

# **SMACH Biennale Open call 2023 ENG**

# SMACH Biennale Open call 2023

SMACH Biennial is looking for project proposals for artistic, sculptural and installation interventions. The 10 winning projects will be realised thanks to the prize offered and presented in various Alpine locations in Val Badia, in the unique setting of the UNESCO Dolomites, from July to September 2023.

## AGENDA

- 01/12/2022  
Opening of the call
- 26/03/2023  
Deadline for submission of proposals
- 10-14/04/2023  
Selection by the jury
- 17/04/2023  
Announcement of winners
- 05-11/06/2023  
Residency and installation of works  
*Maximum 5 days during this period*
- 08/07/2023  
Inauguration
- 10/09/2023  
End of exhibition
- By 17/09/2023  
Dismantling of works

## PROJECT CONTENT

**SMACH Biennale** is a disseminated art exhibition that, every two years since 2012, has made a series of works conceived and installed in relation to some of the most beautiful places in Val Badia and the UNESCO Dolomites freely accessible to the public. To date, now in the project's tenth anniversary year, we have presented 50 installations (many of which are now permanently exhibited in the SMACH [Val dl'Ert](#)) selected for their aesthetic and conceptual capacities to dialogue with the nature, history, identity, and culture of the territory; to be able to propose non-stereotypical visions of the Alpine landscape and to stimulate critical and symbolic thinking. Through contemporary art, SMACH wants to trigger visitors' interest in contemporary forms of visual expression and in the places in which the works are set. We are therefore looking for 10 new projects that are able to engage with the peculiarities of Val Badia, the natural sites in which they will be hosted, and with the theme of the 2023 edition, which is presented below.

## THEME 2023

The theme of SMACH. 2023 is a verb declined in the gerund indicating an action already in progress on a visible level or on invisible, microscopic, metaphorical levels. The term has a wide range of applications from botany to molecular biology to the development of the neural system.<sup>1</sup>

Today, we have left the Covid almost behind us, but we live in a present of wars, inflation, climate and energy crisis. It is a time of instability, which often rhymes with low fertility.<sup>2</sup>

With SPROUTING, we want to stimulate you to imagine what can be born in this era. What seeds would you like to plant? What shoots would you like to see sprout? What would you like to grow (or create) and leave for future generations?

We leave the answers to your visions, which can interpret the suggestions given by the theme according to conceptual and visual variations that

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we hope will be unexpected, stimulating and, of course, in dialogue with nature and the proposed locations of which you will find more information in the online application form that you will find indicated below.

## ORGANISATION AND COORDINATION

The call and the Biennial are conceived and organised by the SMACH Cultural Association with the support of the Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano, the Region of Trentino Alto Adige and other public and private partners.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

Individuals, collectives, informal groups of any provenance, age, background.  
Each participant may submit a maximum of 2 projects. However, in the event of a win, only one can be selected.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

By following the instructions and directions in this document and via the online registration form

- [www.smach.it/2023-submission-page](http://www.smach.it/2023-submission-page)

## PRIZES, COMMITMENTS AND EXPENSES

### Prize

The 10 selected artistic interventions will each be awarded a prize of EUR 2,000.00 per artist/collective (net amount, taxes deducted). The fee includes coverage of costs concerning: conception, production, materials, transport (if not produced on site), installation-positioning, possible dismantling (if the work will not be acquired or donated).

### Application fee<sup>4</sup>

15 euros per project proposal; 30 euros for 2 proposals, which also marks the maximum number of applications that can be sent. Payment modalities are indicated in the form below

- [www.smach.it/2023-submission-page](http://www.smach.it/2023-submission-page)

- 1** In the field of neural plasticity, 'sprouting' refers to the incredible ability of the nervous system to modify, based on experience and for learning purposes, its circuits both structurally and functionally. Moreover, the same re-generative process intervenes in repairing any brain damage that may have occurred.
- 2** Fertility is understood in terms of demographics (in Western nations), industrial and agricultural production (which is not necessarily a bad thing given that Earth Overshoot Day arrives earlier every year), economics (given the risk of recession) and even creativity (see, for example, the World Economic Forum article on this subject).
- 3** On the SMACH website and not only online, but also in the printed brochures, on site panels, etc., the main focus of communication is on the works. We prefer to emphasise the ideas and their execution, rather than the biographies and resumes of those who realised them, which are nevertheless extensively mentioned in all the information materials produced. This has meant that, over the years, SMACH has become a testing ground not only for artists, but also for designers, architects, musicians and researchers who, often for the first time, have tried their hand at environmental installations.
- 4** For 10 years participation in the call has been free of charge. In 2021, however, we received 1061 applications. This pleased us enormously, but it meant that the costs of running the call were so high that we chose to include an application fee to cover, at least in part, the secretarial costs. We trust in your understanding.

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### Residence and installation

During the installation period of the selected works, authors will be offered half-board accommodation (including breakfast and dinner) for a total of no more than 5 days (4 nights) and for a maximum of 2 people in the case of collectives or informal groups. Attendance at the set-up, assembly and placement of the winning works is compulsory and is to be scheduled between 5 and 11 June 2023, choosing the preferred period within the period indicated. For more information see the section: Terms and Conditions.

### Landscape permits

SMACH will follow the process, and cover the costs, of permit applications for the winning works, which will also be submitted to the Landscape Planning Office of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano.

### Purchase preemption and donation

Participants in the exhibition will grant the organisers purchase preemption of the work at the end of the project. SMACH will then have the right of preference in acquiring the work according to the value indicated on the form. Should SMACH not avail itself of this right, the work may be sold to third parties (always with prior notification to the organisers). It is possible for participants to offer the work as a donation. In this case, as with the purchase, the work will subsequently be added to the collection of the SMACH Val dl'Ert ([www.smach.it/art-park](http://www.smach.it/art-park)), a public art park freely accessible to all. The proposed donation of the work will have to be validated by the SMACH board and discussed directly with the artist. In the case of both purchase and donation, the costs of dismantling and repositioning the work in the Ert Valley will be borne by SMACH. Both purchase and donation will be governed by contracts between the parties.

### Dismantling and removal

Without prejudice to the cases of acquisition and donation, the dismantling and removal of the work - on one's own initiative and bearing the costs

through the funds provided by the award - by 17 September 2023 is obligatory.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

#### 1 Theme and territoriality

To be able to relate, in a free and personal manner, to the theme of the edition (SPROUTING) and to the aims of SMACH. Being able to establish a conceptual and visual dialogue with the natural and/or cultural-historical environment of the natural sites chosen for the installation.

▪ *Maximun score 25*

#### 2 Quality and Originality

Demonstrate artistic quality and originality in conceptual, formal, design research.

▪ *Maximun score 25*

#### 3 Feasibility, Sustainability, Sizing, Durability, Safety

Present high levels of technical and material feasibility (also taking into account that each participant will have to transport and set up the work independently). Show criteria of environmental sustainability: e.g. choice of natural materials, provide the possibility of the work being built on site (also with the collaboration of local firms) so as to avoid transport; devise anchoring solutions that guarantee stability without digging foundations, use of concrete bases, etc.

Offer a correct sizing of the work in relation to the location: it is important that the proposal is appropriate to the 'scale of the landscape'. Ensure durability characteristics in the outdoor environment (taking into account the weather in high mountains and possible ground conditions, etc.) for the duration of the biennial and high safety standards in terms of stability, possible misuse, possible harmful elements (sharp edges, climbing holds, etc.).

▪ *Maximun score 25*

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## 4 Economic feasibility

Sustainability within the terms of the remuneration provided. Third-party financing or technical sponsorship in the production and staging of the work are admissible and positively assessed – following a positive opinion by SMACH.

- *Maximun score 25*

- **Possible overall score 100pt**

## THE JUDGING PANELS

The **panel of artistic jurors** is responsible for the qualitative evaluation of the research, the formal and aesthetic aspects of the project proposals that have reached the final stage of the selection process. The jury is composed of:

### **Federica Beretta**

Director, Hauser & Wirth, Monte-Carlo

### **Jasmine Deporta**

Artist, Lausanne-Bolzano Bozen

### **Giulia Ferracci**

Curator, MAXXI, Roma

### **Emanuele Masi**

Artistic director Bolzano Danza

– Haydn Foundation, Bolzano Bozen

### **Stefan Sagmeister**

Designer, New York

### **Peter Zumthor**

Architect, Haldenstein

The **technical committee** gives its opinion on the landscape and technical-material aspects of the projects admitted to the final evaluation stages. The technical panel is composed of:

**Othmar Castlunger** (Craftsman), **Walther Ferdigg** (Engineer), **Gottlieb Moling** (Bruneck Forest Inspectorate), **Roberta Tucci** (Landscape architect), **Astrid Wiedenhofer** (Nature Parks Office South Tyrol).

## LOCATIONS

See the pdf that can be consulted or downloadable online at

- [www.smach.it/2023-submission-page](http://www.smach.it/2023-submission-page)

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### Registration and payment

Registration, payment of the relative fee, and sending the materials can be done online using the form you will find at [www.smach.it/2023-submission-page](http://www.smach.it/2023-submission-page). Those who have difficulty paying by credit card will find on the same webpage the instructions on how to pay by bank transfer and send the receipt and the required materials by e-mail.

### Phases and outcomes of the selection of the winning projects

The first phase will be carried out by the SMACH Executive Board, which will select 100 projects that will then be screened by the external jury, which will initially reduce the number to 50. The latter, and only they, will be given – around 10 April 2023 – written notification of the passage to the final evaluation session that will lead to the selection and communication of the 10 winning projects during the day of 17 April 2023. The minutes of the final session may only be requested by the 50 participants selected for the final evaluation phase; the remaining participants will not be provided with any communication or justification regarding the results of the selection process concerning their proposals. The jury's verdict is unquestionable.

### Projects and locations

Each participant or collective may submit a maximum of 2 projects; however, only one may possibly be selected as the winner. As can be seen from the form to be filled out, you must indicate the location in which you would like to install your work. Online at [www.smach.it/smach2023](http://www.smach.it/smach2023) and of a pdf downloadable through the online submission page you will also find the locations' descriptions; please read them carefully before selecting the site, or sites (multiple choices are also possible), where the work will be installed in the event of victory. It will then be the task of the SMACH Board and the jury to assess the appropriateness of the choice indicated, possibly proposing to move it to another location deemed more suitable.

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### **Absence of electricity**

Submitted proposals must take into account that direct electricity is not available at any of the locations. Works that operate through connection to fixed supply structures are therefore not allowed. On the other hand, works that are able to generate their own electricity can be evaluated, provided that this is within the budget offered and taking into account that the climatic conditions at high altitudes are not optimal for works with electrical circuits, motors, chips, screens, etc.

### **Assembly and disassembly**

As indicated in the section “Prizes, Commitments and Expenses”, attendance at the set-up, assembly and on-site positioning of the winning entries is compulsory and will be between 5 and 11 June 2023, choosing the preferred period within the period indicated (as mentioned above, accommodation is paid for by SMACH for a maximum of 4 nights). Technical feasibility, durability and safety are very important elements for us, therefore, before the winners are published, our technicians will ensure the technical and environmental feasibility of the projects, requesting further information or documentation if necessary. Once the selection has been made, non-substantial changes are only possible for the winning projects, subject to due notice and approval by the SMACH Executive Board. Winners who do not adhere to the technical descriptions submitted and approved by SMACH and its technicians during the exhibition may be excluded from the exhibition or will be held liable for any damage caused to third parties. Regarding the transport of the exhibits to the Alpine location of the exhibition, should this not be possible with its own means, SMACH will be available to provide its expertise and contacts to facilitate the retrieval of the vehicle and to define the best route to the site. In addition, depending on the availability of SMACH’s volunteers, we will also be able to provide possible help during the assembly and placement of the works. However, this help is not guaranteed.

Please consult the locations document for more information on the links to the chosen Alpine sites.

### **Opening**

The vernissage of the Biennale 2023 is scheduled for July 8th 2023. Attendance at the opening is optional and there is no reimbursement for travel expenses to attend. The residency takes place approximately one month before the opening to give SMACH the opportunity to photographically document the works both for communication activities and for the exhibition catalogue. We have seen in past editions that this greatly enhanced the promotion of both the works and the biennial itself.

### **Economic supplements**

It is not possible to ask for supplements to the indicated fee and no further economic aid for the installation of the works is foreseen, however, in specific cases it is foreseen that the volunteers of SMACH will collaborate in the installation of the works according to their availability and capacity. SMACH is in any case available to provide participants free of charge with letters of introduction, invitations, or other types of documentation that may help the artist to participate in tenders or other forms of financial support (e.g.: Pro Helvetia, Italian Council, British Council for Visual Arts, Mondriaan Fund or other forms of grant, fellowship, etc.) for the realisation of the project proposed for the tender.

### **Damage**

As this is an open-air exhibition, the works cannot be supervised and therefore cannot be insured. Any damage caused to the works will not be covered by additional costs. It will be the organisation’s responsibility to ensure the integrity of the works during the exhibition and, if necessary, to carry out repairs at its own expense.

### **First execution**

Works must be unpublished, i.e. never exhibited or publicly disclosed in project and/or photographic form.

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### Information and inspections

For questions and further information please contact [call@smach.it](mailto:call@smach.it). Site inspections, independent or accompanied, are possible, weather and snow conditions permitting. Travel and accommodation costs for the site visit are borne by the artist.

### Image rights

When the artist/group of artists is selected by the jury of SMACH they will retain the image rights, but will grant SMACH their use for web promotion, communication, social or marketing purposes. In the case of use for profit, the artist retains all rights to the photos and is entitled to an appropriate remuneration to be agreed between the applicant and the organisation. However, releases will be drawn up to regulate the relationship between the parties. In addition, the artists selected agree to grant a video interview (on the model of those already present online) for the SMACH website and social networks and, in general, are aware that images of them may be used for the Biennale's communication activities. Each participant or collective, by selecting the appropriate permissions and signing the online form, guarantees acceptance of the terms and conditions indicated herein.

### Privacy

Similarly, each participant or group of participants, by selecting the appropriate authorizations and signing the online form, guarantees the truthfulness of the data entered and authorizes SMACH to process, in accordance with Law 675/96 ('Privacy Law') and subsequent amendments Legislative Decree 196/2003 (Privacy Code) and for the sole purpose of the secretariat of the call and not for commercial purposes or transfer to third parties, their sensitive data.

### MATERIALS AND DEAD-LINE

In order to be admitted to the selection stages, you must follow all the instructions for filling in and paying the participation fee (credit card or bank transfer) that you will find at

- [www.smach.it/2023-submission-page](http://www.smach.it/2023-submission-page)

The deadline for sending in applications is 11.59 p.m. on March 26th 2023.

### EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applications will be automatically excluded if:

- Contain serious omissions in the completion of the form, in the required annexes
- Do not comply with the payment of the application fee
- Propose a work that is not unpublished
- Contain elements that are detrimental to gender identity, personal beliefs, the dignity of persons, accuracy in reporting historical facts, political events, etc.

Good work and thank you for your participation!

**SMACH**

# THANKS FOR SUPPORTING US:

## MAIN PARTNER



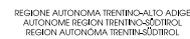
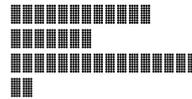
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