

MAY 12-14, 2025
MILAN, ITALY



Art for Tomorrow 2025: Milan Programming Brief

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, 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. From 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 Nov. 9, 2025; and with Milan Art Week, whose theme is "among friends." It will take place right after the opening of the Venice Architecture Biennale so that delegates can take advantage of all of these 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.

Sessions to include:

Going Deep: Community-Based Arts

In this era of division, wealth gaps and filter bubbles leave us further and further 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?

Art in a War Zone

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?

Worlds Imagined: Biodiversity and Tech

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 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.

Visualizing Inequality

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

Creative Alliances (at miart, April 4)

"My whole area of art has always been addressed to working with other people," Robert Rauschenberg once reflected. "Ideas are not real estate." Likewise, in today's complex world, moving from ideas to action requires breaking down invisible walls: public and private, artist and funder, friend and foe. This panel will explore the creative ways that leaders and practitioners have found to make progress, through open-minded collaboration.

Other topics:

- Exclusive one-on-one conversations between New York Times journalists and leading figures in art, architecture and performance
- Beyond the banana: The state of the market
- Migration as a boon for creativity
- The power of sound art
- Reviving cultural heritage
- ... and more

The Democracy & Culture Foundation

73 Haines House, 10 Charles Clowes Walk, London, SW11 7AH
Registered in England & Wales Company No:11850248

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E: info@democracyculturefoundation.org

W: democracyculturefoundation.org

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Confirmed Speakers

Hans Ulrich Obrist

Massimo De Carlo

Pearl Lam

Jeff Koons

Jiyeon Lee

Michael Nash

Courtney J. Martin

Vicente Todoli

Alessandro Cinque

Michele de Lucchi

Martine D'angeldan Chatillon

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