



CONNECT

Communities for Change

opening up spaces for art driven journeys



The Introductory

CONNECT - Communities for Change is a collection of diverse artworks, each of them elaborating on the exhibition theme in different and multifaceted ways. The theme was chosen as it reflects our belief that contributions by communities of different kinds and domains are of vital importance for solving the problems of today, and the challenges of tomorrow. We need a number of ways to make connections between different communities and between individuals from different fields, with diverse cultural backgrounds, and different experiences and beliefs - the arts being one effort of doing so. Also, the arts can connect us to the world and help us comprehend some of its complexity, while conveying why we need to care for it in order to survive.

For the individual, for the artist, what does it mean to be called into a community, may it be in the cause of this exhibition or in manyfold related ways. Are there concrete aspirations to be in connection through the art on display or means of contact through the artistic practices? This exhibition invites everyone to enjoy and to get intrigued by the expressions, stories and materialities the arts convey. Starting from this material point, do we reach a place of transition? In fact, change occurs within that conundrum, that is the arts themselves.

the Curatorial Team

Hans Mark Svedal, Valentina Delconte and Manuel Bendig

The Artwork - RETURN

Marlon's piece is deeply influenced by the organic forms and structures found in nature. His use of charcoal in the developmental process allows for spontaneity, which in turn inspires his work in clay. His sculptural piece explores the ephemeral nature of the material, through a performative process.

The work aims to provoke thought and question how much humanity can extract and manipulate from what is given, and what remains afterward. Moreover, it reflects on how nature simultaneously gives and takes, while humanity seeks to impose its own permanent creations – ultimately risking the balance of nature and leaving a shell o fit.



Marlon Camilleri

On the artist

Marlon Camilleri is an emerging Maltese artist who graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art from the Mcast Institute of The Creative Arts. He specializes in ceramic sculptures but also integrates charcoal drawings into his practice, allowing for spontaneity and freedom, which in turn informs his sculptural work and vice versa. Marlon's work is heavily influenced by the fantasy genre, incorporating hyperbolic and organic forms rooted in nature, which inspire his style. His pieces often explore philosophical themes such as rebirth, transformation, and cycles.

On the CONNECT theme

I believe my work connects to the exhibition theme 'Connect Communities for Change' through both the material I use—clay, a sustainable medium—and the message I aim to convey. My work addresses the disintegration of nature, not only globally but particularly in Malta, where natural spaces are being reduced to mere building blocks, with any remaining greenery at risk of being replaced by structures. Through this work, I aim to reflect this reality while also showcasing nature's resilience and its ability to reclaim space, even after being diminished. Additionally, as part of a collective of artists from diverse backgrounds, I aim to integrate that sense of connection in my work, as we all contribute to a shared goal.

Field of work

Charcoal drawing, Ceramics

Artist contact

IG: @marlon_camilleri.art

The Artwork - SAMPLING, SOUND AND SUSTAINABILITY

The sound installation is the result from the workshop Sound, sampling and sustainability at the final SciCultureD conference in Valletta, October 2024. Participants engaged with one of the sustainability development goals, and made a composition consisting of vocalised text, soundscapes, musical and other audio elements. The different compositions are played consecutively.



On the CONNECT theme

From a Norwegian perspective, the possibilities to engaging with the arts, across ages, and gender, within and without formal schooling contexts, seem to be a quality that identifies communities, small and large, urban as rural, that grow and thrive at times of unrest.

On the artist

Øystein Kvinge is an associate professor in music pedagogy at the Department of Arts Education at the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (HVL).

He teaches and supervises students in various study programmes. In general teacher education he is currently involved in courses on artistic work. He is also involved in organizing and teaching at the master programmes in arts education and in creative learning processes.

The Artwork - BOO RECACCIA

Imagine how many things could be achieved more easily, and more enjoyably if we chose not to do them alone every time. In this dance performance, discover the power of human connection and support through rhythm, maths and movement. Learn about the innovative methodology that celebrates co-development with people from diverse backgrounds.



Cc Aspasia Markaritsaki

On the artist

Cc Marmaritsaki is a performing artist, exploring the organic interplay of voice, breath, rhythm, movement, body percussion, and their therapeutic potential. She has delved into ballet, contemporary dance, kathak, and world music training, and developed, in collaboration with Marina Sasli, Buddies' Experiments, an inclusive methodology blending voice, movement, and rhythm through playful explorations. Prioritizing an enjoyable and nurturing environment, she draws inspiration from contemporary dance, konnakol, and traditional elements from different cultures to cultivate curiosity and openness, build connection, respect and trust towards ourselves and the community, and create a fertile ground for creativity to bloom.

On the CONNECT theme

interACTION highlights the power of inclusivity and collaboration in addressing global challenges by emphasizing the interconnectedness of life. It fosters dialogue about sustainability and inclusivity through the performers' personal reflections, showing how diverse voices and collective action are essential for shaping a better future. The piece encourages both participants and viewers to engage in critical thinking about community-driven change in social and environmental issues, it represents the unity in diversity and invites us to reflect on diverse perspectives and our shared responsibility toward a positive social impact.

Field of work

Performance, Dance

Artist contact

IG: @ccmarr

<https://614a589b2c886.site123.me/>

The Artwork - SILENT SPACE

I started this series of works in 2022. I present a harmonious relationship with confrontation, everything in the space of the picture seems to be isolated, so I named my series of works -- Silent Space.



On the CONNECT theme

I try to capture a whole on canvas, where the everything has connection each other. This connection is in fact a language unique to art, a harmony of the whole, an independent contrast, contrasting but not dividing. This is link to the theme of exhibition.

On the artist

I studied at Yunnan Art University and gained a master Degree (2009 - 2012). In school my work History Wheel-I got collected by Art museum of Yunnan Art University. I'm living in Malta as a artist now and have a studio with my wife in Swieqi. I'm also a fellow of Malta society of Arts. I participated in numerous exhibitions in Malta,as well as in China.

Artist contact

IG: @flying11whale

<https://sunhui520yx1.wixsite.com/sunhui>

The Artwork - PRESENCE OF THE MOMENTS

The artwork is a serie of group watercolour paintings, all created in Malta. It gives visitors a direct experience of the enchantment of Malta.



Yuexin Kong

On the CONNECT theme

I think landscape can tell a great deal about the ideal situation as well as the people with dinner tables, small flying birds, the cat under the jade moon, and the endless ocean under the setting sun and so on. I believe the landscape and the beauty of it or the vastness of it can tell a great deal about the country and the people.

Field of work

Watercolour Painting

Artist contact

IG: @yuexin_kong

yuexinhaha20@163.com

The Artwork - KINASPHERE

Kinasphere - in this film, three dancers move between three choreographed worlds, scientific, urban and rural. There, changing environmental vernaculars entangle with the human body reminding us that we are in relation to the worlds around us and together become active agents of movement and change. The film is also a feature of the related academic article - Re-Creating Higher Education Pedagogy by Making Materiality and Spatiality Matter (Chappell et al., 2023):

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/jobc.619>



Dance Lab Collective/ Still Moving

Kerry Chappell

On the CONNECT theme

The film is grounded in embodied ideas of connection and community, relationship to which is at the heart of how we as humans come into being together and in relationship with the world around us.

On the artist

DanceLab Collective was co-founded in 2010 by Pam Woods, Kerry Chappell and Lizzie Swinford, to research collaboration between dancers and actors. In between juggling full-time academic roles and parenting, we have created several pieces, most recently Kinosphere. Aiming to give ourselves space and permission to keep dancing because of, not despite our age, we always draw from our life experiences to inform our process.

Artist contact

FB: Dance Lab Exeter

The Artwork - EXPLORING WITH MATERIALS IN A SPECIFIC PLACE

The artwork is about how my creative process gets influenced by place, community and materials. In a workshop with colleagues the artwork came alive by walking, talking and being in a specific environment close to nature. Through conversations I learnt about pigmenting wool with *alectoria sarmentosa* and got inspired to explore the process of coloring fabric and make the materials connect. Good conversations followed and being on this place made my exploring with materials last for a long time. The orange color is from *alectoria sarmentosa*.



Marie Skreden

On the CONNECT theme

These artworks are about meeting materials in a specific place and creating together in a community. Making together brings along new experiences and possibilities for change. It is about connecting through talking and making, through materials and space. The act of display plays a role in the artworks. The artwork invites you to contribute.

On the artist

Lecturer in Western Norway University of applied sciences, Bergen. I also teach art in secondary school. I have a master degree in design, arts and crafts from University of Eastern Norway (USN) (2019). My field of interest is materials and experience based exploring with materials like wool, wood, clay etc. I am a researcher in the art field and pedagogic field.

Artist contact

IG: @marieskreden

The Artwork - NEXT STAGE

Next Stage explores themes of renewal and sustainability through the delicate art of ceramics. Produced using a traditional pinching technique, each piece is shaped from pristine clay that has been reused from previous works. This approach emphasizes the concept of transformation by transforming what was once discarded as useless into vibrant forms that evoke the beauty of flowers.

The surfaces of these ceramic flowers are adorned with intricate textures and patterns that invite viewers to interact with the tactile quality of the work. Through the interplay of light, shadow, and reflection, the sculptures reveal new dimensions, emphasizing the ephemeral yet enduring nature of their existence.

The work carries a message of sustainability that symbolizes the cycle of life and the potential for beauty in renewal. "Next Stage..." is a tribute to the enduring power of nature and the possibility of giving forgotten materials a lasting existence.



Simeona Mamo

On the CONNECT theme

The resources in their materiality are the starting point for thinking of a social use, for coming up with an artistic expression and for sourcing its community value from there. In my work this relevant role of the resource and its practices of redistribution are brought into the center. By forming a new shape out of the discarded pieces and letting them reconnect to the shape where they fell from, a relation emerges. This can be seen as a metaphor to the structuring of interactions between humans and their agency with the non-human or the material.

On the artist

Born in Bulgaria, Simeona Mamo is an astronomer, educational researcher, and practitioner currently based in Malta. With over a decade of experience working with clay in Turkey, she has spent the last four years focusing on pottery in Malta. Mamo's passion for art is deeply intertwined with her scientific pursuits, as she believes that creativity enhances both her research and professional work. Her practice bridges the gap between art and science, reflecting a unique blend of analytical thinking and artistic expression.

Artist contact

FB: CortoCeramics

IG: @corto_ceramics

Curators

Hans Marc Svedal

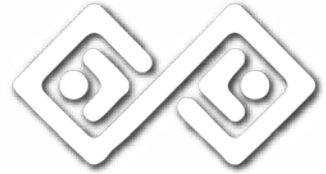
Assistant Professor and Study Program Leader at the Department of Arts Education, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences. Owner of private gallery, The Institute, in Sogndal, Norway.

Valentina Delconte

Valentina Delconte is the ScicultureD project manager since 2023, and with her enthusiasm for nature and science communication, she pursues her passion for the stories of people who are changing our world positively.

Manuel Bendig

Manuel Bendig follows a critical observation and active listening approach. Holding an M.A. in Art History and Aesthetics, he likes to reflect on the way things are perceived and how art can alter or correspond to this common frame.



SciCultureD

The SciCultureD Framework

About SciCultureD

Co-creation and partnerships between different sectors play key roles in addressing the complexity of our modern world, such as climate change, education, social injustice to name a few. How do we foster effective collaborations? How can education contribute in shaping sustainable futures?

The SciCultureD Project (2021-2024) aims to nurture transdisciplinarity and innovative problem-solving through the blending of arts, science and entrepreneurship in higher education. It also organized three intensive courses to promote transdisciplinary collaborations and creative artistic approaches and find innovative solutions to locally-felt challenge, and it is led by the University of Malta together with Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway, city2science, Germany, and Science View, Greece.

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CONNECT - Communities for Change

30.10. - 10.11.

Bozza Hamra
Galea's Art Studio
4 Strait Street
Valletta



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curated by:



L-Università
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