Open call | *A Natural Oasis?*

*A Transnational Research Program*

curated by Alessandro Castiglioni and Simone Frangi

long term training and research program aiming at the realization of a special project for MEDITERRANEA18, Young Artists Bienniale, 2017

open to curators, art writers and cultural researchers, under 34

Deadline for application: June 1st 2016

*A Natural Oasis?* is a transnational research training based on the tools that social sciences provide to contemporary cultural practices and develops specific context-aware professional figures in the frame of a global contemporary artistic scene. The aim of the project is the development of what we can call *situated practices* in the context of a specific locality but with a transnational perspective. *A Natural Oasis?* bases its working methodology on the tactics of conversational and dialogical research and on the main strategies of oral history. In this view, work sessions, visiting professors’ lectures and seminars will be characterized by a discursive approach based on study and in-depth analysis but also on storytelling and educational settings. The project privileges an idea of knowledge production through direct rough experience and travelling experiences in the territories accompanied and tutored by local partners.

The final result of *A Natural Oasis?* will be an editorial object, which will include critical essays and visual researches developed by curators, visiting professors and participants during the program. The book will be presented during a performed seminar at MEDITERRANEA18 Young Artists Bienniale 2017.

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1 – PROPOSAL AND PROGRAM

*A Natural Oasis?* is a two years nomadic free school dedicated to the development of new curatorial research paths in the field of contemporary visual and performing arts starting from the geopolitical peculiarities of the artistic scenes of San Marino, Montenegro, Kosovo and Malta.

The purpose of this project is to build a transnational cultural platform able to critically question the ideas of territorial remoteness/marginality/smallness through the lenses of artistic research, triggering a reflection on the fictional procedures that empowered the idea of Europe in its geopolitical and cultural immunity via the exclusion or the vampirization of its “provinces”.

The project aims to develop radical curatorial and artistic discourses assuming geo-cultural areas as polemical fields in which a precise ecology of fluxes describe their cultural, economical and political morphology. More over, this project focuses on the controversial shortage of cultural professionals in “peripheral” cultural and artistic systems in relationship with ongoing processes of educational centralization and with the concentration of artistic legitimation processes in big European “centres”.

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A Natural Oasis is dedicated to contemporary art critic and teacher Roberto Daolio who devoted himself to study the methods through which the projects of young artists and their languages could be developed.

A Natural Oasis is curated by:
Simone Frangi (1982) is a cultural researcher, art writer and curator. He is currently artistic director of Viafarini. He is Lecturer of Theory of Contemporary Art at Fine Arts and Design Academy in Grenoble.
Alessandro Castiglioni (1984) is responsible for the research activity at the MA*GA. He is lecturer of Art and Design History at Istituto Marangoni, Milan. Curator of Little Constellation Network.

The whole program will welcome lectures and contributions from more professors, curators and artists / curators. A Natural Oasis is promoted and developed by San Marino Cultural Institutes within the program of affiliation to the BJCEM Bienniale of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean in collaboration with Viafarini Organization for the promotion of artistic research, Milan.

Partnership
Institute for Contemporary Art, Cetinje, Montenegro.
Inizjamed of the Republic of Malta.
Stacion Center for Contemporary Art in Prishtina, Republic of Kosovo.

2 – APPLICATION PROCEDURE
Young artists aged up to 34 (born from January 1st 1982) shall send the following:
A) a dossier documenting their studies and research and/or new projects as well as the methodology characterizing their specific field (compressed Pdf, Quick Time or MP3 formats of max. 6MB).
B) a motivational letter proving their specific interest in the program and, in particular, for the theoretical matters detailed in point 1 (max. 1 page).
C) application form, downloadable from www.bjcem.org

All the dossiers, motivational letters and application forms shall be sent to info.instituticulturali@pa.sm not later than Wednesday 1st June, 2016. Any application not complying with the requirements will be automatically rejected.

3 – SELECTION MODALITIES
The dossiers will be evaluated at their incontestable discretion by curators Alessandro Castiglioni and Simone Frangi and a total number of 8 practitioners will be selected: 1 from San Marino, 1 from Montenegro, 1 from Kosovo, 1 from Malta, 1 from Italy and 3 others freely selected among applications coming also from other countries, not necessarily BJCEM members. Particular attention will be given to applications coming from the Southern Mediterranean Area. Should no dossier fulfil the requirements for admission, the commission reserves itself the right to redistribute the quotas established for each Country for general selections.

4 - TERMS
The participants will be selected during the week following the deadline for application detailed in the announcement and selection results will be communicated immediately. The accommodation expenses for the young artists, curators and professors, coming from foreign countries, will be covered by the hosting country, except for the night in Milan between July 21st and 22nd. In order to facilitate the participation of the young artists, curators and professors, Bjcem will cover and directly buy the flights tickets up to a maximum amount of 650 Euro for each selected participant. In case the travel expenses exceed this amount, the artist should guarantee the coverage of the extra amount.

5 - STEPS AND PROJECT
A Natural Oasis will be develop as a Summer School that will start in San Marino and will continue in Milano, Kosovo, Montenegro and Malta. This will be the program:

Steps 3 Kosovo and 4 Montenegro Field trip to Kosovo, from August 28th to 30th 2016, guest of Stacion - Center for Contemporary Arts, Pristina. Field trip to Montenegro, curated by Institute for Contemporary Art Cetignje, Montenegro, from August 30th to September 2nd 2016.
Steps 5 Malta Field trip, from October 7th to 10th 2016.
Steps 6 Working sessions on the editorial project, from October 2016 to January 2017.
The program may be subject to changes.

6 – NOTES
This announcement and the attendance at A Natural Oasis do not preclude the possibility to apply for future BJCEM national and/or international announcements with different personal projects and be selected. Also the curators and artists who have already participated in the previous editions of the Biennial can apply for A Natural Oasis? Priority will be given to the artists that have never attended previous events.

7 – FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Institute for Contemporary Art, Cetinje, Montenegro
Please contact Ms. Natalija Vujosevic tel. 0038267556378

Stacion - Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina
BJCEM Partner, Republic of Kosovo. Please contact Ms. Vala Osmani, tel. 00381 038222576 info@stacion.org

Inizjamed of the Republic of Malta
Please contact Mr. Adrian Grima, tel. 00356 79279586

www.bjcem.org
www.mediterraneabiennal.org
www.viafarini.org
www.littleconstellation.org