

The European Pavilion

Press release

The European Pavilion 2024: Liquid Becomings

(under embargo until February 14, 13:00)

In June 2023, the European Cultural Foundation launched a Call for curatorial proposals to curate and host The European Pavilion 2024. The selection of the laureate of the 500,000.00 euros commissioning grant was entrusted to an international jury who unanimously agreed to award the consortium led by the independent artists' collective [espaço agora now](#), and comprising the organisations [FLOW](#), [MS-Fusion](#), [Teatro Meia Volta](#) and [United Artist Labour](#), for their proposal “Liquid Becomings”.

Proposing a travelling European Pavilion in the form of four boats sailing on four European rivers before coming together in Lisbon for a final artistic programme in November 2024, *Liquid Becomings* offers, in the eyes of the jury, the most imaginative and daring format, and constructively challenges the model of national pavilions and the imaginaries they represent. Orchestrating a movement across borders, drawing on the symbolic richness of water while underlining the urgencies it also conveys, and emphasising the fluidity of European identity itself, *Liquid Becomings* also brings an unexpected and innovative perspective to the debate on Europe. By giving a central place to artists and seeking to involve different communities along the Vistula, Rhine, Danube, and Tagus rivers, as well as in the historic centre and outskirts of Lisbon, *Liquid Becomings* has the potential to have a lasting impact in today's Europe and to help imagine a shared, polyphonic future.

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[The European Pavilion](#) is a pan-European and multidisciplinary arts program that puts the question of Europe and its future at the forefront through artistic projects and art commissions. It was initiated by the [European Cultural Foundation](#) (ECF) in 2020, and stems from the belief that we need more cultural spaces that go beyond national remits to explore and imagine what Europe is and what it can or should become.

In 2023, the ECF launched a new commissioning grant of 500,000 euros to be awarded to the cultural organisation that presents the most ambitious, imaginative and convincing project for The European Pavilion 2024.

By offering fresh and inspiring perspectives on Europe and its future, The European Pavilion contributes to bringing Europe closer to its communities and to ECF's mission to strengthen a European sentiment.

About the jury

Chaired by **Sepake Angiama** (artistic director of the [Institute for International Visual Art in London](#)), the jury comprised six distinguished personalities with a wide range of cultural backgrounds, expertise and practices: **Ferran Barenblit** (visiting professor at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and curator of the 16th Cuenca Biennale), **Máté Gáspár** (cultural manager, university lecturer and NGO expert, artistic director of Budapest Brand), **Hassan Mahamdallie** (author, commentator, playwright and theatre director, director of the Muslim Institute in London), **Teja Reba** (vice-president of the Expert Commission for Performing Arts at the Ministry of Culture and member of the Expert Group for the Strategic Development of Contemporary Dance in Slovenia), **Françoise Vergès** (writer, political theorist, antiracist feminist and independent curator), **Olga Wysocka** (cultural manager and political scientist, director of the Warsaw Observatory of Culture).



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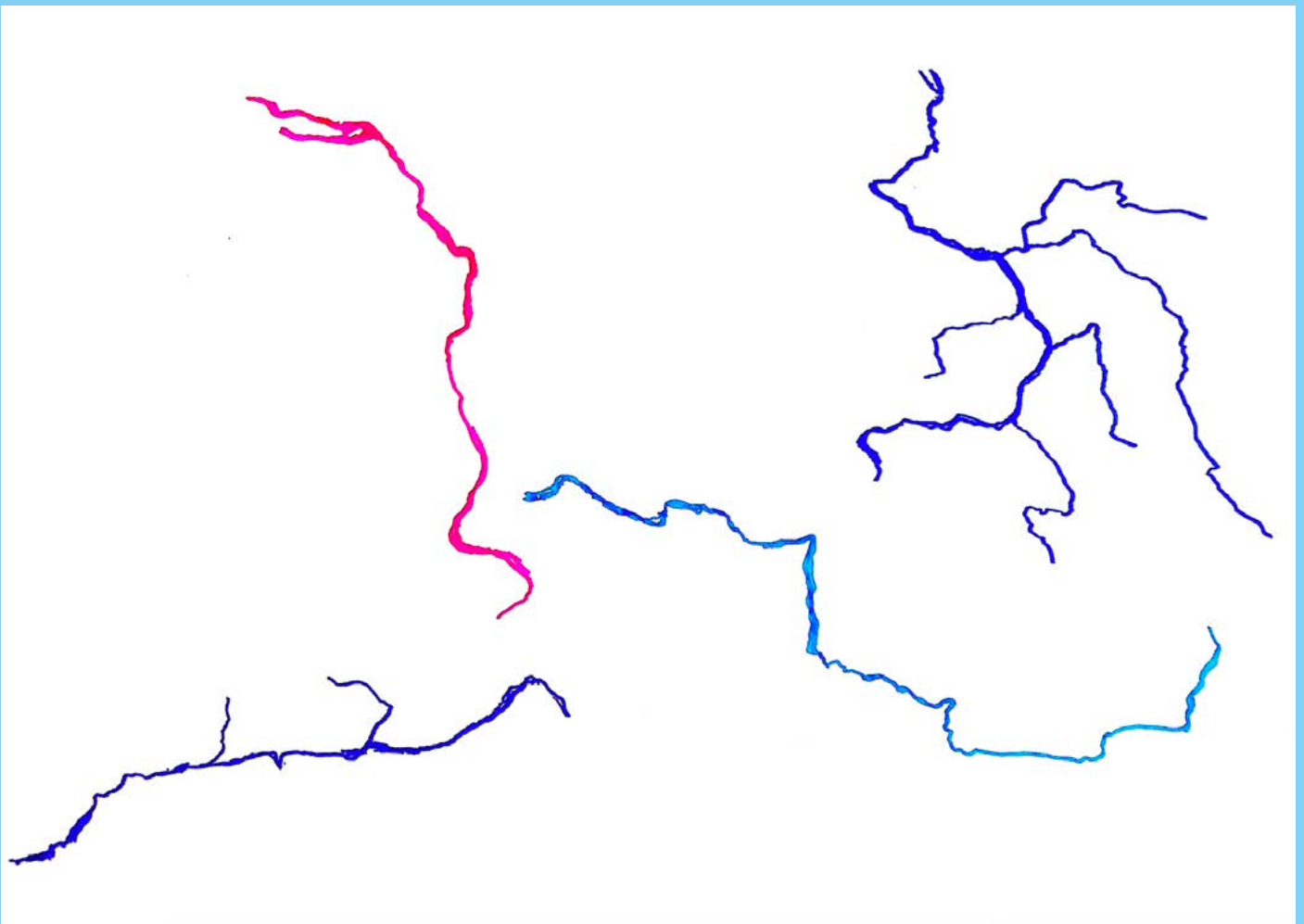
The European Pavilion 2024: Liquid Becomings

Liquid Becomings is no traditional Pavilion. It is not an exhibition. It is not one performance. It is not in a single location.

Liquid Becomings is a journey, an adventure, an experiment.

4 journeys will take place simultaneously in September 2024 as 4 boats travel across 4 rivers of Europe: the Danube, the Vistula, the Rhine, the Tagus. *Liquid Becomings* will trace the contours of Europe with the focus on alternative centres and movements, unseen territories and communities, as well as peripheral geographies and perspectives. The experience will create an unusual time frame.

The boats, each with a crew of 5 artists and a captain, will focus on 4 themes (“Ruins and Monsters”, “Perimeters”, “Togetherness”, “Bodies and Politics”). Throughout the journey, we are committed to imagining alternative modes of togetherness. The artist crews will research ideas of new imaginaries, alternative living and speculative futures. Each of the boats are simple vessels that offer a simple, sustainable and slow mode of travel. We expect to experience the landscape, the elements and people who live on the rivers from a unique, connected perspective. This is a journey that is participative and contributory.



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In November all the boats will join forces in Lisbon. A three-day artistic programme celebrating polyphony, liminal spaces and itinerancy, will link the old port of Beato with Quinta Alegre, a socio-cultural complex located on the northern outskirts of Lisbon. The programme will open with Public Kitchen by teatro meia volta, a community and artistic event based on the cuisine of all the inhabitants of the parish of Santa Clara and where, during a multicultural dinner served by local residents, stories will be shared about travel, migration and wishes for the future. The three days will include specially commissioned new work by Portuguese artists, including writer Gonçalo Tavares, performative, sound artist and musician Jonathan Uliel Saldanha and theatre maker Paula Diogo.

The encounters and conversations, meals, rituals, stories will be translated into a new mythology for Europe, told by artists and citizens. *A future told by the river, a future told by all of us.*

Liquid Becomings is curated by: **Bojan Đorđev, Laura Kalauz, Maria Magdalena Kozłowska, Siniša Ilić, Alfredo Martins, Annette Mees, Naomi Russell, Olga Uzikaeva.**

About espaço agora now

[espaço agora now](#) is a new independent platform founded in 2021 that is reimagining artist development and public experiment in the performing arts. It celebrates radical imagination and radical artists as illuminating and galvanising forces in the centre of society.

It is a project of the Dutch Culturele ANBI Stichting Pássaros, and driven by a growing movement of over 300 artists, producers and cultural activists representing the variety of performance disciplines and genres around the world. Together they are organically creating an international network of permanent and nomadic spaces of meeting that establish fresh connections between performing artists, local citizens and public action. Pilots are now underway in Rotterdam and Buenos Aires. Other hubs in development include Lisbon, Belgrade and Maputo.

The starting point for espaço agora now was the need in the performing arts for 'liquidity' of time and space when ideas are first formed, and the need to bring different disciplines and communities together. They asked: Could we gather enough critical mass to create spaces for residencies together, open them up in new ways, as vital necessities for our collective futures? At the centre of the vision for espaço agora now is a commitment to make inclusive spaces centred on the needs of artists and communities in different contexts across the world. This is at the heart of their proposal for The European Pavilion.

About the European Cultural Foundation

Our founders created the European Cultural Foundation in 1954 as they envisioned a united Europe where citizens feel proudly European, a place where they can live, express themselves, work, and dream freely, in diversity and harmony. Ever since, the ECF promotes a European sentiment by developing and supporting cultural initiatives that let us share, experience, and imagine Europe. We believe our mission is as urgent now as it was back then.

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Press conference

On February 14 at 11:00, the [European Cultural Foundation](#) and [espaço agora now](#) invite you to Het Nieuwe Instituut in Rotterdam for the presentation of The European Pavilion 2024: *Liquid Becomings*. In the presence of the Director of ECF, members of the jury, and two of the curators.

To celebrate the pan-European scope of the winning proposal, and as the curatorial team is based in different places, we host viewing parties simultaneously in the following locations. Members of the curatorial team and project partners will be present at each location:

- Gallery BWA Warszawa, ul. Marszałkowska 34/50, 00554, Warsaw
- Quinta Alegre, Palácio do Marquês do Alegrete, Campo Amoreiras 93, 1750 Lisbon
- Academy of Fine Arts, Schillerplatz 3, 1010, Vienna

Please RSVP before February 7

Contact

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