



Call for Artists

For the production on an *Objet d'Art* commemorating Malta's non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council 2023-2024

1. Background and vision

The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade would like to commemorate Malta's election to a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the term of two years, from 2023 to 2024, by projecting the ethos of Malta's priorities on the UNSC through an *Objet d'Art*. The *Objet d'Art* is expected to be exhibited in prominent areas in foreign capitals, potentially including New York, Brasilia, Beijing, Addis Ababa, Sydney and Geneva.

At the end of its tour, the *Objet d'Art* will be permanently displayed in a prominent place in Malta and shall permanently belong to the State of the Republic of Malta, giving nevertheless due acknowledgement to the artist¹.

The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade is therefore launching a Call for artists to create an *Objet d'Art*, which can also utilise augmented reality technology and arouse curiosity in the general public. A specific app may need to be provided if augmented reality technology is introduced.

Malta will base its UNSC term on three main pillars/themes, namely ***Security, Sustainability and Solidarity***. (An information note explaining this further is found in Appendix A).

Artists are invited to interpret and present their own vision of what this occasion means, based on the above themes, and also based on Malta's history as a member of the United Nations.

The *Objet d'Art* forms part of the 2022 programme of the Ministry's Cultural Diplomacy endeavours. The proposed work should be of the highest artistic quality. The artist should bear in mind that the *Objet d'Art* will possibly be exhibited outdoors and needs to be exported. For this reason, the issue of transportability is imperative.

i. Can be a single artist or a team of artists.



An *ad hoc* Committee will be established by the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade to monitor the relevant parameters and regulations of participating in this prestigious call.

The maximum budget allocation is €118,000 (incl.VAT). This budget will cover, where applicable:

- Artist fee;
- Project team fees, costs related to designs, permits, , and any relevant documentation, e.g. architect plans etc.;
- The cost of manufacturing and installation of the project, including but not limited to the cost of material, construction, set up, certification,maintenance and dismantling;
- Any lighting and or technical systems needed as part of the project (excluding electricity consumption);
- Any costs related to document the project and to the presentation process, including photography and videography.

2. Objectives

Throughout history, art has developed to become a field that not only captures the memories of cultures and people around the world, but also helps to shape these memories. Especially in the framework of relationships, where people do not share the same language or culture, art can very often serve as a necessary bridge to unite people and get them to think differently about certain issues and themes. The *Objet d'Art* would contribute to the creation of a memory for all those that witness it as it tours around foreign capitals to commemorate Malta's role in the United Nations Security Council in the next two years.

This project carries with it a lot of prestige and exposure for the artist since the *Objet d'Art* will be set up in prime locations around the world, possibly also within the UNSC Headquarters in New York.

3. The Submission

(a) To be retained for evaluation, the submission must fulfil all of the following eligibility criteria:

- The submission should be presented before the established deadline;



- Completeness of the submission (both the administrative and scientific aspects). The completeness also implies that the submission shall be readable, accessible and printable; that the application should be complete, including all the documents required are presented with it and signed. Failure to comply will make applications ineligible;
- The submission must be guided by the principles outlined hereunder in 3(b);
- The content of the submission must relate to the specific topic of the Call, and must address the scope of the topic for which it is submitted.

These criteria are rigorously applied. If one or more of the eligibility criteria have not been fulfilled, the proposal is declared ineligible and is not considered for evaluation.

(b) Submissions shall be guided and evaluated by the following principles:

- Contemporary, interactive, and innovative concepts, possibly both in digital and tangible format, although it is to be specified that a physical *Objet d'Art* is required for permanent durability. The digital element of it is, nevertheless, highly considered an asset, possibly having replicas or multiple miniatures also being considered an asset, given that this will give the option of having simultaneous exhibitions.
- Strength and clarity of the artistic concept, including the artistic quality and excellence of the portfolio and proposal;
- Appropriateness of the artist's approach to the theme;
- Timeless concept reflecting the subject/s for which the artefact is being commissioned;
- Expertise of the project team, showing track record evidence;
- Engagement with the community to increase opportunities for people-to-people contact;
- Appropriateness of dimension for travel, including a practical description of how the *Objet d'Art* will be transported and what is needed to set it up
- Conservation and maintenance requirements as well as observance of health and safety issues as per OHS and EU regulations;
- Budget feasibility and budget distribution

The exhibition must be of the highest calibre possible. The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade will oversee the implementation process. The artist, who is selected and commissioned to produce the *Objet d'Art* through an ad hoc Committee, will be requested to enter into a contract with the Ministry. The payment will be made in tranches, with 40% paid upon signature of contract, 40%



within 10 weeks from the date of contract signature and upon satisfactory progress of implementation. The last tranche of 20% will be paid upon satisfactory completion.

By 'satisfactory completion', the Ministry will take into consideration whether the provision of deliverables and their commitment against designated timeframes, as proposed at application by the artist, for which they are selected, are adhered to in terms of timeliness and quality, unless the Ministry approves *a priori* any request made by the artist by email for any required changes, before these are actually made, that do not compromise the reason and decision for selection, or indicate departure from the requirements set in the call, or in the application or in the contract conditions. Failure to comply would mean termination of contract, as well as refund of any funds given earlier by the Ministry.

4. Process

Artists, who are at least 18 years of age, are eligible to apply. Employees of the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, *ad hoc* Committee members and their family members (by consanguinity or affinity to the fourth degreeⁱⁱ) are not eligible to apply. The artist must declare in the submission that s/he is not affected by such potential conflict of interest. A false declaration shall lead to the disqualification of the submission or contract. In instances where a state of conflict of interest exists, the submission shall be excluded from award unless such a conflict of interest cannot be remedied by a less intrusive manner.

The competition results will be published. Artists will be informed of the commissioning process and timeframes at a later stage, although a process timeline is presented in Section 7 below.

5. Submission of proposed *Objet d'Art* and Selection Process

A CV and portfolio of past work is to be attached with the expression of interest for the review of the *ad hoc* Committee. Artists are to indicate the number of individuals needed for setting up the project,

ⁱⁱ Parents, grandparents, spouse, children, siblings, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, grand-nephews, aunts, uncles, great-aunts, great-uncles, and first cousins by virtue of a blood relationship or marriage.



including key experts (if any), and include the experts' CVs. Any necessary warrants or licences should be outlined in the submission.

The following information is to be also included in the submission:

- A proposal / statement of intentions in response to the brief and criteria (Section 3);
- Visualisations of the proposed work that may include a scale model (e.g., a *bozzetto*) and / or visual panels and / or 2D / 3D representations in digital format (model and panels should not exceed 50cmX50cmX50cm in size);
- Technical information, including required materials, fabrication, maintenance etc.;
- Detailed Budget / Cost breakdown including artist/s and creative team fees, production costs, civil works, lighting system and other technical costs (if any), permit costs, installation costs in each of the cities mentioned (including travel costs and fees), maintenance of the artwork for the duration and until end 2025, documentation expenses and any other auxiliary costs deemed necessary for the project's completion;
- Collaborators / Work Partnership – a description of other partner organisations and proof of their commitment.

Eligibility is based upon artistic merit though the artist need not have completed a prior permanent public commission. The *ad hoc* Committee will select the most appropriate proposal.

There is no submission fee.

Submissions addressed to the **Cultural Diplomacy Unit** are to be handed in physically **by not later than 12:00 noon (GMT+2/CEST) of Friday, 30 September 2022** at the following address: Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, 125, Triq il-Kukkanja, Santa Venera (please type '125 Kukkanja, Santa Venera' on google maps).

In case of emergencies, please contact 2204 3086 / 2204 3104.

Incomplete submissions and submissions received after this date and time shall not be considered.



6. Budget

The artist will be paid the amount of €118,000 (inclusive of VAT). This payment, which will include all phases of the project except for transport abroad and will be made in tranches, as outlined above.

The selected artist shall be awarded the service contract, inclusive of all design/ permits/ construction/ production/ installation/ dismantling costs (excluding transportation abroad). Transport of the *Objet d'Art*, its travel insurance, and costs related to travel shall be borne by the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade. Artists are responsible for any and all taxes payable as a result of the awarded contract for services.

All works have to be carried out as per legislative framework in force at the time of the works, including but not exclusive to, OHSa regulations and EU health and safety directives.

The Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade will neither be responsible for, nor cover, any expenses or losses incurred by the participant/s for any aspect of this call.

7. Timeline

Issue of Call	Friday, 24 June 2022
Clarification requests submitted to [culture.mfet@gov.mt] (Reply from Ministry within 5 working days)	By not later than 12:00 noon (GMT+2/CEST) of Wednesday, 28 September 2022
Deadline for Submissions of proposed <i>Objet d'Art</i>, e.g. bozzetto/visuals etc.	12:00 noon (GMT+2/CEST) of Friday, 30 September 2022
Results outlining shortlisted artists	By Friday, 4 November 2022
Meetings of the <i>ad hoc</i> Committee with the selected shortlisted artists. In this meeting, the <i>ad hoc</i> Committee will explain the venues where the <i>Objet d'Art</i> will be exhibited.	By Friday, 2 December 2022
Selection of artist and signing of relevant contract	By Wednesday, 11 January 2023
Completion of the <i>Objet d'Art</i>	By 16:00 hours (GMT+2/CEST) of Monday, 15 May 2023