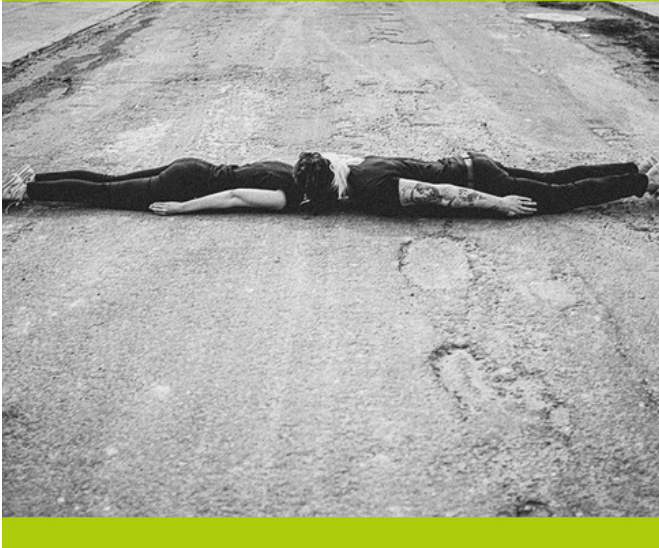
ARTIST ANNOUNCEMENT



NATFA WORKSHOP



ARTISTIC HAPPENING IN BERLIN



Umetnostna Galerija Maribor (UGM) is a major gallery in Slovenia, and their role in the project is important for the organization of workshops, exhibitions and artistic and creative expression.

In order to contribute towards the Capacity Building work package of the EMPACT project UGM has recently collaborated with internationally acclaimed artist JAŠA and involving a team of more than thirty collaborators (performers, musicians, choreographers, writers, producers, technicians), UGM has organised two major art-happenings in Berlin, with the aim to bring visibility to the EMPACT project in one of Europe's preeminent cultural centres. The two art happenings in Berlin, in collaboration with internationally acclaimed artist JAŠA (Jaša Mrevlje-Pollak, kicked-off on **17 March 2023** and a follow up event is set to take place in **May 2023**.

The Monuments by JAŠA is a durational project developed on the premises of Kühlhaus Berlin. It is divided into 17 chapters, with each individual chapter an independent and unique event. EMPACT and UGM are the commissioners of Chapters 7 & 8. UGM presented the first installment of the EMPACT art happenings, at Kühlhaus Berlin in Berlin, Germany. Together all involved embarked on the journey through one of two chapters of the monumental work by the internationally renowned artist JAŠA.

The Monuments, Chapters 7 & 8 concentrate on the themes of EMPACT – Creative Sustainability, Empathy for Nature, Empathic & Resilient Artists – as their point of departure and craft unique performative and site-specific experiences around them. JAŠA's conceptual stance is embedded within individual events as an “attitude” towards the use of space and time. “Have you ever wanted to enter a sculpture?” becomes a fact, a statement, not just a rhetorical question. A work of art shapes and generates reality, even though it is ephemeral. Temporarily built from fleeting intersections, it is completely tangible and sensual. For Chapters 7 & 8, JAŠA will invite the audience to embody a position beyond human vs. nature hierarchy and embrace the possibility of establishing a relationship between human and nature as an interpersonal reciprocal necessity. Empathy will be evoked as the guiding principle in achieving a sustainable way forward.

UGM



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EMPACT ARTISTIC RESIDENCIES PROGRAMME ARTIST ANNOUNCEMENT

14 ARTISTS | 4 LOCATIONS | 12 DAYS ! 1 JOINT EXHIBITION



The international jury has confirmed the names of 14 successful artists that partners are proud to welcome to the **EMPACT** project who will participate in the upcoming Artistic Residencies Programme taking place in Summer – Autumn 2023. The chosen artists will join us for 12 days in one of the four various locations, namely Italy, Greece, Bulgaria and Spain, hosted by **EMPACT** Partners, **Nature, Art & Habitat Residency (NAHR)**, **Vorres Museum, National Academy of Theatre and Film Arts (NATFA) “Kr. Sarafov”**, and **Espacio Rojo**.

In this edition of the EMPACT newsletter we offer the opportunity to get to know the selected artists and their plans during their residency:

NAHR will host five artists in Taleggio Valley, Italy between 04 - 15 July 2023.



Ana Pečar's video-based practice revolves around intangible, subtle, yet expressive scenes of nature. Spanning installations, photographs and ambient interventions, Pečar works to offer contemplative spaces, buffered from the outer fast pace world. During the NAHR residency, Ana film the process of cheese making and present it on a large scale panoramic video installation. Additionally, a series of embroideries on fabric containing local legends will be produced. Finally, portrait photographs of significant stones and flowers will be captured and printed.



Andria Zachariou is a recent graduate from the Fine and Applied Arts program at Cyprus University of Technology (CUT). She presented her work in Cyprus through group exhibitions. In 2022, she has also undertaken an Erasmus exchange in Facultad de Bellas Artes, Granada, She intends to work based on the walks in Italy and collect the memories of it, resulting in creating art directly inspired by the significant walks around the landscapes. Andria plans to do an installation with the natural materials collected.




Kaja Rakušček graduated from the University of Ljubljana with a degree in English Language and Literature. She is active in the fields of filmmaking, volunteering and poetry. Kaja would take Taleggio valley as a case study, focusing on air and the locals' relationship towards it; I would initiate conversation about the air that they breathe and how it affects them. This would result in a sound installation showcasing different conditions that can arise from breathing polluted air.



Lea Petrou studied at Chelsea College, received a BA in Fine Art from Central St. Martins College, and a Masters in Sculpture from Royal College of Art, in London. Currently she is a PhD student at Athens School of Fine Art. During the NAHR residency, Lea intends to investigate on the natural, geographical, historical, social and political characteristics of the Taleggio Valley in Bergamo and will incorporate different materials and techniques, like drawings, writing, collage, embroidery and interviews, based on walking techniques, in order to create a series of imaginary maps of the Valley.



Mirian Kolev is a musician, composer and multidisciplinary artist, who lives in the Mountain of Bulgaria and works in experimental, electroacoustic, ambient, improvisational music sphere and sound art. He is also doing collaborative shows and projects with other musicians, visual artists, dancers, performers and composing music for art installations, videos and dance performances. Mirian residency project envisages field recordings of the general sound background characterizing the area and specific sounds from the environment. As a final result , Kolev plans to present both a sound installation and a live musical performance.

Vorres Museum will host three artists in Athens, Greece between 31 July - 11 August 2023. 



Alva Moca graduated from University of Segovia with a Bachelors in Advertising. Later he studied Digital Illustration, Graphic Design, Film Post-production, Editing and Animation in Madrid. He has also studied engraving, drawing and silkscreen printing in Chile. His graphic work is a mixture of cyanotype, collage, illustration, mural, painting and recycling, all of this with a great influence of graphic design, travelling through galleries and festivals in Spain, Chile, Italy, Ecuador, Mexico, USA, England, Peru, France, Portugal, Iceland, etc.

During the residency Alva plans to Painting/printing with the sun as a tool and produce a portrait of our civilization for an unknown and unfiltered look through a list of characters on the edge of the human, in a society paradoxically more inhuman. From the technique of cyanotype and screen printing, Alva's work arises from the observation of the reality that surrounds me.



Venelin Shurelov is a cross media artist. His projects are multifaceted and include drawings, interactive installation and performances, digital technologies, video and art theory.

Venelin is inspired by the notion of walking (as art) as a means of exploring the relationships between time, distance, geography, and scale. He stats "I am curious about the local specifics of the place. I believe that aesthetics is a social event rather than a visual one." The media that Venelin plans to use is video, performance, drawing, custom electronics.



Veredas Lopez is a Multi-Media artist. She works in the fields of drawing, sculpture, installation and video. Veredas is interested experimenting with materials and up-cycling. She whisks situations, persons and places from different trips with imagined dreamlike scenarios.

Within this universal greenhouse, marked by multiple crises and war conflicts, the small bubble that I manage to control will be the germ of the project. A bubble that encompasses my daily routine, my fears, my questions, my secrets... The chosen title, Eshora, focuses on the importance of ACTION.

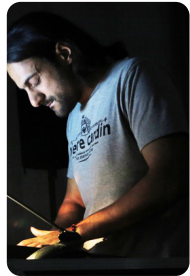


NATFA will host the following three artists in Sozopol, Bulgaria, between 26 August – 6 September 2023.



Andrea Davanzati developed his earliest studies with Bruno Munari, Carlo Mo, Kengiro Azuma and Giancarlo Marchese. His research focuses more on stainless steel sculpture and his studies are directed toward the analysis of natural structures, often in motion, applied in small sculptures as well as in large public structures.

Andreas' work will celebrates the structural geometry of sailboats but also many animals such as insects and birds nests and introduces the nature in its construction. Materials will include natural wood, stainless steel or other



Dimitris Savva is a composer and sound artist with an expertise in electroacoustic, electronic, soundscape and multimedia music composition and sound design. Experienced educator with an expertise in composition, sound art, music technology, soundscape theory, acoustic ecology and electroacoustic music history and composition.

Dimitris project will feature live water sounds and underwater recordings from Sozopol's seas and rivers. Its artefacts will include a performance recording and a potential soundscape composition.



Giulia Pellegrini is an Italian artist, and as an artist she decided to turn her attention to environmental issues to generate a new sensitivity towards our planet. She focused her research on the creation of works that allow the public to learn about the problem, not only from a conceptual point of view but also through their bodies and their direct participation in the artworks.

The work realised by Giulia during the residency, will talk about the Black Sea, its marine ecology (now threatened by the degradation of its biodiversity and habitats) and how we can preserve it. The aim will be to bring this environment back to life.

Espacio Rojo will host the following three artists in Madrid, Spain, between 16 September – 29 September 2023.



Margherita Isola currently she finds herself in Barcelona. In her practice she mixes different media- dance, textile art, performance, collage, installation, community works- and addresses issues related to feminism, migration, colonialism, capitalisation of Gaia, in order to rethink new forms of interconnection which put life at the core of our society.

Margherita will form synergy with the planting, participatory ethnobotanical research is conducted, aimed at promoting autonomous health practices capable of reconciling scientific and community knowledge. The result of the research and the archive of the process experienced during the residency - images, drawings, video, audio - will be presented as part of the exhibition at the Vorres Museum.



Konstantinos Kotsis holds a Bachelors and a Masters degree from the School of Fines Arts of the University of Ioannina, Greece. He has taken part in the SNF Artist Fellowship Program, ARTWORKS. He develops his research and his special interest in construction employing several mediums and introducing participatory practices. Konstantinos works have been exhibited in several group exhibitions in Greece and abroad.

During the residency Konstantinos is interested in investigating and focusing on the challenges that Madrid is facing considering the public space in terms of accessibility, inclusivity and communal spirit, pointing out the relationship between human and non-human entities and the bodies of water within the urban environment of the Spanish capital.



Rebecca Sforzani is a visual artist interested in combining art with social issues. She investigates the topics of conflict, gender issues and environmental sustainability creating participatory projects and site-specific installations. In her explorations she collects memories and stories from places and people.

Rebecca will explore the local territory and traditions through walks, interviews, sound mapping, drawings, and videos. The community will then create an (im)plausible local constitution that takes into account the rights of nature and its needs and desires about the society.





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EMPACT INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP WITH NAFTA



21-22-23 APRIL 2023

During the month of April 2023 [NATFA](#) presented a three-day workshop entitled 'Empathy, Environment and Sustainable Development: What's the Role of Arts and Artists?'

The workshop was targeted at artists, cultural professionals, arts managers, researchers, educators, students, and cultural policy-makers.

Attendees enjoyed an eclectic programme including themes relating to:

Day 1: Environmental sustainability in the arts management practice: How can creativity help for a cleaner and greener Planet?

Day 2: Empathy, psychology and artists: Balancing personal, social and emotional dimensions of artistic profession.

Day 3: Sustainable development of creative organisations: Discourses and the way ahead.

The themes for each day were split into a morning session with interactive presentations and discussions, and an afternoon collaborative creative work in smaller groups (artistic atelier) on a specific theme, or topic of interest.

Seminar speakers/moderators included renowned experts and professionals in the field of environment, empathy, sustainable development and arts management: [Prof. Dr. Lidia Varbanova](#), [Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marina Stefanova](#), [Dr. Denitza Kaprieva](#). Afternoon workshops were led by creative professionals – [Prof. Dr. Katerina Ilkova](#), [Dr. Yana Djarova \(Karakoleva\)](#), [Dr. Krasimira Ivanova](#), [Dr. Mila Stoeva](#), and young talented artists and creatives from the [Master Program in Management of Performing Art and Industries, Public Speech and Theatre Art](#) at NATFA: [Petromil Denev](#), [Kristina Mircheva](#), [Maria Panayotova](#) and [Stefan Kirilov](#).





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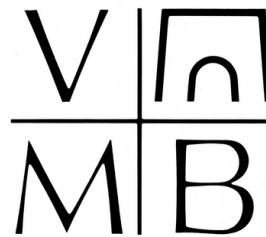


THE CONSORTIUM

EMPACT consortium is composed of (8) eight partners across Europe diversified experiences and expertise necessary to achieve the objectives and activities of the project: **Cyprus University of Technology** (Cyprus), **Wisefour** (Cyprus), **Fondazione Lamberto Puggelli** (Italy), **Nature, Art & Habitat Residency** (NAHR) (Italy), **Espacio Rojo** (Spain), **Vorres Museum** (Greece), **National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts** (NATFA) “Kr. Sarafov” (Bulgaria) and **Umetnostna Galerija Maribor** (UGM) (Slovenia).



WISEFOUR



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