



Press release — 1
Immediate release

Marseille
27th of August 2020

Manifesta 13 presents the second urban study in the biennial's history, *Le Grand Puzzle*, a project by Dutch architect Winy Maas that reflects on possible scenarios for the city of Marseille.

Since Manifesta 12 Palermo, Manifesta has commissioned a pre-biennial urban research led by an internationally renowned architectural bureau, with the aim of unlocking 'knowledge and structures' and creating a foundational base for the biennial. Why is this urban study so relevant at this specific transitional moment for the city of Marseille? How can the city use this research as a visionary instrument for the redevelopment and redefinition of Marseille? How can *Le Grand Puzzle* identify Marseille's current struggle of reshaping itself into a new site of civic corporation? Can *Le Grand Puzzle* propose viable ways for Marseille to become more accessible, more equal, more prosperous, more sustainable, more innovative, more democratic and more inclusive? *Le Grand Puzzle* was commissioned as the foundational step of Manifesta 13 Marseille as a new model of creative mediation that serves both as a blueprint for Marseille to plan its future and as a research framework to ensure that Manifesta 13 impacts the city and its citizens in the long-term. In *Le Grand Puzzle*, Marseille is addressed as a complex mosaic of fragmented or even sometimes lost identities from centuries of exchange between civilisations. The city's material archaeology, cultural legacy, histories and ecosystems act as testimonies to the city's multiculturalism and syncretism. *Le Grand Puzzle* also attempts to capture how Marseille is reshaping itself today, how the city has gone against the grain in its development, not only as an incubator of different Mediterranean cultures within the EU but also as a geographical extension of the Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East.

Marseille is hosting Manifesta 13 in a period when the coronavirus health crisis has taken its toll on the world politically, economically, and socially. This current transitional period inspired the biennial to adapt with an alternative and a more democratic participation model. This was not only motivated by external shifts and growing inequalities, but also by the realisation that traditional representational forms are in need of critical responses. The pre-biennial urban study was therefore not merely developed as the foundation for the curatorial research of the biennial programmes but rather created as an independent citizen response to the historical status quo as well as geopolitical, social and cultural changes in Marseille of last few decades.

With this innovative model encapsulating both an urban study and citizen assemblies, Marseille could be the first European city to exemplify the creation of a blueprint that involves a permanent citizen council dedicated to address issues concerning increasing equalities, migration and environmental shifts. The



Press release — 2
Immediate release

Marseille
27th of August 2020

city was founded by Armenians, Italians, Spanish, North-African Jews and French Algerian migrants, amongst others. They founded Marseille as the emblem of the multi-cultural city of the future, where identity is not its foremost and first priority. One is Marseillais more than one is French: *nous sommes tous d'ici et d'ailleurs*.

Le Grand Puzzle was the immediate motivation for the development of a new programme called *Le Tour de Tous les Possibles*, an experiment of alternative forms of civil participation developed by two local city makers, Joke Quintens and Tarik Ghezali. The project, running throughout 2020, brings together citizens from across Marseille, connecting diverse groups of participants from different social and cultural backgrounds and generations, such as activists and representatives of civil society. The main ambition of *Le Tour de Tous les Possibles* is to investigate collaborative methods of work to create new alliances and experiment with alternative policy models, whilst exploring the potential challenges of Marseille's communal future. These 22 workshops held in the pre-biennial period will hopefully lead to the founding of a functioning Citizen Council called *Assemblée de Tous les Possibles*, where 101 Citizens are selected by luck of the draw to advise the Mayor and the City Council.

"I believe that Marseille can also become the site of new forms of civic cooperation like Le Tour de Tous Les Possible, a concrete attempt to merge and connect the citizens in the future scenarios for Marseille, new ideals of citizenship and even alternative definitions of how the city of Marseille can be transformed. Le Grand Puzzle might become a potential source of local based knowledge about how Marseillaises perceive both external and internal views of their city and can use it as an instrument for transformation for their world to come".

Hedwig Fijen Director of Manifesta 13

"Le Grand Puzzle allows the contrasts and contradictions that characterise the city to emerge and speak for themselves. It is thus a preliminary portrait of Marseille, a mirror of its society aimed at unlocking fixations.

It is meant to highlight and disseminate the beauty, needs and potentials of the city.

It is a means for the artists, makers and designers involved in the biennial to broaden their knowledge of the city and to ultimately strengthen Marseille's specific role within the archipelago of European cities." **Winy Maas, co-founder of MVRDV and director The Why Factory.**

"The Le Tour de Tous les Possibles workshops came up with dozens of original ideas that we want to now concretise with Marseille's civil society. For example, the Paquebot Radieux, which aims to transform a disused ship into an unusual place of living, mixing housing with shops, schools and culture. Continuing on from Le Tour de Tous les Possibles, we propose to set up an 'Assemblée de Tous les Possibles', which would be a permanent citizens' assembly of 101 Marseillais picked via a draw and representative of the population. This assembly would deliberate and invent new



Press release — 3
Immediate release

Marseille
27th of August 2020

answers to the region's problems, and this in close contact with the City. As a part of Manifesta's Marseille heritage, carrying an often forgotten obvious fact : The population of Marseille has/is the solution!" **Tarik Ghezali from Marseille Solutions and Joke Quintens from Moving Marseille**

Panel discussion

On Saturday 29 August, at 11am – 12pm CEST, an online panel discussion about *Le Grand Puzzle* will be livestreamed, with the participation of Winy Maas, Marseille's new mayor Michèle Rubirola, the deputy to the Mayor for Culture Jean-Marc Coppola, Manifesta's Founder and Director Hedwig Fijen, alongside other urban specialists.

To join the Panel discussion on Saturday, please contact agatabar@manifesta.org.

Le Grand Puzzle is generously supported by Club Immobilier Marseille Provence and Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, France

Le Grand Puzzle is published by Hatje Cantz Verlag.



Press release — 4
Immediate release

Marseille
27th of August 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 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 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)

**For further information about
Manifesta, please contact:**
Amsterdam Head Office
Emilia van Lynden
Head of Communication, Marke-
ting and Publications
office@manifesta.org
Marseille 13 Marseille Office
Nadia Fatnassi
Press & Public Relations
m13press@manifesta.org

Follow us!
FB: @ManifestaBiennial
IG: @ManifestaBiennial
TW: @ManifestaDotOrg

Manifesta 13 Marseille
42 La Canebière
13001 Marseille, France
M: +33 (0)4 86 11 81 18
www.manifesta13.org



Manifesta Head Office
Herengracht 474, 1017 CA
Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Tel. +31 (0)20 672 14 35
www.manifesta.org

Siret: 831 213 947 00011
Association soumise
aux dispositions de la loi
du 1er juillet 1901
Déclaration n°: W133026686