

# Manifesta 14 Prishtina 2022

## Press Release

## 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2022

Manifesta 14 Prishtina opens in Europe's youngest capital city  
Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2022

Today, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July, Manifesta is delighted to announce that the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Nomadic Biennial is open in Prishtina, Kosovo.

From the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July to the 30<sup>th</sup> of October, Manifesta 14 Prishtina presents a 100-day interdisciplinary programme of artistic & urban interventions, performances, events and workshops.

Manifesta 14 responds to Prishtina's call and the global need to reclaim and reimagine public spaces. An Urban Vision and biennial interventions by CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati as well as a series of Citizen Consultations and in-depth research by Manifesta 14's Education team have inspired a multi-layered artistic and urbanistic programme. Under the title *it matters what worlds world worlds: how to tell stories otherwise*, the artistic programme was developed by Creative Mediator Catherine Nichols with the Manifesta 14 team and in close collaboration with local collectives, artists, scholars, architects and activists.

### Key statistics

Manifesta 14 Prishtina has a radically local programme: of the 103 participants, which includes 25 collectives, 39% have Kosovar origins, the highest ever number of local participants in any edition of Manifesta. A further 26% of the participants are from the Western Balkans, meaning that 65% of the total participants herald from the region. Further, 56% of the individual participants are female, and 3% are non-binary.

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## Venues of Manifesta 14 Prishtina

Spread across 25 public and semi-public venues in Prishtina, from the Ottoman-era Great Hammam to the Yugoslav-era Palace of Youth and Sports, the biennial programme is best navigated through the Manifesta 14 parcours. This parcours prompts visitors to witness the ongoing urban development of this young, social and dynamic capital city. Through its engagement with a diverse set of venues – each with their own unique histories, Manifesta 14 Prishtina calls attention to the need and use of public space within urban landscapes.

Major urban interventions include the Green Corridor, which connects two sides of the city with a plant-lined sustainable mobility path and opens access to the eco-urban learning laboratory developed by raumlaborberlin for Manifesta 14 Prishtina in the former Brick Factory. For the first time in Manifesta's three-decade history, Manifesta 14 has established a permanent interdisciplinary cultural institution, the Centre for Narrative Practice, situated on the grounds of the former Hivzi Sulejmani Library. This is the result of a significant change in Manifesta's institutional approach, concentrating on making a long-term impact on the local infrastructure and cultural ecosystem in the Host City.

With this edition, the European Nomadic Biennial has also formed a regional network and programme of events through the Manifesta 14 Prishtina – Western Balkans Project, connecting and extending the Prishtina programme with those of cultural partners hailing from across the region.

## Four pillars

Manifesta 14's programme is based around four pillars: 1) the Centre for Narrative Practice with its Oaza Education space, 2) the former Brick Factory, 3) the Grand Hotel Prishtina and its seven-floor thematic exhibition and 4) the parcours of 25 venues with artistic and urban interventions spread across the city of Prishtina. These are woven into a tightly composed parcours, which threads together all the interdisciplinary elements of Manifesta 14 Prishtina into one cohesive programme, allowing visitors to interact with the stories of the places in which the artistic interventions are presented.

Revolving around these four pillars, the programme works to transform the biennial model into a participatory and collaborative catalyst for social change. *See annexe two for more details on each of these four pillars.*

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## Kosovo and its relationship to Europe

The artistic and urban interventions of Manifesta 14 Prishtina, including the thematic exhibition titled *The Grand Scheme of Things*, ask the visitor to consider the political impetus of storytelling. In a biennial full of stories, what does it mean for the young people and artistic community of a country to live with travel restrictions to the Schengen area. The lack of visa liberalisation means that Kosovo's cultural and artistic communities face the most basic obstructions, restricting their capacity to conduct and maintain constructive dialogues with the rest of Europe – let alone the rest of the world.

As the European Nomadic Biennial, through its urban and artistic interventions across Prishtina, Manifesta addresses Kosovo's relationship with Europe. Via the synergy of international and local participants in the biennial programme, Manifesta 14 Prishtina hopes to not only put the spotlight on the underrepresented talents within the region, but to open up new networks for Kosovo's artistic and cultural communities. Stimulating intercultural dialogues has been core to all Manifesta editions; for Manifesta 14 Prishtina, we strive to develop and sustain cultural discussions and social debates – to open up the rest of Europe and the world to Kosovo, and for the world to see all that Kosovo has to offer.

Manifesta 14 Prishtina is free and open for 100 days until the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

# Manifesta 14 Prishtina 2022

Notes for the Editors:

Annexe one: Launch of the  
Manifesta 14 Prishtina publication  
*Public After All*

Participant List for Manifesta 14 Prishtina

Annexe two: Four pillars of  
Manifesta 14 Prishtina's programme

Four pillars of Manifesta 14 Prishtina

About Manifesta:

[manifesta14.org/about-manifesta/](http://manifesta14.org/about-manifesta/)

Next Manifesta Host Cities:

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

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# Manifesta 14 Prishtina 2022

## Annexe one: Launch of the Manifesta 14 Prishtina Publication *Public After All*

For the opening of Manifesta 14 Prishtina, we are delighted to launch  
the publication *Public After All*

One of the key pillars of Manifesta is its strong focus on urban developments within its Host Cities, a focus that is at the heart of the multiyear pre-biennial research process. *Public After All* presents this research, knowledge production and the Urban Vision commissioned by Manifesta 14 Prishtina to Turin-based design office CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati. *Public After All* presents an analysis of and a methodology for portraying Prishtina in 2022 and beyond. The publication is a tool for the citizens of Kosovo's capital to rethink the potential of their city and envisions different possibilities to revitalise and reclaim Prishtina's public space.

*Public After All*, lushly illustrated and accompanied by an evocative suite of visuals capturing Prishtina past and present, features the words and works of a variety of leading scholars, students, critics and residents of Europe's youngest capital city. The publication, printed in Kosovo in line with Manifesta 14's commitment to invest in the local economy, shall serve as a resource for and an initiator of further initiatives to address the incredible intricacy of Prishtina.

Initiated and introduced by Manifesta 14 Director Hedwig Fijen, *Public After All* is a new publication from the European Nomadic Biennial. The publication includes messages from Mayor of Prishtina Përparim Rama and

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport of the Republic of Kosovo Hajrulla Çeku as well as a conversation between Carlo Ratti and Deyan Sudjic, a socio-urban history by Professor Ilir Gijnolli and a summary of Manifesta's pre-biennial process and educational programme.

With graphic design by Bardhi Haliti and Zuzana Kostelanská, the publication maps the urban landscape, mobility and development of Prishtina at a crucial moment in the city's long and storied history. The publication is based upon the Urban Vision, executed by CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati with the MIT Senseable City Lab and in cooperation with the Kosovo Architecture Foundation plus a wide range of stakeholders from the art, architecture and academic fields of Kosovo as well as the public sector and civil society.

# Manifesta 14 Prishtina 2022

## Annexe two: Four pillars of Manifesta 14 Prishtina

Manifesta 14's programme is based around four pillars: 1) the Centre for Narrative Practice with its Oaza Education space, 2) the former Brick Factory, 3) the Grand Hotel Prishtina and its seven-floor thematic exhibition The Grand Scheme of Things and 4) the parcours of 25 venues with artistic and urban interventions spread across the city of Prishtina. These are woven into a tightly composed parcours, which threads together all the interdisciplinary elements of Manifesta 14 Prishtina into one cohesive programme, allowing visitors to interact with the stories of the places in which the artistic interventions are presented.

### Manifesta 14 Centre for Narrative Practice

The Manifesta 14 Centre for Narrative Practice is a site for storytelling. It is a place to read and to listen to stories, a place to learn new ways of telling stories and a place to reflect on how we use storytelling to engage with one another, to take part in public and political life and to bring forth new imaginaries and ways of being.

This new multidisciplinary institution is situated at the former Hivzi Sulejmani Library, an oasis of quietude, learning and sharing that has been greatly missed since it closed its doors to the public in 2016. It draws on the desires and needs articulated by the people of Prishtina in consultations conducted by the Manifesta 14 team and will continue after the biennial is over.

Throughout the biennial, the centre is hosting several artistic interventions and activities that engage with many different forms of storytelling: from creative writing, reading and artistic research to archiving and library-making, from gardening, conservation, exhibition-making to self-publishing, podcasting and performance. It is also home to Oaza, a space for the Educational Programme of Manifesta 14 Prishtina.

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## The Brick Factory

The Brick Factory, Prishtina's largest post-industrial site, was returned to public ownership in 2021. The future of the site lies in the hands of the citizens. Manifesta 14 Prishtina has invited raumlaborberlin – a collective of experimental architects and urbanologists specialising in participatory models of urban transformation – to join forces with the citizens to actively reclaim the site, to establish it as a common ground and to collectively imagine its future.

Their project – [Working on] Common Ground – is a 100-day laboratory on eco-urban learning and making, which kicks off with a two-week summer school. The programme has been conceived and is implemented in collaboration with collectives from Kosovo, the region and further afield.

The laboratory relates stories it unearths on site – whether social, political, economic or ecological – to contemporary challenges, such as decontamination, conservation, circular and regenerative economies, sustainable building, mobility and climate care.

People of all ages and backgrounds are invited to join in the many activities including archaeology, exploring, mapping and storytelling, building, gardening, swimming,

cooking and eating. The programme also features music, film and visual arts by local and regional artists and collectives.

## Grand Hotel Prishtina

Manifesta 14 Prishtina begins at the Grand Hotel. Still a grand place, it is dilapidated, largely unused and sagging under the weight of its symbolism. At this equally captivating and contested site, the biennial explores the role of the arts and art thinking in telling stories otherwise, in bringing forth political imagination and engagement, in enacting healing, repair and transformation.

The hotel is host to The Grand Scheme of Things, a thematic exhibition, and manifold artistic interventions. Visitors are invited to explore its hallways, rooms and history while reflecting on stories of transition, migration, water and capital, love, ecology and speculation: the themes that link the concerns of people in Kosovo with those of people around the world – and indeed those of the planet at large.

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## Parcours – Artistic and Urban Interventions

Manifesta 14 Prishtina engages with 25 sites of historical and contemporary significance across the city. Woven into a tightly composed parcours, the artistic interventions interact with the stories of the places in which they are shown. Local researchers have been involved in the conception process to ensure that the stories of the places are investigated and conveyed, whether by being incorporated into the artworks or by flowing into their mediation. From sculpture, installation, video and performance to sound-, text-, research-, school- and archive-based pieces, the artworks have been produced by artists from Kosovo, the region and all over the world. They have been chosen for their capacity to challenge the widespread post-political attitude that there is no alternative to the status quo. They do this by imagining existing worlds otherwise, by drawing the threads of history and experience together differently, so that new stories might emerge and more fruitful relationships to public space and public life might be forged. In the process, their practices of worlding and storytelling come to the fore.