

**Open call
Essenziale
Acquisition award
An initiative of *nctm e l'arte***

Preamble

With the project *nctm e l'arte*, Nctm Studio Legale has been active since 2011 in the world of culture, and more specifically in the visual arts.

Witnessing confidence in art as a paradigm of a design and context-sensitive attitude and as the sap of paths of personal growth, the program has always paid attention to art in its most context-sensitive forms and shared topics.

In line with such attitude, and as a result of the unprecedented situation experienced since February 2020, *nctm e l'arte* aims to address Italian artists or artists residing in Italy in the conviction that art has always provided mankind with images in which to recognize themselves, to gather, to remember, to grieve, to be indignant. This time, too, it will be the artists who will allow us to interpret, elaborate and give form to what our country has experienced because of Covid-19 and from which it is now rising again.

Scope

With *Essenziale*, *nctm e l'arte* invites visual artists to propose projects, completed in the past period or to be completed in the coming months, concerning topics that have proved crucial in the last year. The works will become part of the collection of *nctm e l'arte*.

Theme

In 2020, the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, with its tragic dimension and practical consequences, has generated an unimaginable scenario.

With sudden isolation, the suspension of many activities and of the usual geographical horizons, lives marked by a strong dynamism have undergone a drastic change.

For many, this has been an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of time, the relationship between work and consumption and the relationship between science and democracy. Themes such as limit in its various meanings, fragility, existential uncertainty, the absolute importance of relationships as well as of sensory and physical experience have emerged in their cogency.

The concept of resilience has become concrete, as has the need for a change of paradigm and way of being, both individually and collectively.

Topics such as the relationship between democracy and science and the right to health and care in their different meanings have revealed themselves in their centrality, as has access to digital tools. The importance of being able to plan for the future has emerged on top of everything else.

Everyday vocabulary itself has suddenly been impacted. Terms until recently unused, or infrequently used, such as "lockdown", "spillover", "quarantine" or "distancing" have become commonplace, while everyday phrases have taken on new meaning: the simple phrase "how are you?" has taken on a new intensity.

The emotional short-circuit and the sense of alarm have also sharpened the sensitivity to the conditions of our planet and the contradictions of the current macrosystem of life: the awareness of a continuous forcing that generates economic and social disparity, the extractive relationship with the planet and its resources, which also perverts the relationship with other living species and contributes to the depletion of resources and climate change, has expanded.

These are only some of the spheres of reflection that have been impacted by the current situation.

What emerged? Everyone will have drawn different conclusions from this period.

What, in this time of convalescence, seems to be indispensable to each person? What is essential? How can this renewed awareness be made concrete?

While being aware that there are no simple solutions when dealing with complexity, *nctm e l'arte* poses the question to the artists, in the belief that the situation may have pushed many of them to face reality in depth and to come up with different answers to said questions through their work. Our thought goes in particular to those artists for whom this period has triggered a process of rethinking, leading them to catch a glimpse of "the essential", and who have wished, or wish, to give it a sensitive form in their work.

Call structure

The call involves the selection by Nctm of one or more works submitted by artists of all generations, either Italian or resident in Italy, upon invitation by Nctm through an open call.

The selected works will be acquired by Nctm against the payment of a contribution, as a consideration for the acquisition of each selected work, amounting in total (for all the selected works) to €75,000, inclusive of all taxes.

Artists are invited to submit a proposal for an original work in the process of being conceived or completed, or a recently-made work.

The allocation of funds for the acquisition of a work will be decided by Nctm based on criteria taking into account the relevance of the work and the path of the artist/s based on the valuation of the work proposed by the artist upon participating in the call and submitting his/her work.

Once the period of selection and acquisition is over, the works receiving the award that are transferred to Nctm will become part of the collection of *nctm e l'arte* and will be presented to the public according to terms to be defined.

Artists will be selected by a Committee comprised of:

Gabi Scardi, artistic director of *nctm e l'arte*;

Adrian Paci, artist;

Matteo Lucchetti, curator of *Visible project* (Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto/Fondazione Zegna) and independent curator.

The members of the *Comitato Arte Next Generation Nctm* (Ottavia Dalla Fior, Francesco Granata, Verdiana Maria Spreafico, Anastasia Zandri) will take part in the assessment sessions.

Call rules

1. Participation requirements:

The selection is open to visual artists who are either Italian or resident in Italy, of all generations, with a proven track record in the field of contemporary art. An international artistic résumé will be particularly appreciated.

The work must develop the theme outlined in the previous paragraph.

All selected works must be completed by October 2021 at the latest.

2. Documentation required:

In addition to the application form (including identity card), it will be necessary to submit:

- Curriculum Vitae;
- Comprehensive Portfolio in PDF format (not exceeding 30 MB);

- Description/synopsis of the proposed work (maximum 4000 characters) and visuals, including details of the title, concept, technical characteristics and accompanied by visual material relating to the project in digital format.
- For works in progress, a self-declaration on the feasibility of the project, signed by the artist or by the representative of the collective.

3. Deadlines and submission of the applications:

Applications, complete in all their parts, must be sent by e-mail to nctmelarte@nctm.it, by no later than 23:59 (Italian time) on 30 July 2021.

Applications submitted after the closing date will not be admitted to the selection process.

Participating artists will be notified by Nctm of the call results and the relevant acquisition proposals by August 6.

Any further additional documentation (videos, catalogues, etc.) may be sent by registered letter, with return receipt or hand delivered in paper or digital format, to the following address:

Nctm Studio Legale - via Agnello, 12 - 20121 Milano
Attention: Valentina Tarquini

Materials will not be returned at the end of the selection process.

4. Award of funds

Funds amounting in total to up to 75,000 Euros, including tax charges, will be allocated as a consideration for the acquisition of the selected works, either completed or in progress, by Nctm, for the portion of the total fund allocated to each selected work.

In case of a work in progress, the work will be acquired and the relevant consideration will be allocated once the work is completed and accepted by Nctm, after verifying its conformity with the relevant documentation submitted by the artist during the selection phase.

The Committee will identify the most significant proposals at its sole discretion, based on the following assessment parameters:

- Distinctive qualities / Credibility of the artistic project / Relevance of the work;
- Relevance to the topics mentioned above;
- Consistency of the project with the artist's overall path;
- Feasibility of the work with respect to the economic request.

The Committee will strive to adopt criteria of inclusiveness, reflecting the many diversities characterising the Italian contemporary art scene.

5. Disbursement of the funds

The acquisition of the selected work, with the allocation of the relevant amount as a consideration, will be the subject of a subsequent agreement between the parties (Nctm Studio Legale and the awardee artist).

For works in progress, Nctm and the artist may agree upon the advance payment of a certain amount as financing support up to a maximum of 30% of the contribution allocated and accepted for the specific work to be made.

The acquisition of the work and the full allocation of the contribution will take place after the execution of the agreement, against submission of a payment document (invoice or fiscal receipt).

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6. Consent

Participation in the selection process implies full acceptance of these rules and consent to the graphic and photographic reproduction of the winning projects for any publication (including web-based publications) for promotional purposes in connection with the activities of *nctm e l'arte*.

For further information, please contact:

nctm e l'arte

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