

Manifesta 14 Prishtina 2022

Press Release

5th of April 2022

Today, on the 5th of April in Prishtina, Manifesta 14 is delighted to announce the conceptual framework of the nomadic biennial opening on the 22nd of July 2022. Manifesta 14 is equally pleased to share the preliminary participant list for the forthcoming biennial. Revolving around four central pillars, the programme works to transform the biennial model into a participatory and collaborative catalyst for social change.

Manifesta's Conceptual Framework

Prishtina, one of the youngest capital cities of Europe and the capital city of Kosovo, has become the epicentre of an alternative biennial model. Manifesta's 14th edition rethinks the relevance of an international biennial in a post-pandemic world. Working collectively with Kosovar urbanists, cultural professionals, artists and thinkers, Manifesta 14 acts as a temporary incubator in the city, a platform for knowledge production and for innovative, participatory practices. The programme serves the needs and interests of Kosovar communities by creating sustainable projects and bringing much needed international recognition to national talent. Manifesta envisages that the artistic and urban interventions will become a catalyst for further urban transformation in the city of Prishtina, aiming to reclaim public space in the long-term.

After two years affected by the pandemic, Manifesta, the European Nomadic Biennial, has intensified its quest to develop more sustainable biennial models, by co-creating long-term structures and ownership of the projects it initiates with, and for, the local Kosovar community. Within Manifesta 14, a key element of this endeavour is the transformation of the former Hivzi Sylejmani Library into the Centre for Narrative Practice: a permanent multi-functional space for the local and regional neighbourhoods and the artistic community. The rethinking of the biennial framework has also led to the creation of Kosovo's first mediation school, providing training for young people and setting up an infrastructure to continue such practices. With the 14th edition, Manifesta has shifted its focus from temporality to consistency, from an ephemeral exhibition event to creating a more sustainable, inclusive practice. This new structural approach will be evaluated throughout the biennial and potentially implemented as a model for future Manifesta editions.

Manifesta 14 Prishtina 2022

The 100-day artistic programme of Manifesta 14, entitled *it matters what worlds world worlds: how to tell stories otherwise*, builds upon the Urban Vision developed by CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati and the findings of Citizens Consultations, a Public Survey and community research conducted in the pre-biennial process. The urgent needs articulated by the citizens of Prishtina include: reclaiming public space, strengthening participatory democracy, extending the cultural infrastructure beyond the boundaries of the inner city, establishing and maintaining spaces for well-being, improving diversity and inclusivity in the cultural fields and making Prishtina greener. Manifesta has translated these findings into artistic, urbanistic, educational and ecological projects which together form the four pillars of the programme.

Participants

Participants will present their work at 22 venues across the city of Prishtina. Of the 40 artistic and urban interventions announced today, 32 works have been newly conceived especially for Manifesta 14 Prishtina. The whole programme will bring together 77 participants from some 32 countries, including 17 collectives, 37 participants from Kosovo and an additional 16 from the Western Balkans. Thus, 48% of the participants and collectives are Kosovar, including projects commissioned via the Manifesta 14 Kosovo Projects Open Call, a crucial part of giving representation to the rich cultural world of Kosovo. Please refer to annexe 1 to view the preliminary participant list.

Programme – the four pillars

The four central pillars of Manifesta 14 Prishtina's programme consists of: the former industrial site of the Brick Factory; the Grand Hotel, an iconic hotel built during the Yugoslav period; the new Centre for Narrative Practice in the former Hivzi Sylejmani Library and a variety of artistic and urban interventions across the city designed to reclaim public space in the long-term. These are woven into a tightly composed parcours, which brings together all the public spaces and events into one cohesive programme, allowing visitors to interact with the stories of the places in which these interventions are shown.

New visitors to Prishtina will discover not only the Manifesta 14 programme but also the city's vibrancy and fascinating, diverse architecture, whereas residents will hopefully see their city in a new light. The parcours incorporates the public spaces identified by CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati's Urban Vision as essential public spaces to be reclaimed and regenerated by the citizens. Manifesta 14 has also created a regional parcours, which connects the Prishtina programme to regional cultural partners through the Manifesta 14 Western Balkans Project and establishes a lasting collaborative network.

Manifesta 14

Prishtina 2022

Manifesta 14 Centre for Narrative Practice

Manifesta 14 will establish for the first time in its history a Centre for Narrative Practice, a permanent interdisciplinary creative space at the former Hivzi Sylejmani Library in Prishtina. Based on the needs expressed by the local community, the new institution will strengthen the arts, cultural and public sectors in the city.

Envisaged as a long-term community-based project, the Centre for Narrative Practice will offer activities for people of all ages: from archiving, library-making, gardening and oral storytelling to podcasting, printing and performance. Aside from the extensive education programme, it will also host several artistic interventions.

The Grand Hotel

The Grand Hotel in Prishtina was once the meeting point for citizens, officials and politicians during the Yugoslav era. Nowadays, the 13-storey building is largely unused. The building's fascinating and troubled history makes it a crucial location to explore a central concern of Manifesta 14: what role do the arts and critical thinking play in telling stories, in encouraging political engagement, in enacting healing, repair and transformation? A thematic exploration and a number of artistic interventions spread across the hotel will invite visitors to examine the hotel and its history. The presentation will reflect on stories of transition, migration, water, capital, love, ecology and speculation.

The Brick Factory

The Brick Factory, a large post-industrial factory space just outside the city centre, will host a model site of eco-urban learning, collaboration and recreation which seeks to link Prishtina with the rural areas. It directly takes up the challenges articulated by CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati and the MIT's Senseable City Lab in the Urban Vision conducted as part of Manifesta 14's research process. The eco-urban learning project will be developed and programmed by the award-winning architects raumlaborberlin. Its participatory programme will combine leisure with learning through archaeology, mapping, storytelling, music-making, building, gardening, cooking and eating.

Artistic and Urban Interventions

There will be artistic interventions at 22 venues in Prishtina, from city squares and boulevards to a former and existing cinema and an observatory. Manifesta 14 Prishtina engages with sites of historical and contemporary significance across the city, presenting work from participants many of whom are producing newly conceived projects. Besides the artistic interventions and the parcours, there will be urban interventions across the city, part of a long-term investment in the urban transformation of Prishtina. These include the Green Corridor which will transform a part of the disused Prishtina – Belgrade railway into a new green space and pedestrian path connecting the Brick Factory to the Palace of Youth and Sports in the heart of the city. The community will be involved in the planting, design and maintenance of this corridor under the guidance of CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati and the coordination of UN Habitat and the City of Prishtina. In close collaboration with the public administration this project will foster long-term environmental change in the city.

Manifesta 14 Prishtina 2022

Notes for the Editors:

Annexe 1:

Preliminary Participant List for Manifesta 14 Prishtina

Annexe 2:

Venue List for Manifesta 14 Prishtina

As of the 5th of April 2022, we have opened our accreditation process. Please be sure to accredit by following this link:

manifesta14.org/accreditation/

About Manifesta:

manifesta14.org/about-manifesta/

Upcoming Manifesta Edition:

Manifesta 14, Prishtina (Kosovo, 22nd of July to the 30th of October, 2022)

Next Manifesta Host Cities:

Manifesta 15, Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain, 2024)
Manifesta 16, Ruhr Area (Germany, 2026)

For International press requests, please contact:

Pickles PR: Rhiannon Pickles:
rhiannon@picklespr.com

For Albanian and Serbian press requests, please contact:

Dardan Hoti: dardanhoti@manifesta.org

For German press requests, please contact:

Kathrin Luz: kl@neumann-luz.de

For French press requests, please contact:

Nadia Fatnassi: nadia@closeencounters.fr