



A transnational project exploring our shared and contested Colonial heritage and its influence on contemporary culture.

CONTESTED DESIRES: Constructive Dialogues

OPEN CALL for ARTISTS based in Portugal

Project Duration: September 2024 - November 2026
Project Fee: €7450 (travel, accommodations, daily per diems for subsistence and production materials are paid for separately)
Artform: Participatory and socially-engaged visual arts practice (including but not limited to: drawing, printmaking, photography, film, digital, sound, installation, performance).

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

CONTESTED DESIRES: Constructive Dialogues (CDCD) is a 3-year arts and heritage programme which offers an unique international opportunity for two artists based in Cyprus to take part in a funded programme of residences, exhibitions and knowledge exchange workshops and seminars.

From the Greeks, to the Romans, the Ottomans to the Venetians, from the seafaring nations of Northern and Western Europe embarking on crusades and trade missions, Europeans have exploited, imposed and foraged cultures and communities to build their Empires. This legacy presents a complex cultural heritage, often **contested** through the narratives, perspectives and lived experiences we encounter. A legacy of individuals, communities and nation states constructing their identities through a mosaic of cultural choices and **desires**.

CDCD aims to challenge the destabilising and divisive impact of the current political landscapes of Europe and beyond, where the response to the complexities, diversity and expansion of our communities continues to be met with fear-mongering, discrimination and exclusion.

This transnational, multi-partner project will explore how artists and cultural organisations can work with communities to build a shared understanding of the colonial past and what it can mean to different citizens in our multicultural societies.

Working across the Netherlands, Italy, Ghana, Tunisia, Chile, Hungary, Slovenia, Portugal, Cyprus, Spain and the UK, **CDCD** will dig deep to explore, and reveal the links between our shared colonial history and our cultural identities today from diverse perspectives.

CDCD will engage contemporary artists to consider the problematic legacy of European colonialism held in museum collections and represented across heritage sites and public spaces. These spaces will provide rich starting points for artistic research and interaction. Together, we will build bridges for intersectional conversations and creative interactions to mindfully explore heritage and decoloniality and new forms of expression we can look towards.

CDCD is supported by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

WHO IS INVOLVED

CDCD connects 19 innovative organisations globally, representing museums, research centres, universities and independent cultural producers. CDCD will select 22 artists across 11 partner countries.

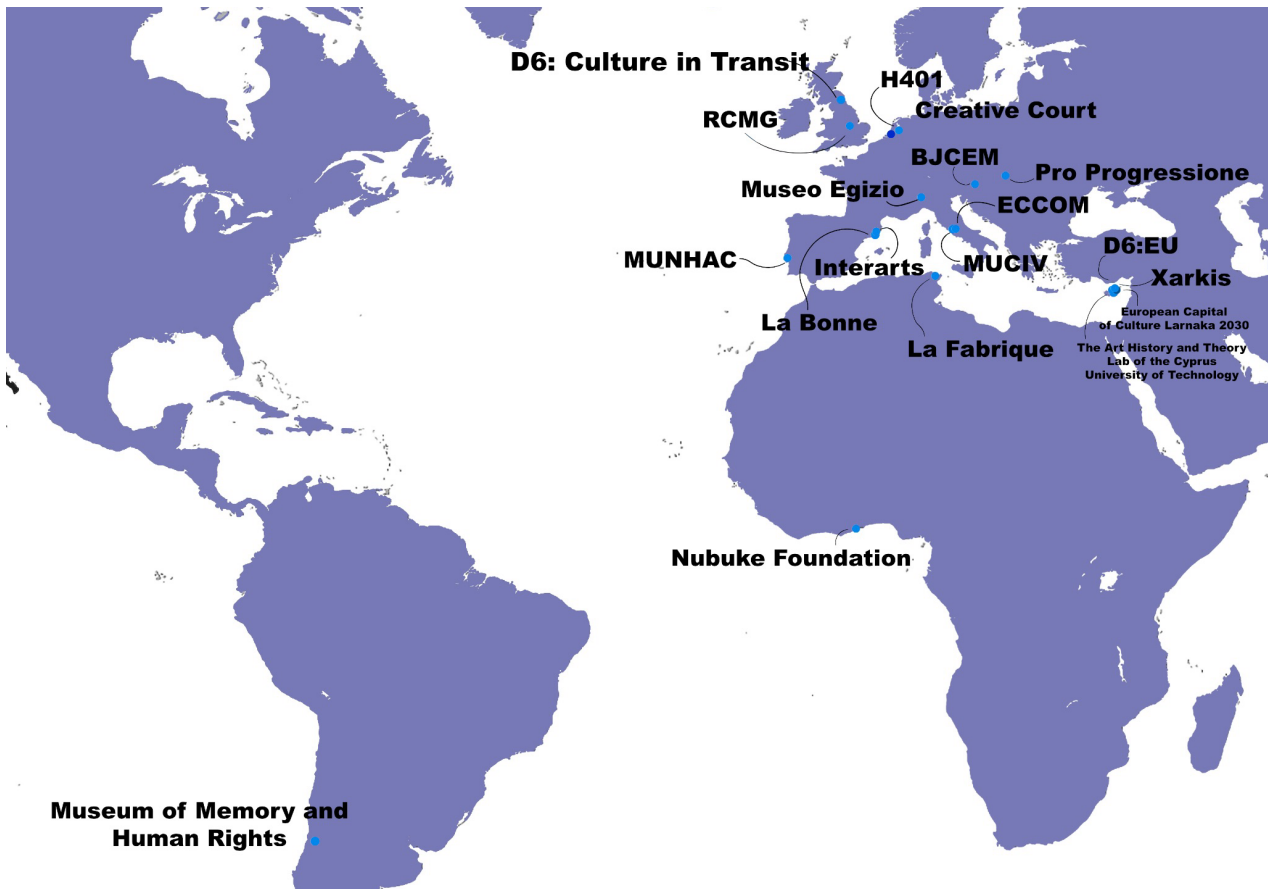
Partners:

ECCOM (Italy), **BJCEM** (Belgium), **Creative Court** (The Netherlands), **D6:EU** (Cyprus), **D6: Culture in Transit** (UK), **European Capital of Culture Larnaca 2030** (Cyprus), **H401** (The Netherlands), **Interarts** (Spain), **La Bonne** (Spain), **La Fabrique** (Tunisia), **Museo Egizio** (Italy), **Museo della Civiltà** (Italy), **MUHNAC - University of Lisbon** (Portugal), **Museum of Memory and Human Rights** (Chile), **Nubuke Foundation** (Ghana), **Pro Progressione** (Hungary), **RCMG - University of Leicester** (UK), **Technical University of Cyprus** (Cyprus), **Xarkis** (Cyprus).

ABOUT THE PARTNER IN PORTUGAL

ABOUT

[The National Museum of Natural History and Science](#) (MUNHAC-ULisboa) is based in Lisbon and connected to the University of Lisbon. MUHNAC-ULisboa intends to be a safe and encouraging place for encounters, dialogues and for new, plural and trans-disciplinary reflections on cultural heritage. Their public programme promotes social inclusion and the reinterpretation and storytelling of its colonial collections with individuals with lived experience and heritage of migration from the countries that are the original source of their collections.



THE JOURNEY OF A CONTESTED DESIRES: CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUES ARTIST

Each artist’s journey will begin from this starting point:

**‘What are the impacts of colonial heritage on contemporary society that interest you?
How can your art practice create points of contact and connection for constructive dialogues?’**

These questions will act as a point of provocation and reflection throughout CDCD and will expand in response to the artistic work created and knowledge exchange workshops and seminars.

Each selected artist will participate in the following activities across September 2024 until November 2026:

- **x1 month-long international residency, concluding with a presentation of work in progress.** This will be a joint residency alongside one other CDCD artist from one of the partner countries.
- **x1 two-week group residency in a different country with 2-4 CDCD artists** where the artwork will be adapted to the local context, concluding with a larger exhibition of artwork and a seminar.
- **x1 seven-day group residency with all 22 CDCD artists to engage UK audiences through a 4-day Festival Programme and exhibition of artwork in North East UK**
- **x1 two-week group residency with all 22 CDCD artists to adapt artwork to a site-specific setting in a rural Cypriot context, followed by a final presentation of artwork at Xarkis Festival, Cyprus.**
- **x5 international knowledge exchange workshops.** Artists will attend workshops exploring the themes of participatory practices, environment, gender, social inclusion and decolonial methodologies in relation to CDCD.
- Support to develop a **digital presentation** of your work for an online exhibition.
- Evaluation and production meetings (as required).

Further opportunities may arise during the project delivery subject to further fundraising by the CDCD partners.

There are **2 possible journeys** for the artists in **Portugal**. You can apply to one specific journey, or both. This will not affect how your application is judged. The artist will engage across the CDCD programme in the following way:

JOURNEY 1:

Date	Description	Where
January 2025	Capacity Building Workshop 1: You will participate in a 2-day workshop in <u>Larnaca (CY)</u> focused on Colonisation and the Environment alongside CDCD partners and artists	Larnaca, Cyprus
January - February 2025	Joint Artist Residency: You will travel from the Capacity Building Workshop to take part in a month-long joint residency at H401 And Creative Court with one artist from a different country to produce site-related and community-engaged artistic research and new artwork	Amsterdam, Netherlands
February - March 2025	Local Exposition: At the end of your residency you will present your research and work-in-progress through an exposition	Amsterdam, Netherlands
February - June 2025	Digital Reflections on artworks: Following the Joint Residency, you will have a period of post-production time, and will develop your ideas and works in progress into a digital reflection with support from Pro Progressione	Online / Remote
November 2025	Larger Group Residency: You will take part in a 12-day group residency at Pro Progressione with 3 other artists to adapt your work to a new context and audience	Budapest, Hungary
November - December 2025	Exposition: You will present your work in a major public exposition. In advance, you will work with Pro Progressione and the other artists in residence to shape the exposition format, content and interpretation	Budapest, Hungary

November 2025	Seminar: You will present your work at a seminar to mark the exposition opening, attended by CDCD partners and local artists, cultural workers and academics	Budapest, Hungary
January 2026	Capacity Building Workshop 2: You will participate in a 2-day workshop in Amsterdam (NL) focused on Social Inclusion alongside CDCD partners and artists.	Amsterdam, Netherlands
September 2026	Xarkis Multi Residency: All 22 artists will take part in a two-week residency in a rural Cypriot context. Drawing from the artistic research you produce across CDCD, you will co-create work with residents of the village	Larnaca District, Cyprus
September 2026	Xarkis Festival: The Multi-Residency will culminate in a 3-day Festival programme, including expositions, live art and performance	Larnaca District, Cyprus

ABOUT THE RESIDENCY HOSTS

H401 (HERENGRACHT401) is a cultural organisation in a historic building. The building's history as a safe house during WWII and the complex history of the place and its inhabitants, collections and archives underpin its current cultural programme: exhibitions, lectures, debates, think tanks, guided tours, artistic residencies, artistic research and publications. H401 has a distinct profile as a laboratory for innovative approaches towards cultural heritage, recognized through structural collaborations with local and international organisations

Creative Court develops research-based art projects and conducts arts-based research that reflects on peace and global justice. They produce multidisciplinary artistic stories that look into uncertain futures, challenging current issues and unspoken realities of history - and the related underlying emotions that are often impossible to put into words. As a producing organisation, they collaborate with international arts organisations, NGO's, artists, curators, journalists, scientists, and networks on each project. For CDCD, they work closely with the heritage space Kunstfort bij Vijfhuizen, a former military fortress turned into an exhibition space and place for artist residencies and transdisciplinary dialogue.

Xarkis (origin ancient Greek *eks' arhis* = from the beginning) works with socially engaged, site-specific, participatory art and design practices, with a strong interest in natural and human heritage and its influences on local societies. Xarkis Multi-residency and Xarkis Festivals are two of their nomadic activities, where participants from various artistic backgrounds co-create site-specific works, by engaging with local communities, to foster collaborative knowledge exchange and nurture conversations on socio-ecological change.

JOURNEY 2:

Date	Description	Where
October 2024	Capacity Building Workshop 1: You will participate in a 2-day workshop in Rome (IT) focused on Participatory Methodologies alongside CDCD partners and artists	Rome, Italy
November 2024	Joint Artist Residency: You will travel from the Capacity Building Workshop to take part in a month-long joint residency at La Bonne and Interarts with one artist from a different country to produce site-related and community-engaged artistic research and new artwork	Barcelona, Spain
November - December 2024	Local Exposition: At the end of your residency you will present your research and work-in-progress through an exposition	Barcelona, Spain
December 2024 - April 2025	Digital Reflections on artworks: Following the Joint Residency, you will have a period of post-production time, and will develop your ideas and works in progress into a digital reflection with support from Pro Progressione	Online / Remote

July 2025	Larger Group Residency: You will take part in a 12-day group residency at Nubuke Foundation with 2 other artists to adapt your work to a new context and audience	Accra, Ghana
July - August 2025	Exposition: You will present your work in a major public exposition. In advance, you will work with Nubuke Foundation and the other artists in residence to shape the exposition format, content and interpretation	Accra, Ghana
July 2025	Seminar: You will present your work at a seminar to mark the exposition opening, attended by CDCD partners and local artists, cultural workers and academics	Accra, Foundation
September 2025	Capacity Building Workshop 2: You will participate in a 2-day workshop in Barcelona (ES) focused on Colonisation and Gender alongside CDCD partners and artists.	Barcelona, Spain
September 2026	Xarkis Multi Residency: All 22 artists will take part in a two-week residency in a rural Cypriot context. Drawing from the artistic research you produce across CDCD, you will co-create work with residents of the village	Larnaca District, Cyprus
September 2026	Xarkis Festival: The Multi-Residency will culminate in a 3-day Festival programme, including expositions, live art and performance	Larnaca District, Cyprus

ABOUT THE RESIDENCY HOSTS

[La Bonne](#) - the Francesca Bonnemaïson Women's Cultural Center - has a long and extensive history and genealogy. Currently, it is a meeting place, exchange and creation of feminist cultural projects characterised by a multidisciplinary work that encompasses various areas, among which we highlight: audiovisuals, performance, performing arts, live arts, research, the thinking and the various feminist and anti-racist activism that are part of our project.

[Nubuke Foundation](#) is a visual art and cultural institution based in East Legon, Accra, Ghana. Founded in 2006, it serves as a nexus for arts and culture across the country while supporting the artistic practice of Ghanaians: young, mid-career and experienced. The Nubuke Foundation works to make the appreciation of art, culture, heritage and history accessible to all. Their artistic programming includes exhibitions, readings, talks, film screenings, performances, seminars and workshops for the culturally curious.

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ARTIST FEE

The total fee for the work described in this brief is **€7450**, for which the artist is expected to participate fully in the programme. In addition to the artist fee, **CDCD** will cover travel, accommodation and a daily per diem / catering for subsistence for international travel, and production costs for the residency. Payment will be made according to an agreed schedule and on receipt of invoices.

The selected artists in Portugal will each be provided a contract and will be managed by MUNHAC. All copyright for the work produced will remain with the artist.

APPLICATION PROCESS

This Open Call is to select 2 artists based in Portugal. Selection will be based on:

- Quality of artistic practice
- Quality of response to the questions in the application form
- Experience of participatory and socially-engaged practice
- Experience of collaboration with other artists and across sectors
- Demonstrable interest in the role of contemporary arts in heritage contexts, with particular reference to the themes of the programme

In addition, all applicants must be:

- Proficient in English language
- Aged 18 or older
- Based in Cyprus
- Submit all application documents requested on the application form
- Commitment to participate in all activities

Key considerations:

- This is a transnational project, and the selected artists will be working across multiple sites and contexts. Selected artists will be encouraged to create **ephemeral** and **mobile works** that are **environmentally conscious** and **that can be adapted to be site-specific** to each place.
- CDCD focuses on participatory methodologies. Artists **will be expected to engage with local communities** in ethical ways that feel appropriate to the research and are not extractive.
- English is the primary language across **CDCD**. Artists will be supported to communicate effectively with speakers of other languages as part of the development, production and presentation of their work.
- Artists can either produce solo projects or may wish to collaborate with other **CDCD** artists they are in residence with.

HOW TO APPLY

The application process involves:

Stage 1: A short application form

Stage 2: An interview with up to 3 shortlisted artists per 'Journey' (opportunity). This will take place with MUHNAC and the two residency hosts for the journey you apply for. All selection decisions are final.

Click here to complete the application form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8j2uizkoO0g6LF_8LqilcOSy9SYj4KnNDTFndeRO4588-Xg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

You can download a copy of the questions to help prepare your answers here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H00a1qPXBSRy90zi4-PFjVsqp1F4UODoPxsE5brdBmU/edit>

TIMELINE

Open call deadline:	30 April 2024
Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by:	14 May 2024
Shortlisted applicants will be notified by:	14 May 2024
Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed between:	20-24 May 2024

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

We seek to ensure that no present or potential member of staff, artist or project participant is treated less favourably than another on grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, marital or civil partnership status, disability, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs, age, social class or offending background.

While our ambition is to shape an open, accessible project, we also acknowledge that the nature of this project involves extended periods of travel, which may present barriers to participation.

If you require further access needs to participate in the CDCD programme you will be able to identify this in the application form. For any support to make your application, please contact Ana Godinho (anagodinhocarvalho@museus.ulisboa.pt)

