



~~Free to create~~  
~~Creates to be free~~  
 BACKGROUND

The artistic research project Mapping the Unseen was realised in four countries: Croatia, Iran, Bangladesh and Austria. It consists of artistic interventions on unseen, hidden topics - topics that are not discussed in public by the mainstream society. These interventions were shown in the respective cities for several days during the period of one week. The project strived for a programmatic visual and discursive treatment of a chosen topic, which was identified and selected by participating art groups. Following this, parts of the project were invited to Austria to enable an intercultural dialogue. Central to this is the confrontation with the local artists, NGOs, and researchers from Austria offer their contribution from an Austrian point of view.

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“Free to Create — Create to be Free” is a digital #exhibition by the Council of Europe, initiated, developed and curated in consultation with the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) to mark the 70th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# BACKGROUND

**“Free to Create - Create to be Free”** is a digital #exhibition conceived by the **Council of Europe** and set up jointly with the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP). To mark the 70th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the CDCPP launched in November 2020 a **Manifesto on the Freedom of Expression of Arts and Culture in the Digital Era**. The exhibition flanks this important text and builds on the Council of Europe’s legacy of art exhibitions.

Member States of the Council of Europe are invited to provide up to two artworks referring to the Manifesto and the overall topic of artistic freedom.

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**createtobefree.art**

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić, endorses the Manifesto on the Freedom of Expression of Arts and Culture in the Digital Era

*“Freedom of artistic expression is part of freedom of expression, protected by Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Manifesto on the Freedom of Expression of Arts and Culture in the Digital Era is a political commitment to promote the right of artists to express themselves freely even under difficult circumstances.*

*Freedom of artistic expression is facing growing pressure. More and more artists, experts and cultural professionals who hint at problems, spell out uncomfortable truths, make the unseen visible are subject to pressure, censorship, intimidation and harassment.*

*Moreover, the COVID-19 crisis has severely affected the working conditions and income of artists and the cultural and creative sector as a whole.*

*The Manifesto draws attention to these risks and sends a clear political signal to protect openness and creativity, which are essential ingredients of our democracies.”*

The platform of the digital #exhibition was first presented in May 2021 in Kristiansand on the occasion of a **Conference on the Freedom of Expression of the Arts and Culture in the Digital Era**, held in conjunction with the 2nd European Conference on Democracy and Human Rights. It was launched at the plenary meeting of the **CDCPP** on 18 June 2021. The exhibition will allow member States to display works of art reflecting the essential role of artistic

freedom in a democratic society and thereby sustainably grow into a **living archive**, showcasing the status of artistic freedom in Europe in the 21st century.

Further information on the aims and objectives of the exhibition: <https://freetocreate.art/about>

## HOW CAN MEMBER STATES SUBMIT ARTWORKS?

Participating States are free to organise the submission of their art works to the Council of Europe as they wish. Governments might like to involve art councils, institutions, art professionals and/or a Board of Curators to collect, review and select the material. These art entities could also be involved in the announcement and promotion of a national call for works. Such calls could be a good way of identifying a whole range of potential works of art of interest, ensuring both transparency and wide participation in the process.

## PROCEDURE:

**STEP 1:** Please consult the [Guidelines](#) to the digital exhibition. For further information, please contact Ms Ivana HRDAS PAPADOPOULOS ([ivana.hrdas@coe.int](mailto:ivana.hrdas@coe.int)) or the expert advisor/scientific coordinator Dr Kata Krasznahorkai ([krasznahorkai@freetocreate.art](mailto:krasznahorkai@freetocreate.art)) and select up to two artists/artworks for the exhibition

**STEP 2:** Once the artworks have been selected, please send the complete material to the expert advisor/scientific coordinator Dr Kata Krasznahorkai ([krasznahorkai@freetocreate.art](mailto:krasznahorkai@freetocreate.art))

Please check if the material is complete, according to this checklist:

- original high-resolution images, or video, sound files (not embedded)
- description and technical details of the artwork including copyright data
- artists' biography
- background information on the curator / selection committee and the selection process
- media consent form (completed and signed)

**STEP 3:** The technical- and design experts adjust the submitted material to the framework of the platform

**STEP 4:** The mock-up of the artists' page and the country page are sent to the representatives of the member State for final approval

**STEP 5:** Once approved, the artwork goes online and joins the exhibition!

## CONTACTS:

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