

FORTHEM STUDENT DRIVEN PROJECT

Connections between ancient and contemporary: Fiumara d'arte's sculpture park, a heritage and a territory to be preserved

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

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Il Labirinto di Arianna (Italo Lanfredini - 1989)

Participating Universities: University of Palermo (UniPa – coordinators), Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU), Universitat de València (UV), Università di Borgogna (UBE), University Lucian Blaga din Sibiu (ULBS – not yet confirmed).

The Art & Aesthetics in Contemporary Society Lab of the University of Palermo, with the coordination of the Department of Architecture, is organising the workshop in which 10 students from Forthem universities will be able to participate.

Who can participate?

Students from bachelor and master's degree courses.

Deadline for submission:

15th july 2025

Workshop activities 21-27 September 2025

- laboratories and walks led by architects and artists to foster hands-on learning.
- lectures about the themes of aesthetic value of land art and performative arts
- discussion sessions to collect the reflections of participants
- creation of audio-visual material to be disseminated among the participants and institutions involved

The main challenge of the project

The works of art that constitute the sculpture park of *Fiumara d'Arte* are constantly exposed to climatic and environmental risks, there is a lack of widespread awareness of their value, and there is a need to trace them back to a historical-evolutionary profile. The workshop will be precisely the opportunity to address this societal challenge by helping to establish links with the communities and the territory of reference, also in an international perspective. During the workshop, participants will encounter artworks that interact with the landscape, but also they will learn about local knowledge (craftsmen who will explain their material and non-material traditions), and experiences of social innovation through culture.

In the relationship with the archaeological heritage, whose cultural-historical value is more easily recognised by society, a common system can be identified that leverages cultural values for the promotion and care of the territory.

Moreover, the aim of the project is facilitating co-creation workshops between students, researchers, representatives for the *Antonio Presti Foundation* and representatives for *Tindari Archaeological Park* (partners of the project) for the transfer of knowledge related to the works of art in the Tindari archaeological park and, viceversa, of knowledge related to the archaeological heritage in the *Fiumara d'Arte* sculpture park, through the design of content that can be reproduced, for example, on information panels to be displayed at the sites. Using contemporary languages and different disciplinary background, participants will explore ways to enhance the territory, bridging memories of the past with visions for the future, and ultimately sharing this experience with the community

Project Summary

The artistic park *Fiumara d'arte*, an open-air museum in Sicily managed by the *Antonio Presti Foundation*, represents one of the most significant experiences in Italy in enhancing the aesthetic function of the landscape, with works of art realized by internationally renowned contemporary artists. These artistic interventions interact with the territory in all its anthropic, naturalistic and aesthetics dimensions, positioning themselves as key elements within this experiential complexity and as integral parts of the shaping of the landscape and its identity.

The workshop will take place with an “experiential approach”: experiential walks in the landscape will allow participants to engage with places in a synesthetic way and foster a collective reflection on the landscape and its aesthetic dimension.

Infact, the project aims to promote the conservation and valorisation of *Fiumara d'Arte*, triggering a process of value recognition by the local and international community (as required by Faro Convention), stimulating the collective sensitivity towards contemporary art and its potential role in the promotion and valorisation of a territory, also thanks to its relations with antiquity.

PROGRAMME

DAY 1 - Travel Day

Arrival in Palermo, transfer to Fiumara d'Arte (venue of Villa Margi - Reitano), with dinner and overnight stay for students and guest lecturers



Atelier on the Sea (Villa Margi, Reitano) with the work of art called *La finestra sul mare* (*The Window to the Sea*) by Tano Festa, 1989.

DAY 2 – Opening session - Walkscape Session 1

- **h 9.30:** Registration / hand out welcome packs
- **h 9.45:** Welcome by University of Palermo Forthem Lab AACS members and the Presti Foundation
- **h 10.00:** Introduction to the activities and to the staff members
- **h 10.30:** Student presentation
- **h 11.00:** Coffee Break
- **h 11.30:** *An open air museum: the work and vision of Antonio Presti*
- **h 12.30:** Lunch break
- **h 13.30:** Leaving for the first session tour of the Fiumara d'Arte sculptures, guided by Antonio Presti
 - We will leave by car to visit ***La materia poteva non esserci*** (*The matter might not be there*), continuing on to Pettineo where there is the ***Museo domestico*** (*Domestic Museum*), an unusual museum of contemporary art spread throughout the inhabitants' homes housing the canvases that made up the large work of art *Un Chilometro di Tela* (*A Kilometre of Canvas*), later cut into various parts (to be visited on foot in the village of Pettineo). It will then proceed to ***Energia Mediterranea*** (*Mediterranean Energy*) with a walk in the surroundings to begin some reflections on the landscape. Again by car we will reach the ***Piramide al 38° parallelo*** (*Pyramid at the 38th parallel*).

During the walk, discussion sessions can be held, observing the landscape and making some pictures and sketches. There will also be an opportunity to meet the local community and craftsmen who will explain their material and non-material traditions.



La materia poteva non esserci
(Pietro Consagra – 1986)



Piramide al 38° parallelo
(Mauro Staccioli - 2010)

- **h 17.30:** End of the visit and return to Villa Margi

DAY 3 – Walkscape Session 2: through the Fiumara d'Arte landscape

- **h 9.30:** Leaving for the second session tour through the Fiumara d'Arte landscape, visiting the sculptures, guided by Antonio Presti.
It will start from Villa Margi towards Mistretta and Castel di Lucio. The first part will be done by car, visiting ***Il muro della vita*** (*Wall of Life*) and ***Arethusa***, then walking to the ***Labirinto di Arianna*** (*Arianna's Labyrinth*) enjoying the surrounding landscape. It will continue by car to ***Una curva gettata alle spalle del tempo*** (*A curve thrown behind time*).



Il Labirinto di Arianna
(Italo Lanfredini - 1989)

- **h 13.00:** Lunch break
- **h 14.00:** Lecture session / meeting with local craftsmen and local administration member

- **h 16.00:** Group work: formation of 2 groups and starting the discussion
- **h 17.30:** End of activities

DAY 4 – Archaeological Facts – Connections between ancient and contemporary

- **h 9.30:** Visit of the Archaeological Area of *Halaesa Arconidea*, guided by the park staff
- **h 12.00:** return to Villa Margi / Lunch break
- **h 14.00:** Lecture session
- **h 15.00:** Group work
- **h 18.00:** End of activities

DAY 5 – Focusing on ideas

- **h 9.30:** Group work
- **h 13.00:** Lunch break
- **h 14.00:** Lecture session
- **h 15.00:** Group work
- **h 18.00:** End of activities

DAY 6 – Final Session

- **h 9.30:** Group work – finalisation of the results
- **h 13.30:** Lunch break
- **h 14.30:** Groups presentation and results discussion session, with the participation of Presti Foundation, Archaeological Park staff, Local administrations members, associations and citizens.
- **h 17.30: End of the workshop**

DAY 7 – Travel Day

Transfer to Palermo Airport