The Artistic Team (Katerina Chuchalina, Stefan Kalmár, Alya Sebti) of Manifesta 13 Marseille’s central exhibition Traits d’union.s announces its 46 participants and an exhibition devised into 6 plots: The Home, The Refuge, The Almshouse, The Port, The Park and The School. These plots will open successively from the 28th of August until 9th of October, after which they will be on view concurrently until the 29th of November 2020.

Marseille is marked by endless transit. It is a continuous site of arrival and departure, providing space for escape and sanctuary. At the same time, Marseille epitomises resistance and has always offered unique moments of tension. Marseille is an exceptional city within the European matrix: the ultimate unresolved city – in perpetual motion, revolving around multiple centres, historic and informal. Marseille’s infinite histories, biographies and stories inform its lenticular existence. Marseille resists any linear categorisation. Marseille has no single identity.

Traits d’union.s proposes new alliances and rehearses new forms of collectivity, within and across Marseille’s existing cultural institutions:

By introducing different voices, the artistic team activates the possibilities that these institutions might still hold, temporarily expanding their narratives outwards and inwards, giving way to a more permeable, more open, and more vulnerable conditions. The exhibition thus proposes new forms of publicness which may leave these institutions better equipped to speak to some of the challenges of the 21st Century:

"We never thought of Manifesta 13 Marseille as a ‘full stop,’ but always as a hyphen, or rather hyphens – as traits d’union.s – a gesture of bringing together. Yet, we find ourselves in a situation where reality amplifies, indeed exhilarates some of our underlying thoughts, dreams and nightmares. Suddenly with all the predicaments of our present moment, you realise the urgency with which art can speak to the uncertainty of our times."

Hedwig Fijen, Director of Manifesta:

"Manifesta 13’s Traits d’union.s reflects on crucial issues which are prominent in Marseille, yet also reverberate across the world. The artistic team and the participants have both individually and collectively addressed issues that have become increasingly important in the face of recent events. This allows for local, national and international audiences to come together in Marseille and use the city as a lens through which to look into our shared global issues. At the same time, the city also offers alternative models – a key step in the process of transformation."

—

Notes to editors:
On the 9th of October, the Artistic Team will host a press conference (the format TBC) that elaborates on the different plots and their participants. More information to follow soon.
Housing is a major global challenge. For many, it has become increasingly difficult to even have a safe place to live, and virtually impossible to find or own a home. In the age of worldwide mass migration and displacement caused by climate change, war, totalitarian regimes and racism as well as by pollution, urban development and gentrification on a local level, having a home – or just a safe place – is the precondition for rehearsing new forms of communality, equality, dignity, care and love.

In Marseille, traces of the current global and local housing crisis are strikingly present. In recent decades, numerous local associations have campaigned and worked for better living conditions as well as social, cultural and legal rights for migrants. Thus, in Marseille, as well as across the world, the concept of home has been uprooted at the crossroads between displacement and belonging, between nightmares and dreams.


Following the Nazi occupation of France in 1940, communists, jews, members of the resistance, and some of the 20th century’s most prominent artists and thinkers, (Wifredo Lam, Jacqueline Lamba, Victor Serge, Anna Seghers, Hannah Arendt, André Breton, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Marcel Duchamp) sought refuge at a local chateau: Villa Air-Bel, run by the American diplomat Varian Fry. Today, barely anything remains of this former wartime sanctuary, no monuments or reminders. Villa Air-Bel was a safe haven where individuals united in their uncertainty could meet. Suspended in time, they collectively engaged in plays and artistic experiments as a way of dealing with their bleak realities while
they awaited their escape to the Americas.

Tracing the migration of forms in everyday objects, *The Refuge* draws on the delineations between art in public space and art in private lives, between fine arts and decorative arts, between scholarly and popular culture. It suggests perspectives in which art history and contemporary vernacular urban culture can meet on street level. *The Refuge* is a reminder that the very notion of originality has always been used to devalue and exclude the Other, and that in moments of great uncertainty, such narratives can change course quickly.


**The Almshouse: The Odd, The Poetic and The Possible**
Venue: Centre de la Vieille Charité
11 September – 29 November 2020

Marseille has been formed and informed by a complex history of immigration and migration, departures and arrivals.

*The Almshouse: The Odd, The Poetic and The Possible* looks and, more importantly, listens to Marseille’s multi-layered linguistic landscape. It explores Marseille’s complex culture of different languages and their often competing narratives: the unexpected breaks and occasional poetic connections between “foreign” and “local” languages, the dialects that form and inform the multiple identities of Marseille.

*The Almshouse* remembers modernity’s history of psychiatric institutions, its relationship to social, political and mental alienation as well as the right to madness. Much like language itself, La Vieille Charité has historically fulfilled multiple confining functions including that of an almshouse, an asylum, a hospital and a cloister. Today, it houses several museums.

The Port: Where Histories Lie
Venue: Musée d'Histoire de Marseille
Off-site location: Centre Bourse
11 September – 29 November 2020

This museum is a singular space, nestled between a shopping centre and the garden of vestiges, between the Old Port and the Belsunce neighbourhood. Neither here nor there, it is a space in-between antiquity and a Nike store, in-between preservation and consumption, a space where 2600 years of stories unfold and are told, retracing the crossroads of cultural and urban policies. Cities are spaces of conflict, negotiation, agreement or arrest. Shared public memories have rightly become a contested territory in the tracing and recovery of stories left untold.


The Park: Becoming a Body of Water
Venues: Musée des Beaux-Arts, Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Consignes Sanitaires
25 September – 29 November 2020
Citerne des Moulins
9 October - 29 November 2020

The Park: Becoming a Body of Water takes the fountains flanked by two interconnected museums – the musée des Beaux-Arts de Marseille and the muséum d'histoire naturelle – as a symbol of transformation and interconnectedness. Epistemologies of “the south” thus become infused with forms of collective action.

The Park investigates the ideological binaries between nature and culture contained in both museums and proposes new interrelations between humans, as well as between humans and other living creatures, celebrating more fluid identities and their bodily alliances of resistance.

Participants: Minia Biabiany (1988, FR), Center for Creative

The School: The Sonorous, The Audible, and The Silenced
Venue: Le Conservatoire National à Rayonnement Régional
9th of October - 29th of November 2020

For two centuries, The Palace of Arts has been home to many of the city’s educational and cultural institutions: museums, libraries, archives, ballets and now a music school.

Throughout the building, rehearsals can be heard coming from different rooms and resonating through its walls—at times clearly audible, at others silenced. The School: The Sonorous, The Audible and The Silenced unfolds throughout the neo-classic architecture encapsulating some of its previous functions. Simultaneously charged with the potentialities of all these elements, it is a multi-layered sonic space where works in progress are paralleled by the performance of ostensible virtuosity, underscoring the historical and ideological tensions between the soloist, the orchestra and the conductor.


**Full list of participants:**
(*participants who will present newly conceived works for Manifesta 13 Marseille)

**André Acquart**
1922-2016, FR

**Yalda Afsah** *
1983, DE

**Antonin Artaud**
1896 - 1948, FR

**Aoziz** *
(Béatrice Pedraza, Ludovic Mohamed Zahed, Andrew Graham)
Collective, GB / FR

**Mounir Ayache** *
1991, FR

**Yassine Balbzioui** *
1972, MA

**Georges Bataille**
1897-1962, FR

**Roland Barthes**
1915-1980, FR

**James Benning**
1942, US

**Minia Biabiany**
1988, FR

**Black Quantum Futurism** *
Collective, US

**Hannah Black** *
1981, GB

**Anna Boghiguian** *
1946, EG

**Mohamed Bourouissa** *
1978, DZ/FR

**Benjamin de Burca & Barbara Wagner** *
1975, DE / 1980, BR

**Center for Creative Ecologies** *
(Isabelle Carbonell, Hannah Meszaros Martin, T. J. Demos)
Collective, US

**Marc Camille Chaimowicz** *
1947, FR
Ali Cherri *
1976, LB

Dennis Cooper and Zac Farley

Dennis Cooper and Gisèle Vienne
1953, US / 1976 FR, AT

Julien Creuzet *
1986, FR

Pauline Curnier Jardin
1980, FR

Martine Derain *
1960, FR

Lukas Duwenhögger
1956, DE

Jana Euler
1982, DE

Ymane Fakhir *
1969, MA

Peter Fend *
1950, US

Pierre Guyotat
1940-2020, FR

Samia Henni *
1980, DZ

Stine Marie Jacobsen *
1977, DK

Lynn Marie Kirby
1952, US

Mathieu Kleyebe Abonnenc
1977, GF

Amy Lien & Enzo Camacho *

Calla Henkel & Max Pitegoff *

Trinh T. Minh-ha
1952, VN

Tuan Andrew Nguyen *
1976, VN

Ken Okiishi *
1968, US
Sara Ouhaddou *
1986, FR/MA

Philippe Pujol *
1975, FR

Arthur Rimbaud
1854-1891, FR

Cameron Rowland
1988, US

Sara Sadik *
1994, FR

Judith Scott
1943-2005, US

Hélène Smith
1861-1929, CH

Lionel Soukaz
1953, FR

Reena Spaulings
Collective, US

Arseny Zhilyaev *
1984, RU

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Immediate release

Marseille
9th of June 2020
About Manifesta:
Manifesta, the European Nomadic Biennial, originated in the early 1990s in response to the political, economic, and social change following the end of the Cold War and the subsequent steps towards European integration. Manifesta has developed into a platform for dialogue between art and society by inviting the cultural and artistic community to produce new creative experiences with, and for, the context in which it takes place. Manifesta rethinks the relations between culture and society investigating and catalysing positive social change in Europe through contemporary culture in a continuous dialogue with the social sphere of a specific place.

Manifesta was founded, and is still directed, by Dutch art historian Hedwig Fijen. Each new edition is fundraised individually and managed by a permanent team of international specialists.

Manifesta 13 Marseille is a non-profit organisation initiated by the International Foundation of Manifesta and the City of Marseille. Manifesta 13 Marseille is supported by the City of Marseille, the French Ministry of Culture, the Préfecture des Bouches du Rhône and the Departmental Council of the Bouches-du-Rhône.

Manifesta 13 Marseille
28 August – 29 November 2020

Next Manifesta Host Cities
Manifesta 13, Marseille (France, 2020)
Manifesta 14, Pristina (Kosovo, 2022)

Previous Manifesta Host Cities
Manifesta 1, Rotterdam (Netherlands, 1996)
Manifesta 2, Luxembourg (Luxembourg, 1998)
Manifesta 3, Ljubljana (Slovenia, 2000)
Manifesta 4, Frankfurt (Germany, 2002)
Manifesta 5, Donostia-San Sebastián (Spain, 2004)
Manifesta 6, Nicosia (Cyprus, 2006 – cancelled)
Manifesta 7, Trentino-Alto Adige (Italy, 2008)
Manifesta 8, Murcia - Cartagena (Spain, 2010)
Manifesta 9, Genk-Limburg (Belgium, 2012)
Manifesta 10, St. Petersburg (Russia, 2014)
Manifesta 11, Zurich (Switzerland, 2016)
Manifesta 12, Palermo (Italy, 2018)

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