



Subject: Announcing the Awardees of MANIFEST

Europe played a central role in the transatlantic trade of enslaved people, yet there is little to honour the afterlives of colonial enslavement. Art uniquely opens new perspectives while raising questions and fostering critical reflection, which is what MANIFEST seeks to embody with the transformative power of art.

MANIFEST is a cross-disciplinary, educational and artistic initiative led by 22 artists and five partners developing thirteen artworks in mixed media to bring unheard voices to the forefront of historical remembrance of colonial enslavement.

The artists and artworks

The thirteen artworks produced by individual artists or collectives are highly appreciated and valued as they speak to various audiences, sparking reflection on historical discourses and memory and helping expand opportunities for new, collective memories. They were exhibited as part of the project's exhibition *MANIFEST: Afterimages and Perspectives on Colonial Enslavement* in Nantes from September 19 to October 6, 2024, which was experienced by more than 2000 people, including 200 young pupils and students, who visited the exhibition, and many returned multiple times to see the works.

The award

The MANIFEST Award is co-funded by the European Commission. It was established to honour and amplify the efforts of artistic output in the growing field of mixed-media art and to catalyse investments into three works to further enrich the cultural landscape beyond MANIFEST's final exhibition. The award includes a €3.500 investment for the three artworks that stand out as exceptional in the evaluated categories, Audiovisual, XR (Extended Reality), and Historytelling, and combine history, art, and digital storytelling in ways that speak to the jury.

The Jury

The independent jury was composed of 14 experts in digital art, historians specialising in the transatlantic trade of enslaved people, decolonial and colonial thought, cultural scholars, young people, representatives from communities affected by the legacy of colonial enslavement, and advocates at the community and policy levels. They were very impressed and challenged by the variety of the works that touched so many people from different age groups, backgrounds, and nationalities in various ways.

The final results for the three awards are:

XR AWARD: GOLDEN NECTAR - DANIELA JAKRLOVA' RIVA

AUDIOVISUAL AWARD: MY RAY OF SUNSHINE - LAÍS ANDRADE

HISTORYTELLING AWARD: WORDS OF NEGROES - SYLVAIN DAMPIERRE



GERADOR



CUMEDIÆ



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We extend our deepest gratitude to our distinguished jury members, who have contributed pro bono with their time, expertise and dedication and have been invaluable in selecting the MANIFEST Award recipients:

Thomas Bouli – President of Afrique Loire; expert in heritage and memory.

Armelle Chatelier – Head of the Digital & Culture Program, National Foundation for the Remembrance of Slavery (FME).

Falmarès – Artist, poet, actor, and Peace Ambassador from Conakry, Guinea.

Aurora Almada e Santos – Advisory board member of MANIFEST, historian, and visiting professor in international relations.

Ana Brzezinska – Curator and producer specializing in AR/MR/VR technologies; Immersive Curator at the Tribeca Festival.

Alan Rice – Advisory board member of MANIFEST, Director of the UCL Research Centre in Migration, Diaspora, and Exile.

Olivier Chateau – Deputy Mayor of Nantes; responsible for heritage and archaeology.

Rozenn Le-Merrer – Director of the School of Fine Arts of Nantes and Saint-Nazaire.

Felana Couthouis and Vanille Rouyer - Nantes Public History Students, two master's students representing the audience, specializing in public history and cultural dissemination.