



# Art for Tomorrow 2025 Draft Agenda\*

## Overcoming, Together

In 2025, the world is facing unprecedented challenges, many of them rooted in the inequalities that have only been exacerbated by the triple threat of political, economic and climate crises. These challenges can lead to fracture and isolation, to turning away from each other instead of coming together, and leaving the most vulnerable behind. But change will only come if we turn outward instead of inward, to our friends, our communities and our planet.

Art for Tomorrow 2025 is about tapping into this shared humanity to learn about creative solutions to the most entrenched problems. This May 12-14, we will convene influential figures from the arts, design and architecture in Milan, to explore the impact that these fields can and do have on society.

The iconic building of the Triennale Milano, where this year's event will be hosted, is the perfect setting in which to consider contemporary challenges. Art for Tomorrow is proud to be collaborating with both Triennale Milano, which will present the 24th International Exhibition titled "Inequalities" from May 13 to November 9, and Milan Art Week, taking place in April with the theme "Among Friends." Art for Tomorrow will take place right after the opening of the Venice Architecture Biennale, giving delegates the opportunity to take advantage of myriad critical events. We will also explore Milan's vibrant cultural landscape, venturing into museums, performance spaces and design studios to see the arts in action.

## MONDAY, MAY 12 (in collaboration with Triennale Milano)

**Venue: Triennale di Milano**

**14:00 - 16:00**    **Tour of Triennale exhibitions**

**15:00**            **Registration opens**

**16:00 - 16:10**    **Welcome Remarks**

- Achilles Tsaltas, President, Democracy & Culture Foundation
- Stefano Boeri, Urban Planner and President, Triennale Milano

**16:15 - 16:55**    **Opening Panel: Going Deep: Community-Based Arts**

In this era of division, wealth gaps and filter bubbles leave us further away from understanding one another. To bridge the divide, an increasing number of architects, artists and institutions are adopting a grassroots approach, deeply embedding themselves in the communities that will use or witness their work.



What are some of the techniques being used to respond to real needs? Does some of the creative vision need to be sacrificed in the process?

- Alvaro Barrington, Artist
- Alessandro Cinque, Photojournalist
- Michele De Lucchi, Architect and Founder, AMDL CIRCLE
- Courtney J. Martin, Executive Director, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation

**17:00 - 17:30 Spotlight Conversation**

- Theaster Gates, Artist and Professor of Visual Arts, University of Chicago

**17:35 - 17:45 Performance Short**

**17:50 - 18:30 Culture for Tomorrow**

The last 10 years have seen massive shifts in the interplay between culture, politics and society, and those changes have only accelerated in recent months. For the opening of Triennale Milano's "Inequalities" and Art for Tomorrow's 10th anniversary, we speak to three visionaries who have truly shaped the arts and architecture over recent decades, and will surely play key roles in determining its future. They will lay out their visions for the next decade, imagining how culture can navigate a world in turmoil.

- Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairperson, Qatar Museums
- Stefano Boeri, Urban Planner and President, Triennale Milano
- Lord Norman Foster, President, Norman Foster Foundation

**19:00 Triennale Milano Opening Party (by invitation only)**

**TUESDAY, MAY 13**

***Venue: Triennale di Milano***

**9:30 - 9:45 Welcome Remarks**

- Achilles Tsaltas, President, Democracy & Culture Foundation
- Kim Conniff Taber, Editorial Director, Democracy & Culture Foundation

**9:50 - 10:30 Panel: World-Building: A Peek Inside the Creative Process**

- Jakob Kudsk Steensen, Artist and Animator
- Melanie Challenger, Writer and Researcher
- Okkyung Lee, Cellist, Composer and Improviser

**10:35 - 10:50 Lightning Talk: Visualizing Inequality**

A picture may be worth a thousand words, and it can also be worth a thousand numbers. We speak to a star in the growing field of data visualization, who uses creative graphics and images to drive home the most salient statistics about inequality: from income to gender to climate.

- Federica Fragapane, Information Designer
- Sofia Lekka Angelopoulou, Editor in Chief, Designboom



10:50 - 11:20 **Coffee Break**

11:20 - 11:35 **Lightning Talk**

- Audrey Teichmann, Art Curator, Audemars Piguet

11:40 - 12:10 **Spotlight Conversation**

- Michelangelo Pistoletto, Artist

12:20 - 13:00 ***Parallel Sessions***

**Panel Symposium: Introducing the Bukhara Biennial**

**Presentation and Workshop: Navigating Trauma through Art**

- Ronen Berger, Expert in Art-Based Community Resiliency Development and Senior Arts Therapist

13:05 - 14:05 **Lunch**

14:15 - 14:25 **Provocation**

- Michael P. Nash, Artist and Filmmaker

14:30 - 15:10 **Panel: Worlds Imagined: Biodiversity and Tech**

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, more than 46,000 species are threatened with extinction, a colossal 26 percent of all species the organization tracks. That's a 12 percent deterioration in the last 20 years. As alarming as these statistics are, what if we could envision all that's at risk? Some artists are doing just that, using technology to recreate lost worlds or peer into alternative futures where biodiversity thrives.

- Susanna Barla, Founder and C.E.O., Genesis 3.0 and Creators Fund
- Bjørnstjerne Christiansen, Artist, Superflex
- Beatriz Colomina, Architectural Historian and Theorist
- Bettina Kames, Co-Founder and C.E.O., LAS Art Foundation, Berlin

15:15 - 15:45 **Spotlight Conversation**

- David Salle, Artist

16:15 - 17:30 **Cultural Tours**

- Loris Cecchini's studio
- Massimo De Carlo Gallery - tour and cocktail
- Michele De Lucchi - Produzione Privata

18:30 **Tour of Museo del Novecento**





**Venue: Sala Conferenze, Palazzo Reale**

**19:15 -19:55 Panel: The Institution of the Future**

In a time of major cultural and political upheaval, some see institutions as part of the problem, and others as part of the solution. What role should the museum play as social fabric frays in many places around the world? What are the challenges of funding such a place? And how should cultural institutions navigate the shifting priorities of local and national governments?

**Introduction by** Giuseppe Sala, Mayor of Milan or Tommaso Sacchi, Deputy Mayor for Culture, Milan

- Courtney J. Martin, Executive Director, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation
- Simon Njami, Writer, Art Critic and Curator
- Hans Ulrich Obrist, Curator and Artistic Director, Serpentine Galleries
- Vicente Todolí, Curator and Artistic Director, Pirelli HangarBicocca

**20:00 -20:20 Inaugural Creativity for Social Change Award**

**Presented by** Adama Sanneh, Co-Founder and C.E.O., Moleskine Foundation and Achilles Tsaltas, President, Democracy & Culture Foundation

**20:30 Cocktail dînatoire at Sala delle Otto Colonne, Palazzo Reale**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 14**

**Venue: Triennale di Milano**

**10:00 - 10:05 Welcome Remarks**

- Achilles Tsaltas, President, Democracy & Culture Foundation

**10:10 - 10:55 Culture as Capital: Can the Arts Galvanize Economies?**

As nations rethink economic growth and development, creative industries have become strategic assets. From film and fashion to gaming and design, culture-driven economies are fueling innovation, shaping national identities, and redefining global influence. Governments worldwide are aiming to leverage the creative sector to diversify industries, attract investment and foster social progress. But as culture is also increasingly seen as political, can creativity truly become a cornerstone of economic resilience?

- Giuseppe Sala, Mayor of Milan OR Tommaso Sacchi, Deputy Mayor for Culture, City of Milan
- Gayane Umerova, Chairperson, Uzbekistan Art and Culture Development Foundation
- Jiyoony Lee, Founder, SUUM Project



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| 11:00 - 11:30 | <b>Spotlight Conversation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Antony Gormley, Sculptor</li></ul>  |
| 11:30 - 12:00 | <b>Coffee Break</b>   |
| 11:35 - 11:55 | <b>Virtual Tour of Fenix Museum of Migration, Rotterdam (Agora Room)</b>  |
| 12:00 - 12:15 | <b>Lightning Talk</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Massimo De Carlo, Gallery Founder</li></ul>   |
| 12:20 - 13:00 | <b>Panel: Politics and the Art Market</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elena Bonanno di Linguaglossa, Executive Director, Thaddaeus Ropac Milan</li><li>• Pearl Lam, Founder, Pearl Lam Galleries, China Art Foundation, and Host, "The Pearl Lam Podcast"</li></ul>   |
| 13:05 - 13:15 | <b>Lightning Talk: (Un)Tradeable</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• João Correia, Art Historian and Founder, Collezionista</li><li>• Eneri, Visual Artist and Pixadora</li></ul>   |
| 13:15 - 14:15 | <b>Lunch</b>  |
| 14:15 - 14:55 | <b>Panel: Art in a War Zone</b> <p>With conflicts raging from Gaza to Ukraine, Sudan to Syria, one might assume that artistic production would be stifled when daily survival is in question. But often the opposite is true, with creativity enduring and even flourishing. How can art help people cope in dark times, and how might it help others understand both the horror and resilience in times of war?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Khalid Albaih, Political Cartoonist</li><li>• Nomi Bar-Yaacov, International Negotiator and Associate Fellow, Chatham House</li><li>• Yaryna Chornohuz, Poet (TBC)</li></ul> |
| 15:00 - 15:30 | <b>Spotlight Conversation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shirin Neshat, Artist and Photographer</li></ul>  |
| 15:45 - 18:00 | <b>Cultural Tour of Pirelli HangarBicocca</b>   |

**Venue: Teatro Lirico Milano**

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| 18:30 - 19:30 | <b>Public Lecture with Jeff Koons</b> |
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**art**for  
TOMORROW

**Milan | May 12-14, 2025**  
The 10th Anniversary Edition

## Confirmed Speakers

Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin  
Khalifa Al Thani  
Khalid Albaih  
Nomi Bar-Yaacov  
Susanna Barla  
Alvaro Barrington  
Ronen Berger  
Stefano Boeri  
Elena Bonanno di Linguaglossa  
Beatriz Colomina  
Melanie Challenger  
Bjørnstjerne Christiansen, Superflex  
Alessandro Cinque  
João Correia  
Massimo De Carlo  
Michele De Lucchi  
Martine d'Anglejan-Chatillon  
Eneri  
Lord Norman Foster  
Federica Fragapane

Antony Gormley  
Anthony Huberman  
Bettina Kames  
Jeff Koons  
Jakob Kudsk Steensen  
Pearl Lam  
Okkyung Lee  
Jiyoon Lee  
Sofia Lekka Angelopoulou  
Courtney J. Martin  
Michael P. Nash  
Shirin Neshat  
Simon Njami  
Hans Ulrich Obrist  
Michelangelo Pistoletto  
Nicola Ricciardi  
David Salle  
Adama Sanneh  
Audrey Teichmann  
Vicente Todolí  
Gayane Umerova