

# Manifesta 14 Prishtina 2022

Press Release  
25<sup>th</sup> of June 2021

## Manifesta 14 announces its opening and closing dates and introduces the first urban interventions of CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati in Prishtina, Kosovo

In today's press conference, Manifesta 14 announced that the upcoming edition will be held in Prishtina, Kosovo from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July to the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

*Organising a biennial during a global pandemic makes us rethink who we are. Today, more than a year since the outbreak of Covid-19, we find ourselves in an urgent state of crisis with multiple dimensions and manifestations touching upon our lives; our physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing. This current crisis not only threatens institutions, organisations, networks and individuals, but leads us to ecological transformation of planetary dimensions. Artists, ecologists, architects and social designers play a key role in the social and ecological transformation of our times. Within Manifesta 14 taking place in Prishtina, Kosovo, we are looking for a radical change in biennial policies: one of supporting and co-creating relevant sustainable artistic solutions in order to increase creative capacity. We will do this in close relation with Prishtina-based citizens, and the artistic and civic communities, so that we can explore possibilities of nurturing connectivity and renewing our relationship with nature, whilst fostering greater awareness of our current realities. Carlo Ratti Associati's methodology, focusing on participatory urbanism will strengthen Manifesta 14's mission of working with communities to create sustainable urban solutions.*

Hedwig Fijen, Founding Director of Manifesta

The first symbolic urban interventions created in Prishtina, Kosovo by the renowned design and innovation bureau CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati have been revealed. In March 2021, CRA was selected to conduct Manifesta 14's urban vision of Prishtina. The urban vision informs how Manifesta 14 will take shape within the local context but most importantly it is commissioned to develop how the City of Prishtina could be transformed through reclaiming public space by its citizens. In the press conference Carlo Ratti spoke about the early findings from CRA's research which was conducted during the past three

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months, as well as giving his vision as to how the City of Prishtina can be developed in the future according to an open-source framework.

CRA's multidisciplinary design team, based between Turin, New York City, and Prishtina, has proposed a new methodology focusing on participatory urbanism, which is to be tested in Prishtina for the first time. The methodology is composed of three different phases. The initial one, which took place from the start of March 2021, consisted of an extensive series of maps of Prishtina, primarily looking at the state of the city's public space. This helped to illuminate hidden spatial and social patterns as well as to distinguish key spots - squares and streets, parks and green areas - that are currently underused or misused. During the summer of 2021, as the second phase of the project, these places will become the sites of a series of temporary urban interventions, suggesting alternative ways in which public space might be reclaimed. In the third phase of the project, people will have the possibility to "vote with their feet": that is, giving direct comments on the design actions. This feedback mechanism will contribute to establish which intervention should be preserved and consolidated for the future of the Kosovo capital, fostering the city's permanent evolution.

*It's a unique moment for urban life. Far from rendering cities obsolete, the health emergency of the last year has acted as a catalyst for innovation. This allows us to rethink most assumptions on how we would like our cities to be - in an urban rendition of what the economist Joseph Schumpeter called "creative destruction". Our project for Manifesta 14 is a first-time experiment with a new methodology for open-source urbanism. It's hard to think of a better living lab than Prishtina - a young capital with extraordinary bottom-up energy and a shifting relationship with public space. Effectively, there is no way to tell which transformation is best unless we test it, and this is what we will start investigating this summer. We invite all people to share their feedback on the urban interventions and contribute to accelerating the evolution of Prishtina.*

Carlo Ratti, founding partner at CRA design and innovation office, and professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The first symbolic intervention will take place at the previously discarded space of the Brick Factory – the city's most important post-industrial site –

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and will temporarily be turned into a community space. Through creating an “urban living room”, the intervention aims to trigger a debate about how this space can be used by the citizens of Prishtina, how it can be made accessible to the communities and how it can become part of the city’s infrastructure. Alongside the Brick Factory’s urban intervention, a second site, will also test CRA’s methodology. This will take place in the former Hivzi Sulejmani Library, an early 20th century building whose exquisite little garden is currently inaccessible, despite its central location. Together with the local communities and students from the Architectural Faculty of Prishtina’s University, Manifesta 14 aims to shape a new and alternative communal space for the neighbourhood and, through this action, hopes to show how to convert abandoned public spaces into areas where the community can interact with one another.

Both the Brick Factory and the former Hivzi Sulejmani will be used as venues for the upcoming edition of Manifesta in 2022 and are part of its vision to reactivate and reclaim public space in Prishtina.

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Notes to Editors:

**CRA'S RESEARCH ON OPEN-SOURCE ARCHITECTURE** // The project for Manifesta 14 Prishtina advances CRA's research on open-source methodologies in the design process, which has been going on for one decade. The ultimate purpose of the open-source approach, as stated in a collective manifesto co-signed by Carlo Ratti ("Open-Source Architecture", Thames & Hudson, 2015), is to transform architecture "from a top-down immutable delivery mechanism into a transparent, inclusive and bottom-up ecological system— even if it still includes top-down mechanisms". Over time, this approach translated into a series of multifaceted projects and exhibitions developed by CRA internationally.

**MANIFESTA'S URBAN VISION SIGNIFICANCE** // Manifesta was founded in the early 1990s in response to the political, economic, and social changes following the end of the Cold War and the fall of the Iron Curtain. Since its establishment as a European Nomadic Biennial - a pan-European network for the contemporary arts which changes its location every two years - the event has been increasingly strengthening its cross-disciplinary approach. Starting from the 2018 edition, Manifesta Foundation has invited leading design practices to develop both a pre-biennial research and a long-term plan to identify possible strategies, sites, communities and key topics for the selected city. The urban study of Manifesta 12 (2018), developed by OMA, focused on Palermo and on its role as a culture integrator. The urban study of Manifesta 13 (2020), developed by MVRDV, explored the city of Marseille. For Manifesta 14 Prishtina, the Mayor of Prishtina Sphend Ahmeti, and the Director of Manifesta Hedwig Fijen appointed Carlo Ratti Associati to develop the urban study for the Kosovo capital.

**PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS** // For the initial research and mapping, CRA has been collaborating with the Senseable City Lab at MIT, the Kosovo Architecture Foundation, and the University of Prishtina. For the next phases of the project, it will implement further synergies with Kosovo-based cultural and non-governmental organisations. In parallel to CRA's urban study, the Dutch architecture office Studio L A will run local citizen consultations.

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Moreover, the Montenegro-based research institute Kotor APSS will execute a comparative mapping, investigating the social and architectural context in cities of neighbouring countries: Podgorica in Montenegro, Skopje in North Macedonia and Tirana in Albania.

## About Manifesta:

Manifesta, the European Nomadic Biennial, originated in the early 1990s in response to the political, economic, and social changes following the end of the Cold War and the subsequent steps towards European integration. Manifesta has developed into a platform for dialogue between art and society by inviting the cultural and artistic community to produce new creative experiences with, and for, the context in which it takes place. Manifesta rethinks the relations between culture and society investigating and catalysing positive social change in Europe through contemporary culture in a continuous dialogue with the social sphere of a specific place.

Manifesta was founded, and is still directed, by Dutch art historian Hedwig Fijen. Each new edition is fundraised individually and managed by a permanent team of international specialists.

## Next Manifesta Host Cities:

Manifesta 14, Pristina (Kosovo, 2022)  
Manifesta 15, Barcelona (Spain, 2024)  
Manifesta 16, Ruhr Area (Germany, 2026)

## Previous Manifesta Host Cities:

Manifesta 1, Rotterdam (Netherlands, 1996)  
Manifesta 2, Luxembourg (Luxembourg, 1998)  
Manifesta 3, Ljubljana (Slovenia, 2000)  
Manifesta 4, Frankfurt (Germany, 2002)  
Manifesta 5, Donostia-San Sebastián (Spain, 2004)  
Manifesta 6, Nicosia (Cyprus, 2006 – cancelled)  
Manifesta 7, Trentino-Alto Adige (Italy, 2008)  
Manifesta 8, Murcia - Cartagena (Spain, 2010)  
Manifesta 9, Genk-Limburg (Belgium, 2012)

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Manifesta 10, St. Petersburg (Russia, 2014)

Manifesta 11, Zurich (Switzerland, 2016)

Manifesta 12, Palermo (Italy, 2018)

Manifesta 13, Marseille (France, 2020)

About CRA - Carlo Ratti Associati:

CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati is an international design and innovation practice based in Turin and New York City. Drawing on Carlo Ratti's research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the office is currently involved in many projects globally, embracing every scale of intervention from furniture to urban planning. Among recent designs are the Italian Pavilion at Expo Dubai 2020, CapitaSpring tower in Singapore, MEET Digital Arts Center in Milan, the curatorship of the 2019 Bi-City Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism of Shenzhen, and the redesign of the Agnelli Foundation HQ in Turin. In March 2020, CRA initiated CURA (Connected Units of Respiratory Ailments), a global open-source initiative to convert shipping containers into plug-in Intensive-Care Units for COVID-19 patients.

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