



OPEN CALL FOR EMERGING ARTISTS BASED ON ISLANDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Raphael Vella: *Archipelago*

Archipelago by Maltese artist-curator Raphael Vella is a collaborative artistic project that will form part of *The island is what the sea surrounds* ('Dal-Baħar Madwarha'), a major international exhibition curated by Maren Richter for **Valletta 2018, European Capital of Culture** (opening in March, 2018). *Archipelago* will be shown in an old examination centre in the St Elmo area of Valletta — a venue that is being purposely upgraded for the exhibition. The examination centre is directly linked to *Archipelago*'s concept, which revolves around the relationship between education, aspirations, dialogue and insularity. For this reason, the project is reaching out to **young artists based in different islands of the Mediterranean** and asking them to reflect about the relationship between island life and success. Do emerging artists living in different islands have similar hopes and challenges?

Young artists can participate by sending a single, high-quality image (300 dpi) by email to raphaelvella@gmail.com, including **name, age, the town/city and island they live in, affiliation (academy, university), title of image and medium**. Images must be A4 in size (210 x 297 mm) and the image orientation should be horizontal (landscape). Artworks can be text-based, a sketch, combined text and photo, collage, and so on, though artists are encouraged to use text (which **must** be in the artist's native language or dialect). Artworks are to respond to the following question:

Is an island a place one escapes to or escapes from?

Selected images will be printed without cropping or changes on an A4 sheet and included in *Archipelago*, which will take the form of an installation. Names of all artists whose images have been included will be added as 'participants' in the project. Participating schools or departments will also be listed. Deadline for sending images by email: **18 December, 2017**.

Stage 2: Dialogue between works

All selected artists will be invited to participate in Stage 2 of the project (December 2017-February 2018), for which they will receive by email a random A4 image of another participating artist based in a different island. This will be the beginning of an international dialogue forming an artistic 'archipelago' of islands: a dialogue which nevertheless will require an effort on the part of each participant due to the different languages in the images. This 'dialogue' will be presented in a looped video that will also be included in the exhibition in Valletta. More information about Stage 2 will be sent to participating artists in late December.