

MANIFESTA13 MARSEILLE

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
31.08.2018

Manifesta 13 Marseille to collaborate with Winy Maas and MVRDV

On Friday 31st of August, Director of Manifesta, Hedwig Fijen announced the collaboration with Winy Maas of the Dutch architecture office MVRDV on an interdisciplinary urban study of Marseille and its metropolitan region as the base for the curatorial framework of Manifesta 13. The study will serve as a platform to develop artistic and cultural interventions during the biennial in 2020.

Manifesta successfully introduced architecture and urban studies in the curatorial process of Manifesta 12 in Palermo as visual instruments to understand and unlock the city and to leave a tangible legacy.

Manifesta 13 Marseille will consist of an interdisciplinary program of artistic events broadly in the areas of art, urban development, contemporary culture, education, theory, research and mediation. Manifesta 13 Marseille will take place between 7 June and 1 November 2020.

MVRDV is a Rotterdam based international urban and architectural office which works globally on contemporary architectural and urban issues. The approach is characterized by a collaborative research-based design approach emphasizing sustainable solutions. In Marseille, MVRDV will work closely with students from Aix-Marseille University and The Why Factory, a research institute for the future city, founded by Winy Maas in 2008 at TU Delft. The pre-biennial research will be an investigation tool for the next Creative Mediators team and an instrument for the citizens of Marseille to co-create and synergise with the biennial in an early stage.

Winy Maas, co-founder MVRDV:

"As an urban planner I imagine to highlight, enlarge and manifest the potentials, necessities and beauties of Marseille. The urban study will support all artists, makers and designers involved, to show, inspire and enlarge its role and specificity within the archipelago of European cities. Thus, enlarging Europe's cohabitation and strength."

Hedwig Fijen, Manifesta Director:

"With the appointment of Dutch office MVRDV as partners in the research process for M13 in Marseille, we hope to get a better understanding how to implement the biennial in a more inclusive way in the tissues of the host city, considering ways of working such as co-creation, co-production and collaboration with local universities and associations. We believe that by commissioning an architectural office to develop an urban research anticipating the biennial, Manifesta reaches beyond specific art communities to facilitate a new social commons, and allows commissioned artists, thinkers and curators to operate both within a framework and with freedom of experiment."

Over the next half year while MVRDV is working on their pre-biennial research, the new team of Creative Mediators will be selected, and will start working on the biennial concept and research. MVRDV will present the results of their study with an intervention in public space in Spring 2019.

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About Winy Maas / MVRDV:

Winy Maas is an architect and urban designer and one of the co-founding directors of the globally operating architecture and urban planning firm MVRDV, based in Rotterdam, Netherlands, known for projects such as the Expo 2000 pavilion, the vision for greater Paris, Grand Paris Plus Petit, the Market Hall in Rotterdam, the Crystal Houses in Amsterdam and the Seoulo7017 Skygarden in Seoul. He is furthermore professor at and director of The Why Factory, a research institute for the future city, he founded in 2008 at TU Delft. He has been Visiting Professor at GSAPP Columbia and IIT Chicago and has held teaching positions at various universities and institutes worldwide. With both MVRDV and The Why Factory he has published a series of research projects. (www.mvrdv.nl)

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 not for, the context in which it takes place. Manifesta rethinks the relations between culture and society investigating and catalyzing positive social change in Europe through contemporary culture in a continuous dialogue with the social sphere of specific place.

Manifesta was founded Dutch art historian, Hedwig Fijen. Each new edition is fundraised individually and managed by a permanent team of international specialists. Manifesta is working from its offices in Amsterdam, Palermo and Marseille.

Manifesta 12 Palermo “The Planetary Garden. Cultivating Co-existence” is open until November 4, 2018 (www.manifesta12.org)

Manifesta 13 Marseille is an association created by International Manifesta Foundation and the City of Marseille. It's supported by the City of Marseille, the French Ministry of Culture and the Departmental Council of Bouches-du-Rhône.

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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Participants of the Press Conference are:

Ms Hedwig Fijen, Founding Director of Manifesta

Ms Marie-Hélène Feraud-Gregori, Councillor of the City of Marseille for the Opera, the Odeon and the Contemporary Art

With the presence of:

Ms Anne-Marie d'Estienne d'Orves, Deputy of the Mayor of Marseille for Culture, Living Arts, Museums, Public Libraries and Art Schools,

Mr Marc Ceccaldi, Regional Head of Cultural Affairs of the PACA region

Ms Sabine Bernasconi, Vice-President of the Departmental Council of Bouches-du-Rhône for Culture,

Mr Daniel Gagnon, Vice-Président of the Aix Marseille Provence Metropole, Deputy for Culture and Cultural venues.

Ms Cathy Racon-Bouzon, Deputy of the 5th district of Bouches-du-Rhône, member of the Cultural Affairs Committee of the National Assembly.

Media enquiries:

Pickles PR

0031 6158 21202

rhannon@picklespr.com

www.picklespr.com

For further information about Manifesta, please contact

Manifesta Head Office

Herengracht 474

1017CA Amsterdam

Netherlands

office@manifesta.org

Association Manifesta 13 Marseille

c/o La Friche la Belle de Mai

41, rue Jobin

130003 Marseille

France

m13press@manifesta.org

www.facebook.com/manifestabiennial

www.instagram.com/manifestabiennial

www.twitter.com/ManifestaDotOrg



La Friche la Belle de Mai – 41, rue Jobin – 13003 Marseille – France

Siret: 831 213 947 00011

Association soumise aux dispositions de la loi du 1er juillet 1901

Déclaration n°: W133026686