

PROJECT 101100074
CREA-CULT-2022-COOP



Inspiring change
for a healthy ocean

“MELTING ART, CREATIVITY AND MARINE SCIENCES TO FOSTER OCEAN LITERACY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA”

CALL FOR ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

WP2 – TRAINING AND COOPERATION START-UP

D2.1 – ART4SEA COOPERATION MODEL

Call for Artists

1. Project Introduction

ART4SEA aims at creating a transnational and interdisciplinary cooperation program that involves artists, creative professionals, digital media experts, and marine scientists to co-produce a combination of physical and digital artworks focused on raising public awareness on Ocean Degradation and Climate Change, thus motivating people to assume a more environmentally friendly behaviour in their everyday life. ART4SEA aims at involving 24 international artists, selected through an open call, which will be trained by the project staff in: a) Ocean Conservation & Climate Change; c) Sustainable practices in arts; d) Digital Technologies such as Virtual, Augmented and Mixed Reality.

The residency program will take place on 3 small Mediterranean islands (Ustica in Italy, Alonissos in Greece, and Gozo in Malta), where artists will be inspired by the stunning natural environment, the old maritime traditions, and a direct connection with local communities. Artists will be encouraged to integrate their artworks with the marine, natural and architectural landscapes of the islands, thus creating an open-air and underwater museum making the three Islands a guiding light for Ocean Conservation.

Also, the creation of born-digital artworks will be stimulated, and the digital transition of artists that have poor or no experience with digital techniques will be supported. In fact, physical artworks will be digitized, thus allowing the production of a virtual exhibition (accessible both on the web and the metaverse) containing all ART4SEA artworks. This process will be supported by an ad-hoc platform that will include an authoring tool to facilitate the construction of the virtual space.

Four exhibitions and a final grand event will be organized in combination with workshops and other participative initiatives addressed to maximise the public engagement and to involve the widest range of citizens.

2. Goal of the Call

ART4SEA designs and activates a Cooperation model for the cultural and creative sector. The model will be based on a combination of in-presence and remote co-production, training, and tutoring activities, together with ICT and digitization technologies development. This co-creation approach will be activated in the framework of the Artists-in-Residence Programme on three small Mediterranean islands (Ustica, Alonissos and Gozo) aimed at creating artworks and interactive immersive experiences for the increase of Ocean Literacy.

The Residence Programme fosters a cooperation process between artists and communities to raise awareness of these topics thanks to co-creation and cross fertilisation activities on site and online. Artworks (both digital and physical ones) will become the tangible results of the two-year Residency Programme that includes for each island:

- 4 Digital artists
- 3 Street/Urban/Guerrilla/Ecological/Graffiti/Land artists
- 1 Artist producing underwater sculptures

Overall, 8 Artists for each island and 24 artists in total.

In detail, ART4SEA promotes an Open call for the selection 24 international artists willing to:

- Be engaged in co-creating projects addressed to increase the Ocean Literacy and a more environmentally friendly behaviour;
- Improve their skills and capacity to use digital technologies and digital media in the creative process also thanks to remote and on-site training provided by the project partners;
- Be engaged in public activities addressed to Ocean Literacy and in raising the public awareness of the need to preserve the marine ecosystems;
- Be trained about innovative sustainable methods applied to creative processes.

3. Artistic categories

The following art categories are eligible:

A.1 Physical Art, which may include:

- Street art, Urban art, Graffiti art, Guerrilla art
- Land art
- Ecological art
- Site-specific art
- Sculpture and Environmental sculpture

A.2 Physical Underwater Art:

- Underwater sculpture

B. Digital art, which may include:

- 3D art and Virtual/Video Rendering
- Digital imaging or video, Pixel Art, Vectorial art, Fractal art
- Artificial intelligence Art
- Net art
- Metaverse art (digital art exhibited in the metaverse)

4. Requirements

The present Call is open to individual artists meeting the following requirements:

- Artists with experience in one or more artistic categories identified in paragraph 3.
- At least 18 years of age.
- Based in a European country.
- Good knowledge of both written and spoken English, and preferably knowledge, at least at the basic level, of the local language of the island (Italian or Greek).

ART4SEA encourages the participation of artists with disabilities.

5. Technical specifications for digital and physical artworks

Artworks must be new and original and should be inspired by the “Ocean Literacy topics”, including blue economy, sustainability, sea ecosystem conservation and valorisation, etc.

Digital and Physical artworks should be coherent with the categories outlined in paragraph 3, and will be created according to the following technical specifications:

- A. Physical artworks:
 - Should be environmentally friendly, i.e. created with materials and techniques with a low environmental impact.
 - Should guarantee a proper conservation for at least 5 years.
 - The underwater sculpture should have a maximum weight of 100 kg.
- B. Digital artworks should comply with the following requirements:
 - 3D model converted in OBJ, STL or DWG
 - Video file with audio integration

6. Time schedule of the Artists-in-Residence Programme

The programme covers two years, according to the following specifications:

2024 - Year 1:

- Cooperative learning and training activities on ART4SEA topics (from February to May 2024). Online meetings, lessons, and workshops on:
 - Ocean conservation & Climate change (10h)
 - Sustainability (10h)
 - Digital technologies (20h)
- Artists-in-residence with participation in cross-fertilisation workshops with local communities. 7 days in one of the three Mediterranean islands include:
 - Interaction with local artists, inhabitants, and cultural associations
 - Workshops for co-creation and cross-fertilisation
 - Lectures, workshops, excursions and outdoor activities
 - Open events to involve the local communities
 - Support to collect materials, pictures, and ideas on the island

Artists-in-residence is planned as follows:

Alonissos 7 days in May 2024

Gozo 7 days in June 2024

Ustica 7 days in September 2024

- Artistic mentoring. On-site support and online meetings with ART4SEA artistic direction and experts for supporting the creation process.
- Artworks design and definition of the executive design project with technical description, and technical specifications for its installation.
- ART4SEA support on artwork digitization in view of the creation of digital twins (digital and physical art).

2025 - Year 2:

- Physical artwork creation, on-site installation, and creation of the digital artworks
- On-site exhibition
- Digital Exhibition for the web and the metaverse

The artwork realization process (category A) for exhibition is planned as follows:

Alonissos 5 days in Summer 2025

Gozo 5 days in Summer 2025

Ustica 5 days in Summer 2025

In 2025 only artists creating physical artworks (category A) will participate in on-site activities for the installation. Digital artists will finalize their artworks and collaborate to the digital exhibition remotely (see paragraph 8).

7. Destinations, accommodation, and workspace

The Artists-in-Residence programme will be activated in the following Mediterranean Islands:

- Alonissos (Greece). Alonissos is one of the three Sporades islands, the Greek archipelago of the Aegean Sea. It counts about 2.750 inhabitants and is located out of the main touristic streams of modern Greece. Due to the homonymum Marine Park, the biggest in Europe and famous for the presence of the monk seal, the island administration is very sensitive to environmental issues; the isle was actually the first in the area to adopt a plastic-free policy and is now trying to adopt environment friendly sustainable tourism models; many awareness raising campaigns and citizen science missions regarding sea pollution take place in the island. From 2020, the first Accessible Underwater CH Site of Alonissos, the Peristera classical wreck, is open for diving tourists and four additional sites are to be opened in summer 2022, increasing the tourism flows and the interest in the Underwater and Natural Heritage.
- Gozo (Malta). The island of Gozo is the second largest in the Maltese archipelago. The first human settlements on the island belong to the 5th century B.C., as stated by the big megalithic temples of Ggantija, the oldest in the world and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Other archaeological remains testify to the Punic and Roman times, the conquest by Napoleon and then by Great Britain. Gozo still has a rural character compared to the more developed Malta, with its hills and sheer cliffs and the few sandy beaches; for this reason, it is particularly appreciated by trekking and camping enthusiasts and is world-renowned in the diving community as one of the most beautiful diving destinations in the world. In the last decades, near Malta has known a fast touristic and urban development that often hasn't cared the environmental sustainability. That's why, in Gozo, the administration is trying to manage differently the touristic expansion, promoting sustainable tourism solutions.
- Ustica (Italy). The island of Ustica is located in the Tyrrhenian Sea, northwest of Palermo (Sicily). It has been inhabited since the Paleolithic age and presents Greek-Roman and 17th century archaeological remains. The natural and geological landscape is the main source of touristic attraction, with a high potential in trekking and naturalistic activities. The dreamy seabed, characterized by caves and coves and well known by divers, are the reason why the first Marine Protected area in Italy has been established here, in 1986. The island administration is very attentive to environmental issues and, from 2019, is committed to adopting a plastic-free policy. The

prominent event in the isle, the International Review of Underwater Activities, is now at its 60th edition and is dedicated to scuba diving and marine research, with a focus on environmental protection and sustainable development of the territory.

The Artists-in-Residence program is planned according to the following timetable:

Year of the Project	Estimated month of the Activity	Duration of the Activity	Activity	No. and category of participating Artists
YEAR 1	May 2024	7 days	Residence in Alonissos	4 'Physical artists' (cat. A) 4 Digital artists (cat. B)
	June 2024	7 days	Residence in Gozo	4 'Physical artists' (cat. A) 4 Digital artists (cat. B)
	September 2024	7 days	Residence in Ustica	4 'Physical artists' (cat. A) 4 Digital artists (cat. B)
YEAR 2	Summer 2025	5 days	Exhibition and installation in Alonissos	4 'Physical artists' (same participants of Year 1)
	Summer 2025	5 days	Exhibition and installation in Gozo	4 'Physical artists' (same participants of Year 1)
	Summer 2025	5 days	Exhibition and installation in Ustica during the grand event	4 'Physical artists' (same participants of Year 1)

Artists' accommodations, studios and workspaces are located on the islands according to local residence and accommodation availability.

During the days of the Programme, facilities provided by the Project will include lunch and dinner. Artists will be involved in joint activities to explore and get to know the islands and the local communities.

8. Grant, facilities, and prize

Costs covered by the Project are strictly linked to the category of artists:

- A. Physical artists will take part in on-site activities both in 2024 and 2025. The costs will be covered for participating in the activities on the islands for both years.
- B. Digital artists will take part in on-site activities only in 2024. The activities foreseen in 2025 (finalization of the digital artworks and preparation of the digital exhibition) will be developed remotely.

ART4SEA will cover the following costs:

- Travel: round trip, board and lodging costs from European cities, detailed as follows:
 - Year 2024: costs will be covered for both categories of artists (A and B)
 - Year 2025: costs will be covered only for the participation of category A artists.

- Board and lodging:
 - Year 2024: costs will be covered for both categories of artists (A and B) for 7 days.
 - Year 2025: costs will be covered only for the participation of category A artists for 5 days.
- Costs for the realization of artworks: costs related only to the realization of physical artworks (category A), up to a maximum of:
 - € 500 (all taxes included) total cost for one street/land/urban artwork e.g., environmentally friendly materials, paints, brushes, similar equipment for realization, etc.
 - € 2.000 (all taxes included) total cost for materials and ballast of one underwater sculpture e.g. environmentally friendly sculpture.

The total cost of physical artworks is fixed. Artists could be asked to modify the list of materials/drafts in order to respect the set amount.

The Project also covers the costs for realization services (e.g. small scaffolding, lift platform, equipment for the underwater installation and placement). The ART4SEA Project also covers the shipping cost for the underwater artwork.

PRIZES AND TIMELINE OF PAYMENTS

Artists selected by the Call for Artists will receive the following prizes:

- A: Street/land/urban etc. artist: € 2.500 (all taxes included)
- A: Artist for the creation of the underwater sculpture: €3.500 (all taxes included)
- B: Digital Artist: € 2.000 (all taxes included)

Artists will receive the contribution of the prize by bank transfer according to the following timeline:

20% of the prize upon signature of the contract.

30% of the prize after the final draft of the artistic project has been approved by competent authorities and before realising the artworks (approx. April 2025).

50% upon completion of the artwork and in any case before the final event of the project, scheduled in October 2025.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN ART4SEA PROJECT AND THE ARTISTS

ART4SEA team will activate:

- Administrative assistance to support local municipalities and public offices involved in the approval of the project design according to its potential landscape/underwater/environmental impacts. Project design will be shared with the local community for its involvement and active participation.
- Promotion and dissemination of artistic creations in the Euro-Mediterranean context.
- 2024 - Year 1:
 - Training activities, artistic mentoring, and technical support
 - Organization of accommodations and facilities for 7 days. Artists will be involved in contamination activities as inspiration for the design of the artworks (paragraph 5)

- 2025 - Year 2:
 - Organization of the exhibition. Artists will be actively involved in the set-up of the local exhibition during the artistic production.
 - Organization and promotion of the digital exhibition in the metaverse with creation of digital twins of artworks.
 - (Only for Category A. Physical art) Organization of accommodations and facilities for 5 days. Artists are required to create their physical artworks and participate in the installation of underwater artworks.

9. How to participate

Each artist shall submit their application by filling in the attached Application form. The following documents must be submitted together with the application form:

- Copy of a valid identity document
- Portfolio with previous works and artistic experiences, with specific reference to the participation in other Artists-in-Residence programmes. File must be sent in .pdf format, max 20MB.
- Recorded video of the artist including a short presentation and explaining his/her motivation to take part in the Artists-in-residence programme. File must be sent in .mp4 format, max 20MB.

In the Application form, candidates shall include a draft proposal of the digital/physical artwork and express their preference about the Island for the residency.

If selected, artists could be asked to modify the draft, make new proposals in line with the identified island/theme or to be involved in another island of the Project.

The Application form and the attachments, duly completed and signed, shall be submitted at www.art4sea.eu/call-for-artists no later than November 10th, 2023.

10. Selection and start of the Artists-in-Residence programme

The Evaluation Committee will be composed by the Artistic Director and four representatives of the ART4SEA consortium designated by partners. Evaluation criteria are explained in paragraph 11.

Selected participants will be contacted by email and/or telephone indicated in the Application form within 60 days before the start of the residency. The Evaluation Committee will take into consideration the preference expressed in the application form for the allocation of each artist to the three Mediterranean islands of the Project, but a different island of the three could be assigned.

From the communication of the selection, the candidate has 10 days to reply and send back the signed contract. After 10 days, the eventual lack of confirmation will be considered as withdrawal, and the Commission will proceed with the scrolling of the ranking.

Contracts will also contain rights, copyrights and privacy policies as specified in paragraph 12. The document will also contain the starting date of the Artists-in-Residence Programme and further logistics details.

After the Contract is signed and sent, artists will be contacted to plan the journey and will be informed of all programme activities and schedule (training, residence, mentoring, etc.).

11. Evaluation criteria

The Evaluation Committee will evaluate the application forms and related attachments to analyse their formal admissibility according to the following criteria:

- Reception of documents by the deadline
- Full documentation and attachments
- Full and complete application form
- Conformity with the Requirements set in paragraph 3 and paragraph 4.

The Evaluation Committee may ask applicants to produce further documents or to integrate those already submitted. The request will be sent by email and the artists will have 6 days to reply.

The Evaluation Committee will evaluate the applications based on portfolio, previous experiences, motivations, as included in the Application form and according to the following criteria:

- Quality of the proposed digital/physical artwork to be created within the programme and coherence with ART4SEA themes.
- Artistic profile and international relevance.
- Expressed motivation.
- Previous participation in Artists-in-Residence programmes.

The Evaluation Committee will elaborate the ranking list according to the following division:

- 12 Digital artists
- 12 Physical artists (including 3 artists producing underwater sculptures)

The ranking list will contain the final location of the artists on each island.

12. Use of selected artworks, rights, and privacy policy

The rights on the artworks are defined as follows:

1. Physical artworks produced by artists will be donated to the local municipality and to the owners of the spaces on which they will be installed. Artists are recognized as owners of NFTs, according to planned activities.
2. Digital artworks will be donated to the ART4SEA Project.
3. Physical artworks will be digitized to be displayed in the digital exhibition. The transformation of artworks from a physical dimension to a digital one will be realized by the Project. Artists are recognized as owners of generated NFTs, and they will allow the use of their artworks within the ART4SEA Project, according to planned activities.

All artists will allow the use of their artworks for free within the ART4SEA Project and will not claim other financial benefits apart from the cachet received.

The ART4SEA Consortium and the local municipalities are released from liability in case of material or immaterial damage to people, property or to the artists themselves, that may occur during the realization of project activities. For this reason, participants are encouraged to take out appropriate insurance at their own expenses.

ART4SEA and its partners will not be liable even in case the created artworks were covered by copyright held by third parties. The artist assigned to the space is solely responsible for it and for the artwork. The artist

shall act in compliance with all the safety regulations in force in this field and at any condition that may be given by the competent offices.

Each artist will take responsibility for any damage of any nature they should cause, including the contents of the artworks. Artists are also fully responsible for the aesthetic and environmental care of the space assigned to them, also during the installation phase. If the assigned space is not painted in an organic way, or verses in a state of decay or is used improperly and not for artistic purposes, the ART4SEA Consortium reserves the right to declare the termination of the assignment of the space, or, in the most serious cases, to proceed with the withdrawal of the authorization and eventual damage claims.

Participation in the present call is free of charge and implies acceptance of all the rules contained in this document.

Candidates allow the processing of personal data pursuant to GDPR 679/2016 to execute the evaluation process and all other ART4SEA activities, including the communication, information and promotion of materials collected in compliance with legal obligations.