



A transnational project exploring our shared and contested Colonial heritage and its influence on contemporary culture.

CONTESTED DESIRES: Constructive Dialogues

OPEN CALL for ARTISTS based in Italy

Project Duration: September 2024 - November 2026
Project Fee: € 9050 (travel, accommodations, daily per diems for subsistence and production materials are paid for separately)
Artform: Participatory and socially-engaged visual arts practice (including but not limited to: drawing, printmaking, photography, film, digital, sound, installation, performance).

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

CONTESTED DESIRES: Constructive Dialogues (CDCD) is a 3-year arts and heritage programme which offers a unique international opportunity for two artists based in Italy to take part in a funded programme of residences, exhibitions and knowledge exchange workshops and seminars.

From the Greeks, to the Romans, the Ottomans to the Venetians, from the seafaring nations of Northern and Western Europe embarking on crusades and trade missions, Europeans have exploited, imposed and forged cultures and communities to build their Empires. This legacy presents a complex cultural heritage, often **contested** through the narratives, perspectives and lived experiences we encounter. A legacy of individuals, communities and nation states constructing their identities through a mosaic of cultural choices and **desires**.

CDCD aims to challenge the destabilising and divisive impact of the current political landscapes of Europe and beyond, where the response to the complexities, diversity and expansion of our communities continues to be met with fear-mongering, discrimination and exclusion.

This transnational, multi-partner project will explore how artists and cultural organisations can work with communities to build a shared understanding of the colonial past and what it can mean to different citizens in our multicultural societies.

Working across the Netherlands, Italy, Ghana, Tunisia, Chile, Hungary, Slovenia, Portugal, Cyprus, Spain and the UK, **CDCD** will dig deep to explore, and reveal the links between our shared colonial history and our cultural identities today from diverse perspectives.

CDCD will engage contemporary artists to consider the problematic legacy of European colonialism held in museum collections and represented across heritage sites and public spaces. These spaces will provide rich starting points for artistic research and interaction. Together, we will build bridges for intersectional conversations and creative interactions to mindfully explore heritage and decoloniality and new forms of expression we can look towards.

CDCD is supported by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

WHO IS INVOLVED

CDCD connects 19 innovative organisations globally, representing museums, research centres, universities and independent cultural producers. **CDCD** will select 22 artists across 11 partner countries.

Partners:

ECCOM (Italy), **BJCEM** (Belgium), **Creative Court** (The Netherlands), **D6:EU** (Cyprus), **D6: Culture in Transit** (UK), **European Capital of Culture Larnaca 2030** (Cyprus), **H401** (The Netherlands), **Interarts** (Spain), **La Bonne** (Spain), **La Fabrique** (Tunisia), **Museo Egizio** (Italy), **Museo delle Civiltà** (Italy), **MUHNAC - University of Lisbon** (Portugal), **Museum of Memory and Human Rights** (Chile), **Nubuke Foundation** (Ghana), **Pro Progressione** (Hungary), **RCMG - University of Leicester** (UK), **Technical University of Cyprus** (Cyprus), **Xarkis** (Cyprus).

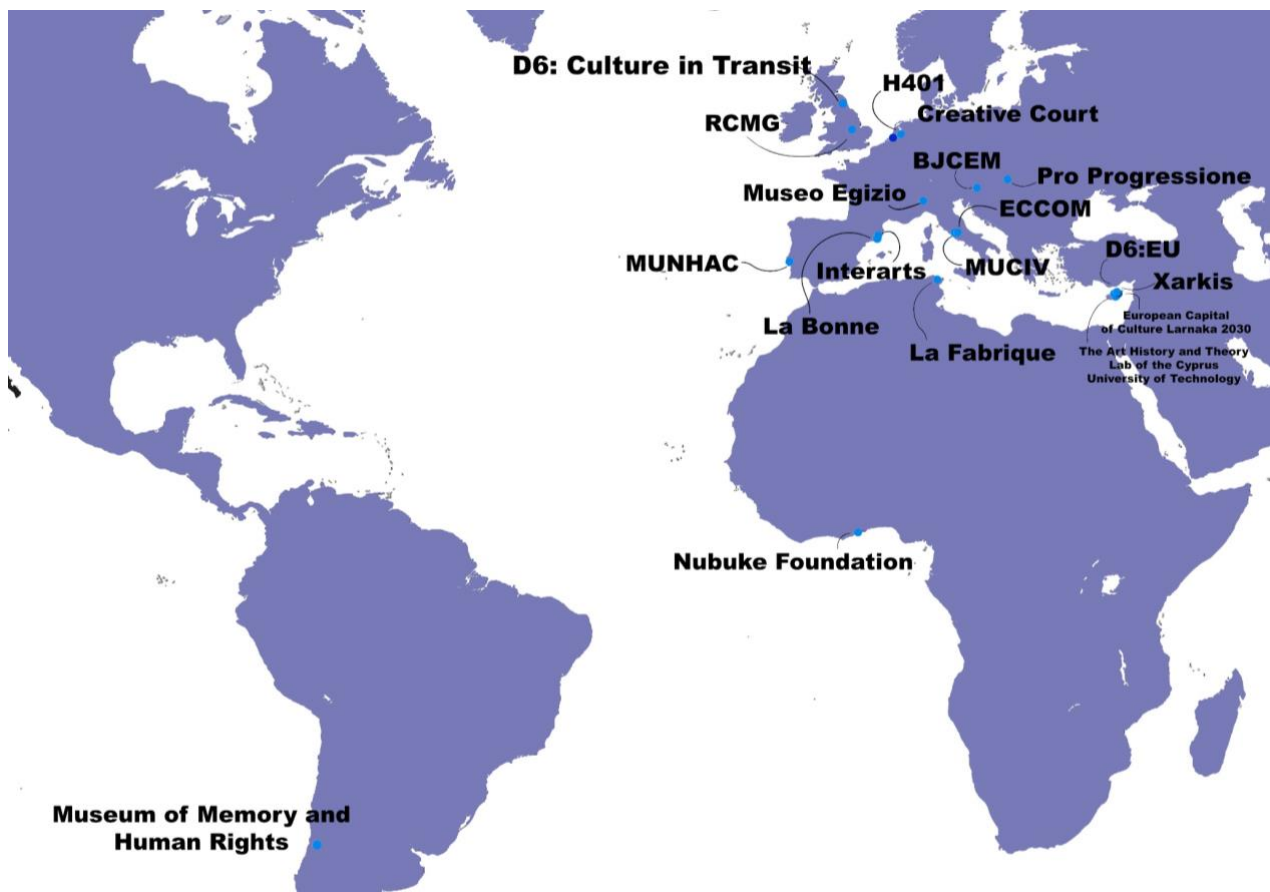
ABOUT THE PARTNERS IMPLEMENTING THE CALL IN ITALY

[BJCEM](#) - Biennale des Jeunes Créateurs de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée - is an independent international network of 47 members in 16 countries, ranging from cultural institutions to independent organisations, with partnerships across Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and organisations and projects focused on the Mediterranean Diaspora. Fiercely independent, BJCEM's members develop cultural activities that provide young creators opportunities to showcase their artworks, including Festivals, Seminars, Residency projects, research activities, training activities, presentations and debates, alongside a biennial of young artists, which most recently took place in San Marino.

[ECCOM](#) focuses on the role of culture in contemporary society as a tool to promote audience development, social inclusion and lifelong learning through an interdisciplinary approach to cultural heritage.

[Museo delle Civiltà](#) conserves, studies, and promotes the collections of various institutions that were brought together during the late 20th century previously belonged to the following institutions: the Prehistoric Ethnographic Museum "Luigi Pigorini", the Museum of Oriental Art "Giuseppe Tucci", the Museum of the Early Middle Ages, the Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions, as well as collections of the former Colonial Museum, that are currently in the process of being catalogued. The collections of the former Colonial Museum illustrate Italy's relationships to former Italian colonies in Africa. It aims to be a space for discussion and reinterpretation of colonial history, an "area of contact" between past and present, identity and diversity and their many intersections.

[Museo Egizio](#) is the world's oldest museum dedicated to ancient Egyptian culture. In its parallel role as a high-level research institution, it applies advanced scientific techniques to archaeological research through excavations and studies of their artefacts through archaeometric investigations, restoration and conservation. Audiences and dissemination of knowledge are central to the museum, whose spaces and activities are in permanent evolution to promote debate, discussion and inter-cultural dialogue.



THE JOURNEY OF A CONTESTED DESIRES: CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUES ARTIST

Each artist's journey will begin from this starting point:

'What are the impacts of colonial heritage on contemporary society that interest you? How can your art practice create points of contact and connection for constructive dialogues?'

These questions will act as a point of provocation and reflection throughout CDCD and will expand in response to the artistic work created and knowledge exchange workshops and seminars.

Each selected artist will participate in the following activities across September 2024 until November 2026:

- **x1 month-long international residency, concluding with a presentation of work in progress.** This will be a joint residency alongside one other CDCD artist from one of the partner countries.
- **x1 two-week group residency** in a different country with 2-4 CDCD artists where the artwork will be adapted to the local context, concluding with a larger exhibition of artwork and a seminar.
- **x1 two-week group residency** with all 22 CDCD artists to adapt artwork to a site-specific setting in a rural Cypriot context, **followed by a final presentation of artwork at Xarkis Festival, Cyprus.**
- **x5 international knowledge exchange workshops.** Artists will attend workshops exploring the themes of participatory practices, environment, gender, social inclusion and decolonial methodologies in relation to CDCD.
- Support to develop a **digital presentation** of your work for an online exhibition.

- Evaluation and production meetings (as required).

Further opportunities may arise during the project delivery subject to further fundraising by the CDCD partners.

There are **2 possible journeys** for the artists in **Italy** to engage across the CDCD programme. You can apply to one journey, or both. If you apply to both journeys, please indicate your preference. These journeys are:

JOURNEY 1:

Date	Description	Where
January 2025	Capacity Building Workshop 1: You will participate in a 2-day workshop in Larnaca (CY) focused on Colonisation and the Environment alongside CDCD partners and artists	Larnaca, Cyprus
January - February 2025	Joint Artist Residency: You will travel from the Capacity Building Workshop to take part in a month-long joint residency at H401 + Creative Court with one artist from a different country to produce site-related and community-engaged artistic research and new artwork	Amsterdam, Netherlands
February - March 2025	Local Exposition: At the end of your residency you will present your research and work-in-progress through an exposition	Amsterdam, Netherlands
February - June 2025	Digital Reflections on artworks: Following the Joint Residency, you will have a period of post-production time, and will develop your ideas and works in progress into a digital reflection with support from Pro Progressione	Online / Remote
July 2025	Larger Group Residency: You will take part in a 12-day group residency at La Fabrique with 2 other artists to adapt your work to a new context and audience.	Tunis, Tunisia.
July - August 2025	Exposition: You will present your work in a major public exposition. In advance, you will work with La Fabrique and the other artists in residence to shape the exposition format, content and interpretation	Tunis, Tunisia.
July 2025	Seminar: You will present your work at a seminar to mark the exposition opening, attended by CDCD partners and local artists, cultural workers and academics	Tunis, Tunisia.
September 2025	Capacity Building Workshop 2: You will participate in a 2-day workshop in Barcelona (ES) focused on Colonisation and Gender alongside CDCD partners and artists.	Barcelona, Spain
September 2026	Xarkis Multi Residency: All 22 artists will take part in a two-week residency in a rural Cypriot context. Drawing from the artistic research you produce across CDCD, you will co-create work with residents of the village	Larnaca District, Cyprus
September 2026	Xarkis Festival: The Multi-Residency will culminate in a 3-day Festival programme, including expositions, live art and performance	Larnaca District, Cyprus

ABOUT THE RESIDENCY HOSTS

[H401](#) - HERENGRACHT40 - is a cultural organisation in a historic building. The building's history as a safe house during WWII and the complex history of the place and its inhabitants, collections and archives underpin its current cultural programme: exhibitions, lectures, debates, think tanks, guided tours, artistic residencies, artistic research and publications. H401 has a distinct profile as a laboratory for innovative approaches towards cultural

heritage, recognized through structural collaborations with local and international organisations.

[Creative Court](#) develops research-based art projects and conducts arts-based research that reflects on peace and global justice. They produce multidisciplinary artistic stories that look into uncertain futures, challenging current issues and unspoken realities of history - and the related underlying emotions that are often impossible to put into words. As a producing organisation, they collaborate with international arts organisations, NGO's, artists, curators, journalists, scientists, and networks on each project. For CDCD, they work closely with the heritage space Kunstfort bij Vijfhuizen, a former military fortress turned into an exhibition space and place for artist residencies and transdisciplinary dialogue.

[La Fabrique](#) is a community-driven arts inclusive platform supporting emerging artists and creatives from Tunisia and beyond, with a focus on women and non-binary persons through training, artistic and cultural collaborations, digital expertise, networking and action-research. It aims to build resilience and prosperous communities using the power of arts, culture and digital and designing innovative actions to respond to complex and global problems.

[Xarkis](#) (origin ancient Greek eks' arhis = from the beginning) works with socially engaged, site-specific, participatory art and design practices, with a strong interest in natural and human heritage and its influences on local societies. Xarkis Multi-residency and Xarkis Festivals are two of their nomadic activities, where participants from various artistic backgrounds co-create site-specific works, by engaging with local communities, to foster collaborative knowledge exchange and nurture conversations on socio-ecological change.

JOURNEY 2:

Date	Description	Where
January 2025	Capacity Building Workshop 1: You will participate in a 2-day workshop in Larnaca (CY) focused on Colonisation and the Environment alongside CDCD partners and artists	Larnaca, Cyprus
January - February 2025	Joint Artist Residency: You will travel from the Capacity Building Workshop to take part in a month-long joint residency at La Fabrique with one artist from a different country to produce site-related and community-engaged artistic research and new artwork	Tunis, Tunisia
February - March 2025	Local Exposition: At the end of your residency you will present your research and work-in-progress through an exposition	Tunis, Tunisia
February - June 2025	Digital Reflections on artworks: Following the Joint Residency, you will have a period of post-production time, and will develop your ideas and works in progress into a digital reflection with support from Pro Progressione	Online / Remote
January 2026	Capacity Building Workshop 2: You will participate in a 2-day workshop in Amsterdam (NL) focused on Social Inclusion alongside CDCD partners and artists.	Amsterdam, Netherlands
February 2026	Larger Group Residency: You will take part in a 12-day group residency at MUNHAC with 3 other artists to adapt your work to a new context and audience	Lisbon, Portugal
February - March 2026	Exposition: You will present your work in a major public exposition. In advance, you will work with MUNHAC and the other artists in residence to shape the exposition format, content and interpretation	Lisbon, Portugal.

February 2026	Seminar: You will present your work at a seminar to mark the exposition opening, attended by CDCD partners and local artists, cultural workers and academics	Lisbon, Portugal.
September 2026	Xarkis Multi Residency: All 22 artists will take part in a two-week residency in a rural Cypriot context. Drawing from the artistic research you produce across CDCD, you will co-create work with residents of the village	Larnaca District, Cyprus
September 2026	Xarkis Festival: The Multi-Residency will culminate in a 3-day Festival programme, including expositions, live art and performance	Larnaca District, Cyprus

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[MUHNAC](#) - The National Museum of Natural History and Science - of the University of Lisbon is the largest Portuguese science museum. The Museum integrates several historical buildings, two botanical gardens classified as national monuments and the largest collections of natural history and history of science, with more than three million specimens, artefacts, manuscripts, drawings and photographs, dated from the 16th to the 21st centuries. Part of these collections were constituted in the context of Portuguese colonial activities throughout the 20th century, thus containing historically and culturally sensitive objects. These objects were assembled in scientific missions, promoted by the Junta de Investigações do Ultramar.

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ARTIST FEE

The total fee for the work described in this brief is **€9050**, for which the artist is expected to participate fully in the programme. In addition to the artist fee, **CDCD** will cover travel, accommodation and a daily per diem / catering for subsistence for international travel, and production costs for the residency. Payment will be made according to an agreed schedule and on receipt of invoices.

The selected artists based in Italy will each be provided a contract and will be managed by BJCEM. All copyright for the work produced will remain with the artist.

APPLICATION PROCESS

This Open Call is to select 2 artists based in Italy. Selection will be based on:

- Quality of artistic practice
- Quality of response to the questions in the application form
- Experience of participatory and socially-engaged practice
- Experience of collaboration with other artists and across sectors
- Demonstrable interest in the role of contemporary arts in heritage contexts, with particular reference to the themes of the programme

In addition, all applicants must be:

- Proficient in English language
- Aged 18 or older
- Based in Italy
- Submit all application documents requested on the application form
- Commitment to participate in all activities

Key considerations:

- This is a transnational project, and the selected artists will be working across multiple sites and contexts. Selected artists will be encouraged to create **ephemeral** and **mobile works** that are **environmentally conscious** and **that can be adapted to be site-specific** to each place.
- CDCD focuses on participatory methodologies. Artists **will be expected to engage with local communities** in ethical ways that feel appropriate to the research and are not extractive.
- English is the primary language across **CDCD**. Artists will be supported to communicate effectively with speakers of other languages as part of the development, production and presentation of their work.
- Artists can either produce solo projects or may wish to collaborate with other **CDCD** artists they are in residence with.

HOW TO APPLY

The application process involves:

Stage 1: A short application form

Stage 2: An interview with up to 3 shortlisted artists per 'Journey' (opportunity). This will take place with BJCEM and the two residency hosts for the journey you apply for. All selection decisions are final.

Click here to complete the application form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeld93c48XgghXZGfhPphrVvbzt5XWHTSPQ9bTI82C1GhNifg/viewform?usp=sf_link

You can download a copy of the questions to help prepare your answers here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H00a1qPXBSRy90zi4-PFjVsqp1F4UODoPxsE5brdBmU/edit>

TIMELINE

Open call deadline:	7 May 2024
Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by:	21 May 2024
Shortlisted applicants will be notified by:	21 May 2024
Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed between:	27-30 May 2024

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

We seek to ensure that no present or potential member of staff, artist or project participant is treated less favourably than another on grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, marital or civil partnership status, disability, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs, age, social class or offending background.

While our ambition is to shape an open, accessible project, we also acknowledge that the nature of this project involves extended periods of travel, which may present barriers to participation.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The CDCD project prioritises **environmental sustainability**, adopting a comprehensive strategy that recognizes its interconnectedness with broader sustainability and ethical considerations. Throughout the project, artists will engage with three core sustainability practices:

- The establishment of self-regulatory ethical guidelines to shape environmental frameworks and codes of conduct, which will be closely monitored and assessed throughout the project's execution.
- The enhancement of knowledge and capabilities concerning key EU and international initiatives, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the European Green Deal, to ensure alignment with global sustainability standards.
- The development of a heightened awareness of the more-than-human world, highlighting eco-philosophy as a crucial source of artistic inspiration and creativity

If you require further access needs to participate in the CDCD programme you will be able to identify this in the application form. For any support to make your application, please contact bjcem.aisbl@gmail.com.

