

Art and public space

Study days

24, 25, 31 January 2022 • 1, 11 February 2022

Organised by Direzione Generale Creatività Contemporanea
of the Italian Ministry of Culture
and Fondazione Scuola dei beni e delle attività culturali

Call for abstracts

DEADLINE > 15 November 2021

Speaking about art and public space means focusing the discussion on critical and interrogative reflections to reformulate concepts, terminologies and settings while at the same time opening towards new scenarios as regards the processes of defining, designing, and developing artistic practices on the territory.

The public space, then, becomes a privileged field for new forms of integration between art and life, also in light of the Faro Convention of 2005 which links the concept of cultural inheritance to a process of communities' active **participation** in their own heritage, capable of helping to enhance its inter-subjective dimension and spur a collective awareness of it. Participation-based practices, conceived as a moment of critical sharing of the manifest and implicit content that each place expresses in its specific nature, are a factor of enrichment and can yield new meanings. They can also be characterized as models for designing, developing, learning about, and conserving an artwork in the public space, as well as for strategies to promote a territory.

In the **relationship between past and present**, beyond the issue of cultural inheritance, it is a priority to focus on how artistic practice and planning on the territory can be characterized as **integrated and multidisciplinary processes**, both in actions on the pre-existing elements and in designing new spaces where the artwork is not detached from the context of reference, but is organically integrated into it, thus establishing material and immaterial relationships also through the evolution of digital technologies. Consider, for example, how the artistic practices arising within villages, internal or peripheral territorial areas are grafted into a complex social system in which the dialectic between community and cultural inheritance can play an essential role in the processes of territorialisation and reterritorialization.

In this perspective, the aim is to encourage a debate over ideas, models, methods and practices that are experimental, critical, and innovative, capable of activating sustainable development strategies while elaborating non-stereotyped codes for reading the specific characteristics of each place. Significant, then, are the approaches founded upon knowledge of territories and communities, participation, and a long-term, time-oriented planning, that intercept the territory's contextual dimension while dialoguing with memory and traces of lived experience and anticipating the evolutions taking place in each setting. In this sense, mediation is one of the main elements in play, because artistic intervention, especially when carried out in planning terms that are complex and with long-range timing, enters into contact with the territory's complexity.

As a complement to the implementation process, it is also appropriate to identify adequate **models, systems and knowledge tools** for the documentation of projects and valid methodologies for the **conservation** of artworks in public spaces, always considering their specific temporal nature (ephemeral or permanent).

The study days also intend to accommodate and develop proposals connected to the governance of art projects in the public space in all phases of the process: from **legal-administrative procedures** to **models of policy** in place locally and nationally – with comparison on a European and international level – aimed at facilitating the planning of the artistic intervention, up to the reference regulations in force and possible reformulations.

It is an invitation, then, to work on models and proposals, in light of the current changes of creative processes and of the spaces of action for artists in contemporary society.

PROPOSED TOPICS

The proposed contributions should address, also through the presentation of case studies, analyses, investigations, models, methodologies and in-depth studies, one or more of the following themes:

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT

- Art and public space, between pre-existing elements and newly-designed spaces
- The permanence/transformation dialectic that characterizes spaces, also in terms of resilience
- Artistic practice and reterritorialization processes
- Duration as the process time of artistic practices and a factor of the projects' continuity
- The monument: evolution and currency of values and meanings
- Cultural inheritance and heritage education

PARTICIPATION

- Participatory processes: tools and strategies for the communities' active role in resignifying the territories
- Participatory planning practices, supervision and management of the heritage of works in public spaces
- Forms of participatory cataloguing

PLANNING AS A MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND INTEGRATED PROCESS

- Integration of artistic practice into the planning of public space.
- Artistic practice in redefining public space from the perspective of ecology, sustainability, design scalability, replicability, proximity, care, and collective well-being
- Cultural mediation and the various parties involved: the role of the cultural mediator in projects, from planning to fruition

ASPETTI GIURIDICO-NORMATIVI E MODELLI DI POLICY

- Models of inter-administrative and inter-institutional cooperation to develop, promote, and care for artworks in the public space
- Artistic intervention in the public space as a field for regional differentiation and the exercise of responsibilities in the sphere of promotion
- Procedures for artistic interventions in the public space: authorization paths and procedures for managing the work in the various Italian contexts

- Relationships between the demands of regulation and informal artistic practices
- Possible updates of Italian legal and regulatory sources, also in light of the comparison with European regulations and foreign legislative systems
- Legal status and taking charge of the artwork
- Images of the artworks realised in the public space: practices and regulations connected to reproduction

TOOLS OF KNOWLEDGE AND SHARING

- Censuses and criteria: what to census, how to census (strategies, data acquisition methods and models).
- Documentation centres on art in public spaces
- Analysis of the setting and assessment of impact in the territories (*ex ante*, *in itinere*, and *ex post*)
- Narrations and restitutions: triggering virtuous processes for the better fruition and reception of art in the public space
- The web as public space for the artwork: virtual spaces for creation, fruition and sharing

CONSERVATION OF ARTWORKS IN THE PUBLIC SPACE

- Possible conservation protocols and ordinary maintenance programmes for art in public spaces
- Preventive conservation between innovation and training
- The contribution of communities in participatory conservation

PARTICIPATION TERMS

The abstracts (max 2000 characters, including spaces, in Italian or English), accompanied by a short bio (max 1300 characters, including spaces), are to be sent using the form available at <https://forms.gle/PMWo2FXojDb83xK87> by **no later than 15 November 2021**. The acceptance of the abstracts will be made known via e-mail by 3 December 2021.

The authors of the selected abstracts will submit their contributions during the study days, as presentations having a maximum duration of 20 minutes. The study days will be held online (fad.fondazionescuolapatrimonio.it).

The scientific committee, should it select a number of abstracts exceeding the number of interventions planned over the course of the study days, may ask the authors to feature their texts in the proceedings publication alone.

For the final volume, the authors must submit their texts, in the definitive form, by no later than 14 March 2022. Further information on the publication process and on the editorial guidelines shall be provided once the proposal acceptance phase is concluded.

Further information on the initiative is available at:

<https://www.fondazionescuolapatrimonio.it/ricerca/arte-e-spazio-pubblico/arteespaziopubblico@fondazionescuolapatrimonio.it>