



Republic of San Marino  
Ministries for Education and Culture, Tourism and Youth Policy  
Department of Tourism and Culture  
San Marino Cultural Institutes – Bjem board  
University of Republic of San Marino  
Municipality of Montegiardino

Montenegro  
Institute for Contemporary Art Cetinje, Montenegro

Republic of Malta  
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Republic of Kosovo  
Stacion - Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina - Bjem partner  
supported by Ministry of Education Science and Technology of the Republic of Kosovo

Italy, Milan  
Viafarini - Non profit Organization for Contemporary Artistic Research

**BJCEM**  
Biennale of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean

# 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 Biennale, 2017**

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

**Deadline for application: June 1<sup>st</sup> 2016**

## **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 legitimization processes in big European “centres”.

*A Natural Oasis?* is a transnational research training based on the toolsthat 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 a 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 Biennale 2017**.



With the support of the  
Creative Europe Programme  
of the European Union

*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 Biennale 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](http://www.bjcem.org)

All the dossiers, motivational letters and application forms shall be sent to **info.istituticulturali@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 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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 1 San Marino and 2 Milan** Residential Summer School in the Municipality of Montegiardino, in the Premises of the University of the Republic of San Marino, from July 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2016. Lecture performances in Viafarini Milan, July 21<sup>st</sup> 2016.

**Steps 3 Kosovo and 4 Montenegro** Field trip to Kosovo, from August 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 2016, guest of Stacion - Center for Contemporary Arts, Prishtina. Field trip to Montenegro, curated by Institute for Contemporary Art Cetinje, Montenegro, from August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016.

**Step 5 Malta** Field trip, from October 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 2016.

**Step 6** Working sessions on the editorial project, from October 2016 to January 2017.

**Step 7** Performed seminar and presentation of the book *A Natural Oasis?* in **MEDITERRANEA 18 Young Artists Biennale, March – April 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

**Cultural Institutes BJCEM Board, Republic of San Marino.** Please contact Mrs. Rita Canarezza, tel. 00378 0549 882453; 0039 335 6509052; [rita.canarezza@pa.sm](mailto:rita.canarezza@pa.sm)  
**Institute for Contemporary Art, Cetinje, Montenegro** Please contact Ms. Natalija Vujosevic tel. 0038267556378 [isucrnagora@gmail.com](mailto:isucrnagora@gmail.com)  
**Stacion - Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina**  
**BJCEM Partner, Republic of Kosovo.** Please contact Ms. Vala Osmani, tel. 00381 038222576 [info@stacion.org](mailto:info@stacion.org)  
**Inizjamed BJCEM Board, Republic of Malta.** Please contact Mr. Adrian Grima, tel. 00356 79279586 [adrian.grima@um.edu.mt](mailto:adrian.grima@um.edu.mt)

[www.bjcem.org](http://www.bjcem.org)

[www.mediterraneabiennal.org](http://www.mediterraneabiennal.org)

[www.viafarini.org](http://www.viafarini.org)

[www.littleconstellation.org](http://www.littleconstellation.org)

