



Malta Festival

Mission

The general vision of the festival is to question a dystopian reality of excluding “the other” in the form of the migrant, the poor, the opposite sex, the unknown.

The Title, Mahalla, refers to the word mahalla used in many languages and countries meaning neighborhood or location originated in Arabic mähallä.

Mahalla as a title for the festival is a metaphor for a space of diversity and inclusion in the field of arts and culture.

Generating New Narratives

Towards the end of 2018 the Mahalla Festival invites local and international artists and initiatives to show concern and contribute artistic positions regarding the international migration moves.

We believe that the topics have to be seen in a global context, discussing the triggers of migration and the problems of inclusion. The Festival aims to show the potential migration has through strong artistic works.

More than 50 artists from 20 countries participate in the event in Malta. Some are themselves affected by displacement. All of them are working on new forms of narratives regarding global conflicts and their worldwide effects: a rising nationalism, progressing ecological destruction, dramatic gentrification in urban areas and rising inequalities in working life are some of the topics. The festival is politically motivated but avoids any dogmatization through its artistic orientation.

(Sabine Küper Büsch, Co-Curator, Mahalla Festival)

Nov 17 - Nov 25, 2018

A Festival of film, literature, contemporary art, debates and several activities combining events that invite local and international participants to mobilize visitors to explore communities under new aspects. The Festival is located in venues around Valletta, St. Lucija and Zabbar in Malta.

Maltese and international participants are presented in exhibitions, concerts, performances, screenings and talks displaying different topics: *language and migration, communities and diversity, new city cultures, mobile citizenship and future demands of communities.*

All events of the Mahalla Festival are Free of Charge.

Conceptual Framework

The displayed art works, performances, installations, screenings, readings and talks will reflect aspects of borders, armed conflicts and migration, minorities, hospitality and hostility, urban structures, inclusion and intercultural communication. The main venues are the Museum **MUZA**,

Museum Fortress Builders, Studio 87, Valletta Contemporary and a Palazzo in Zabbar.

Supported by

Art Council Malta
Vodafone Malta
Foundation
Allianz Kulturstiftung for Europe
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SAHA - Supporting Contemporary Art from Turkey
Austrian Honorary Consulate General
The Flanders department of cultuur, jeugd, sport and media

In Cooperation with

Sustainable Design Collective
Heritage Malta
MUZA: National Museum for Art and Community
Museum Fortress Builders
Studio 87
Utopian Nights
Valletta Contemporary
African Media Association Malta

Sponsors

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The Festival Mahalla Festival is organized by the Istanbul based association **DIYALOG** in cooperation with the Museum **MUZA** (Muzew Nazzjonali tal-Arti) and **Heritage Malta**. The Festival is realized in close cooperation with several Maltese initiatives of the civil society which are working in the fields of cultural inclusion and intercultural dialog. These are the Sustainable Design Collective, Inizjamed. Utopian Nights, African Media Association Malta, Sudanese Migrant Association, Integra and Rima.

Several initiatives and cultural workers from Europe with and without migration background who are working in the fields of diversity, inclusion and intercultural debates will attend the festival in Malta and exchange their experiences. On 25th of November a solidarity declaration addressed to the European Union and the next location of the Mahalla Festival will be announced.

Implementation

Palazzo Zabbar

An unconverted **Palazzo in Zabbar** is a venue for site specific **interventions**. It served as a police station during the British colonial times and was partly burned down during the anti-colonial uprisings in the 1958. The building is currently for sale heading towards an unknown destiny. The possibility to use it as an art space is provided by Frank Salt Real Estate Malta.

Zabbar as a location was founded by the last Grandmaster of the order of St. John, Ferdinand von Hompesch zu Bohlheim. A German aristocrat who lost the islands to France in 1799 as the next colonial power. The Palazzo is a place breathing the strategical importance of the location in former times, while today the South is regarded peripheral in Malta.

The Festival is inviting the Locals in Zabbar to join the opening on the 18th of November in the Palazzo. Students of Malta University and participants of the Mahalla Video-workshop will produce Films and other interactive products in a dialogue with the local community. The Festival believes that knowledge about local history is one fundamental aspect of inclusion.

Inizjamed, a Maltese Literature-Initiative is doing a Poetry-Slam-event: Open mic - *Palk Fieles*.

Museum Fortress Builder: The Mahalla Share House

The Mahalla Festival is inventing the **Conceptual Mahalla Share House** in Valletta as a project to represent its continuous mission. It is located in Museum Fortress Builders facing the sea. Artistic works around the topics: Europe as a Fortress, armed conflicts, gentrification, fair trade are displaying a call for solidarity and utopian visions.

On the Ground Floor a Video by Erkan Özgen (TR) is introducing the triggers of migration by armed conflicts. He interviewed women, who got victims by the Islamic States' systematical abduction and abuse of the Ezidi minority.

On the third floor Darrin Zammit-Lupi (MLT) shows unknown Visuals about his 20 years long practice as a photographer monitoring rescue mission in the Mediterranean Sea.

In the Library on the same floor different artists display positions around a globalized world-economy in the Conceptual Mahalla Share-House. Installations from objects out of recycled materials, Photo-documentations and interactive works are inviting for reflections on various topics central in Malta and Europe right now.

Museum MUZA

The **Museum MUZA** will host several **Talks and Film-screenings** and the **Video-Art-exhibition** of the Mahalla Festival on its Ground Floor. Video-Artworks about the Maltese Diaspora in Tunisia, the Chinese minority in Indonesia, the Georgian shadow-play and its tricks to bypass censorship, traumatized German Veterans, future migration to space, suitcase memories from Palestine and Syria, and Sailor Pop-ais' (alias Popeyes) solution for the refugee crisis are showing a wide range of new narratives on various topics.

Mahalla Video-workshop

Since March 2018 DIYALOG in cooperation with the Sustainable Design Collective Malta are implementing a **community video workshop** for third country nationals and local communities. This workshop is as well part of the Mahalla Festival and a selection of short movies created within the workshop are shown at the 21st of November at the museum MUZA.

These video workshop series are a *Connecting for Good Project* by Vodafone Malta Foundation supported also by Allianz Kulturstiftung for Europe. The series took place at the Sudanese Migrant Community Center, the Gzira local council and the volunteer center in Valletta since March 2018.

The multicultural video-workshop is conducted by the curators of the Festival, Sabine Küper-Büsch and Thomas Büsch.

Venues

MUZA - Muzew Nazzjonali tal-Arti
Auberge D'Italie, Merchants St, Valletta

Museum Fortress Builders
St. Mark Street, Valletta

Studio 87
Liesse, Valletta

Valletta Contemporary
East Street, Valletta

Palazzo in Zabbar
Triq is Sanwarju 51, Zabbar

Chinese Garden of Serenity
St. Lucija - in cooperation with Utopian Nights
November 23, 24, 25



Program and Formats

The Festival will start on the 17th of November with a solo-show by artist Raziye Kubat (TR) in Studio 87. There will be various events at different venues and a reception at MUZA on 19th at 6:30 pm of November. The closing event will be in the Chinese Garden in St. Lucija 25th at 6:30 pm of November in cooperation with Utopian Nights and other partners.

Find detailed information about the participating artist, Photographs of the Venues and the Program on: <http://mahalla.inenart.eu>

Contact in Malta

Fortress Builders, Mo-Fr, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm and Sa, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
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From the 9th of November onwards:

Co-Curators:

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The first Mahalla Festival took place in Istanbul 2017 in the frame of the Istanbul Biennial. Istanbul is the base of the association Diyalog Derneği as the organizer of the Mahalla Festival. The main Curators, Thomas Büsch and Sabine Küper-Büsch, are in the board of the association.

Information about the first Mahalla Festival 2017 in Istanbul:

<http://mahalla.inenart.eu/>

Contact in Istanbul

The activities of the association Diyalog Derneği: www.diyalog-der.eu

The websites of the curators: www.doc-film.de; www.inenart.eu

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