

Beyond What Drifts Us Apart

Organizer: **Diyalog** in cooperation with **Unfinished Art Space Malta**



Beyond What Drifts Us Apart (BWDUA) is again the title of an art event curated by **Elyse Tonna** in the frame of the Mahalla Festival taking place at the **Dwejra Tower** in **Gozo** this year.

It is the second interdisciplinary site-specific project under this title which attempts to uncover the less dominant narratives associated with the environments surrounding the historic coastal towers and the consequent relationships between the impacted landscapes and non-human communities in Malta.

Also, this year **BWDUA** is a collaborative event of the Istanbul-based **Mahalla Festival** organized by the cultural organization **Diyalog** and Malta-based **Unfinished Art Space**, including site-specific artistic interventions, artists residencies and community-oriented activities.

BWDUA is part of the **MagiC Carpets** platform, co-funded by the European Union's Creative Europe program. The **MagiC Carpets** platform brings together 21 European cultural organizations, coordinated by Kaunas Biennial in Lithuania, offering opportunities for emerging artists to explore little-known areas and to create, together with local communities, new works that bring to light regional particularities and traditions.

The Mahalla Festival (Association **Diyalog**) and **Unfinished Art Space** are two of the 21 members from twenty-one countries in Europe. Sabine Küper-Büsch, Artistic Director of the Mahalla Festival and Deputy General Secretary of the Association **Diyalog** is the advisor to Curator **Elyse Tonna** in the framework of the **MagiC Carpets** Network.

Thematically, **BWDUA** seeks to uncover the less visible narratives associated with the environments surrounding historic (300+ year old) coastal towers and other coastal structures, and the consequent relationships that have developed and continue to develop

between the impacted landscapes and non-human communities. It seeks to reconsider the dichotomies between the visible and the invisible, raising issues related to identity, extractive capitalism, and contestation of landscapes. It is approached from decolonize and post-anthropocentric perspectives and aims to investigate the intersections between climate justice, territorial defense and biocultural diversity preservation.

A post-colonial, post-Anthropocene, ecological approach is reflected through the utilization of innovative artistic practices to reinforce the notion of enhancing the connections between contemporary art and cultural heritage. **Unfinished Art Space** and **Diyalog** will be collaborating with Malta's National Heritage Trust, **Din I-Art Helwa**, to contextualize interventions in sites under their care. The intervention will be situated 2024 within and around the **Dwejra** Tower in **Gozo**.

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The project invites local communities in **Gozo** to participate in contemporary arts practice. The primary artistic concept of the project is site-specific and multi-disciplinary, utilizing typical Maltese watchtowers and other locations in Gozo that have not been utilized previously in an artistic manner. This approach opens up avenues for community inclusion on certain levels, including but not limited to workshops, community involvement in the process of creating art works, panels, and dialogues with the audience.

Participating artist:

- Keit Bonnici (MT),
- [Martinha Maia](#) (PT),
- Jamie Barbara (MT),
- Justyna Olszewska (PL),
- Florinda Camilleri (MT),
- Isaac Warrington (MT)

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