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## PRESS RELEASE

### MANIFEST launches a funded art residency re-imagining the European heritage of the transatlantic trade of enslaved people

Brussels, September 30, 2022

Trade of enslaved people and slavery has existed worldwide since the earliest Antiquity. These phenomena have adversely impacted Europe, the Mediterranean basin, and Africa for millennia. But at some point in modern times, we went from slaves of a multiplicity of origins on European soil to an almost African uniqueness of slavery in the Americas. [MANIFEST: New artistic perspectives on memories of the transatlantic trade of enslaved people](#) aims to contribute to and enhance the re-imagination of Europe's collective memory of the transatlantic trade of enslaved people.

### MANIFEST ARTISTIC JOURNEY - CALL FOR ARTISTS IS OPEN TILL NOVEMBER 27, 2022

By organising an [Artistic Journey](#) which includes art residencies in Budapest/Zsennye, Lisbon and Copenhagen the Project seeks to empower artists to approach the subject matter, re-imagining the history of the transatlantic trade of enslaved people from the perspective of its links in the European continent and its existing cultural traces. Selected artists will create art designed to promote an artistic look into the past collective memory. Along this Journey, artists and creators will be encouraged to fully take advantage of new technologies and foster personal capacity building.

Artists and creators who are legal residents in the countries within the Creative Europe framework can apply starting from **October 26, 2022, till November 27, 2022**. For more information on eligibility, conditions and application process, please visit <https://www.projectmanifest.eu/call-for-artists/>

### CONSORTIUM

*MANIFEST: New artistic perspectives on memories of the transatlantic trade of enslaved people* is a project funded by the European Commission under the **Creative Europe Programme** that will run until November 2024. It is implemented by a Consortium led by [Khora](#), the world's first combined virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) production house based in Copenhagen. The consortium is joined by [Les Anneaux de la Mémoire](#), France's leading association working with the themes of the history and heritage of the Atlantic trade of enslaved people and colonial enslavement; [Pro Progressione](#), a Budapest-based artistic hub specialising in international collaborations in the field of culture; [Gerador](#), an independent Portuguese platform for journalism, culture and education; and [CUMEDIAE](#), a Brussels-based international non-profit agency providing consultancy services in the field of CCIs European-wide.

More information about the project can be found at [projectmanifest.eu](http://projectmanifest.eu). Sign up for our [newsletter](#) and follow us on social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#)) to receive updated information on the MANIFEST project.

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## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The whole of Atlantic Europe engaged in the trade of enslaved people and slavery with leading countries such as Portugal, England, France, the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark. All other European countries participated in its economy and benefitted from it - either by organising slave expeditions and financing shipments or by producing goods used for trade on the African costs and purchasing captives needed for the plantations' activities.

Today, the fact that the transatlantic trade of enslaved people played a significant role in European economic development is not often discussed. However, it played a fundamental role in some sectors of production and consumption, the evolution of capitalism, the renewal of social hierarchy, and the debate of ideas.

MANIFEST aims to approach and re-conceptualise these matters toward the European understanding of the topic holistically and more comprehensively. It will do so through fostering artistic reflection on the issue - through an **art residency** - and by providing a documented research output on the topic in a [Resource Publication](#).

## RESOURCE PUBLICATION

Throughout the project, research and stakeholder engagement with relevant communities will support the Artistic Journey with a solid and documented research contribution about the material and immaterial heritage and social traces of the transatlantic trade of enslaved people, out of which a [Resources Publication](#) will result. The [Advisory Board](#), consisting of scientific and civil society representatives, will ensure the Project's historical, identity and scientific integrity.



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