

REGULAMENTO DO CONCURSO DE
PROPOSTAS DE EXPOSIÇÃO no âmbito
do Projecto de Curadoria Local da

Biennale

www.artmacao.mo

澳門國際藝術雙年展

本地策展計劃 參選方案

e da Selecção Preliminar para a
61.ª Exposição Internacional de Arte
La Biennale di Venezia –
Evento Colateral de Macau, China

Internacional de Arte de Macau

暨「第六十一屆威尼斯國際藝術雙年展」
中國澳門展區初選資格


公開徵集章程

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR OPEN CALL OF
EXHIBITION PROPOSALS for the Local Curatorial Project of

Macao International Art Biennale

and the Preliminary Selection for the 61st International Art Exhibition of
La Biennale di Venezia – Collateral Event from Macao, China

2025



Rules and Regulations for Open Call of Exhibition Proposals for the Local Curatorial Project of “Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025” and the Preliminary Selection for the 61st International Art Exhibition of *La Biennale di Venezia* – Collateral Event from Macao, China

The Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR Government (hereafter referred to as the “Organizer”) is now publicly calling for exhibition proposals for the Local Curatorial Project of “Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025” (hereinafter referred to as “Art Macao 2025”). Selected proposals will receive funding to organize exhibitions and will also be given priority submission for the open call for the 61st International Art Exhibition of *La Biennale de Venezia* – Collateral Event representing Macao, China. Individuals involved in contemporary art are encouraged to apply.

1. PURPOSE

To provide an open and diversified exchange platform, encourage contemporary art creation in Macao, cultivate local curatorial talents, showcase Macao’s creative achievements, and promote local arts development.

2. THEME

Applicants should design and prepare a contemporary art Exhibition Proposal centered on the theme “Hi, what brings you here?” (Refer to the Appendix of “Introduction to the Theme”).

3. SELECTION JURY

The selection jury of the Local Curatorial Project of “Art Macao 2025” consists of several experts in the fields and the representatives of the Organizer. Names of the selection jury will be duly announced on the IC website: www.icm.gov.mo

4. REQUIREMENTS

1. Scale: The exhibition proposal should observe the event theme, and the exhibition production costs must be under MOP500,000.00 (five hundred thousand patacas).
2. Venue: Applicants must propose a suitable exhibition venue, indoors or outdoors, and deal with respective costing, legal, and safety arrangements.
3. Exhibition period: no shorter than eight weeks (from July 19 to September 21, 2025).
4. Number of Proposals to be selected: no more than six.
5. Each selected team will receive up to MOP 500,000.00 to cover exhibition preparation expenses. (The fund will be disbursed into two installments: 60% upon confirmation of the exhibition venue and artists’ works, and 40% after the exhibition’s opening.)
6. After the theme for the 61st International Art Exhibition of *La Biennale di Venezia* is announced, the curator/curatorial group for the selected Exhibition Proposal will have the opportunity to submit their Proposal for *La Biennale de Venezia*. The Organizer will then establish a separate selection jury to **choose one Proposal to represent Macao at the event.**

7. Timeline

Early April, 2025	Announcement of selection date
May 6, 2025	Deadline for submission of Exhibition Proposals
Early May, 2025	Selection of Exhibition Proposals
June, 2025	Announcement of selection results
June – September, 2025	Exhibit preparation and production
July 19 – September 21 2025	Exhibition opening

※ The Organizer reserves the right to adjust the relevant arrangements based on actual circumstances.



5. CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION TEAM

1. The participating team includes two parts: a curator/curatorial group, and participating artists. All curatorial members must not be part of other participating teams, and participating artists must not participate in more than two exhibition teams under this program at the same time.

Curator/Curatorial Group	Curators must be Macao residents and have experience planning visual arts exhibitions. For curatorial groups, at least half of the members must be Macao residents, and at least half must have experience planning visual arts exhibitions.
Participating artists	50% or more of the participating artists must be Macao residents. At least one member must have experience in exhibiting at public contemporary art exhibitions or a degree in art majors.

※ Applicants are required to submit relevant proof or CVs to meet these requirements.

2. Exhibition Proposals must be proposed by the curator/curatorial group.
3. Each curator/curatorial group must submit only one Exhibition Proposal.
4. Each participating team must consist of at least two members, all of whom must be at least 18 years old.

6. CONTENT OF EXHIBITION PROPOSAL

1. Exhibition Proposal shall include two parts:
 - 1.1 Part I: “Application Form” (Annex I).
 - 1.2 Part II: “Exhibition Proposal” (Annex II).
2. The Exhibition Proposal should include the following items:
 - 2.1 Exhibition title and the theme.
 - 2.2 Description of the creative idea/concept.
 - 2.3 Exhibition venue planning and exhibits design sketches; site plan (presented in graphic, 3D, video formats or effect drawings for evaluation; please indicate the dimensions and media type of the actual work(s) for reference).
 - 2.4 List and description of exhibits (description of the media and materials used);
 - 2.5 Overall work plan, management and workflow (timetable); an estimated work schedule, with a description of each work phase and its planned duration.
 - 2.6 Expected results.
 - 2.7 Exhibition production budget details and related explanations.



7. Submission and requirements of the proposal proposal

1. The “Application Form” (Annex I) must be completed.
2. Exhibition Proposal (Annex II) must be submitted in A3 paper format and must be written in Chinese with the English translation . If Portuguese or English is used, a Chinese translation must be provided.
3. A hard copy of the Exhibition Proposal (including Annexes I and II) and its digital file in a CD-ROM or a USB flash drive (in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format) must be submitted.
4. The “Application Form” (Annex I) and Exhibition Proposal (Annex II) **Must be placed in two separate opaque sealed envelopes**, on which the cover must be respectively marked “Part I: Application Form” or “Part II: Exhibition Proposal”, as well as the indication of “Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025 - Local Curatorial Project”. “Part II: Exhibition Proposal” shall not refer to the personal identification information of any participating team members in “Part I: Application Form”.
5. The documents must be delivered to the reception on the first floor of the Macau Museum of Art, Avenida Xian Xing Hai, NAPE, Macau, on or before 3:00pm, Macau time, **on 6 May 2025 (Tuesday). Submission time: 10:00 am to 6:30 pm**, closed on Mondays.
6. Suppose the deadline for submitting Exhibition Proposals is affected by a typhoon or other force majeure events that cause the closure of the MAM. In that case, it will be postponed to the same deadline on the next working day.
7. For submission of Exhibition Proposals by post, the teams shall mail the Proposals to the MAM at Av. Xian Xing Hai, Macao, before the deadline, in accordance with item 5 above.
8. The time when the MAM receives the Exhibition Proposals is considered the receiving time. The teams shall be fully responsible for any delay if they submit Proposals by post.

9. The Organizer does not accept submission of Exhibition Proposals by fax or email.
10. The Organizer will not accept any supplementary information of the Exhibition Proposal to be submitted after the deadline, except if requested by the Organizer.
11. Exhibition Proposals and the information submitted will not be returned.
12. Each curator/curatorial group can only submit one Proposal. Any proposal that has been submitted to any other entity, or any proposal with a similar concept or with a different title but similar content, shall not be submitted to the Organizer to this open call.
13. Proposals must be original and have never been openly released in any form.
14. The Exhibition Proposals shall not contain contents deemed indecent, including those that may endanger national security, violate public order or good customs, or contain vulgar language, obscenity and pornography, violence, innuendo, or slandering.
15. Once submitted, the name list of team members in the Exhibition Proposals must not be altered without the Organizer's consent.
16. The Exhibition Proposals must comply with the relevant provisions of the Rules and Regulations. The Organizer reserves the right not to accept any application that fails to fully comply with the provisions.
17. By submitting an Exhibition Proposal, the team is deemed to agree to fully accept and be bound by the terms and conditions of the Rules and Regulations.

8. SELECTION PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

1. The selection is tentatively scheduled for Early May 2025.
2. The selection consists of two stages: first selection and final selection. No more than 10 Exhibition Proposals will be selected in the first stage to enter the final selection.
3. In the final selection stage, the team member(s) should present the Proposal in Chinese or English. Those who cannot show up at the selection site for some reason can interpret the Proposal via video conference. Any team failing to present in either of the ways will be deemed to be forfeiting the selection.
4. On behalf of the Organizer, the selection jury will select the Exhibition Proposals that meet the specifications, and the selection decision will be deemed final.
5. The selection jury has the right not to award any applicant if the proposals are below the selection standard.
6. Selection criteria:
 - 6.1 The extend of pertinence to the theme of “Art Macao 2025”.
 - 6.2 The curatorial concept and the zeitgeist of the exhibits.
 - 6.3 The work being forward-looking, academic, original, novel and unique.
 - 6.4 Feasibility and operability of the Proposal.
 - 6.5 Artistic qualifications/experience of team members.
 - 6.6 The rationality of the exhibition production costs.
 - 6.7 The boosting factor in promoting diversification of the local arts.



9. OBLIGATIONS FOR SELECTED TEAM

1. Choosing and using a suitable exhibition venue in tune with the theme and exhibits.
2. Ensuring the quality of the exhibition production and the safety of the exhibition site.
3. Designing the exhibition imagery and printouts and being responsible for all printing and production at the exhibition site. Additionally, printed materials for both the exhibition and the overall publicity should adhere to the requirement of “Art Macao 2025” consistently.
4. Organizing the exhibition opening ceremony. The opening date and relevant arrangements should be provided to the Organizer in advance.
5. Being responsible for the daily operation of the venue, including cleanliness and security.
6. The exhibition should open at least six days a week, for no less than seven hours daily. For temporary closure for justifiable reasons, the selected team must obtain written consent from the Organizer in advance.
7. Providing the Organizer with HD images of the exhibits and photographic or video recordings of the exhibition venue and opening ceremonies.
8. Organizing 10 or more guided tours of the exhibition in Chinese and English.
9. Providing the Organizer with the curator's preface, exhibition and exhibit introductions, artist biographies, and exhibition publicity copies in Chinese, Portuguese, and English.

10. Responsible for purchasing insurance for exhibits, guests visiting Macao, third party liability insurance and the exhibition venue.
11. Attendance at public sharing sessions, talks, or related promotional activities held by the Organizer is mandatory, and no additional fees may be charged.
12. The exhibition production fund must cover all the costs of organizing the exhibition.
13. The selected team can negotiate with the Organizer to donate one exhibit to the MAM. The Organizer reserves the final decision.
14. From the time when the team is selected to the end of the exhibition, the selected team must not in any way show their exhibits at any other location other than those approved by the Organizer.
15. Discussing with the Organizer to determine the final exhibits and display methods.
16. The selected team must not accept any funding or sponsorship from other entities.
17. Agree that the Organizer has the right to adopt all or part of the contents of the selected entry.
18. If the selected team and its members fail to comply with the provisions of these Regulations, the Organizer has the right to disqualify them from participating and to recover the funds paid and collected on the date specified by Party A and to claim compensation for the losses incurred as a result.

10. COPYRIGHT

1. Participating teams ensure that all content in Proposals is original and does not infringe any intellectual property rights of any third party. The organizer has the right to cancel the participant's qualification, recover the exhibition fees already paid, and propose legal actions and legal liabilities if necessary.
2. Participating teams shall be responsible for any legal consequences resulting from failure to comply with the above requirements, especially for any loss and damage caused to the Organizer and any third party. The teams shall be solely responsible for any dispute (if any) regarding copyright between them and any entity/individual other than the Organizer and related legal liabilities. The Organizer has no responsibility in such cases.
3. Exhibition Proposals submitted by the participating teams may be displayed or exhibited in public spaces in Macao. The teams shall agree, gratuitously and unconditionally, that the Organizer can release, publish or publicize their Proposals for any purposes associated with this event as well as use them and the content therein.
4. Participating teams or the selected teams must agree that their Proposals are free for the Organizer to use in any activities related to the production and promotion of "Art Macao 2025" and that the resulting copyrights belong to the Organizer.
5. The Organizer has the right to record in audio and video formats, take photos and record sounds of, or in any other form reproduce the exhibits of the participating teams or the selected teams, for documentation, publicity, authorization of usage by a third party or any other purposes (including to publish, release or translate the exhibits or relevant contents in printed or electronic form).

11. OTHER ISSUES

1. Staff of the Cultural Affairs Bureau are not allowed to participate in this event.
2. The organizer has the final right of interpretation and decision if the participating team has any objection to the relevant matters of this charter or other matters not covered, and also has full discretion to interpret the open call and reserves the right to alter its content.
3. The Rules and Regulations are established in Chinese, Portuguese and English. In case of inconsistency or dispute between the meanings of any version, the Chinese versions shall prevail.
4. The provisions of the Rules and Regulations are bound by the laws of Macao SAR. The courts of the Macao SAR shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any related appeals or disputes.

12. INQUIRY

For inquiries, please contact IC via email artmacao@icm.gov.mo or call +853 87919833/87919814 during office hours.

Office hours: Mondays to Thursdays (9:00 am to 1:00 pm, 2:30 pm to 5:45 pm)
Fridays (9:00 am to 1:00 pm, 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm)



Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025 Exhibition Theme

Hey, what brings you here?

The phrase “Hey, what brings you here?” is a simple, everyday expression often used to acknowledge someone’s presence and inquire the reason for being there.

This question opens a pathway for communication between people, prompting different responses depending on context and environment. In a friendly setting, it can serve as a greeting, expressing curiosity and interest in the other person’s situation and thoughts. Conversely, it can also imply an unwelcome arrival, even implying a sense of indifference or impatience.

Serving as the theme for the “Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025”, this phrase signifies and corresponds to Macao’s history and memories, as well as its current situation in a globalized context.

In 1582, Italian Jesuit Matteo Ricci (1552 – 1610) crossed the ocean and arrived in Macao, beginning his missionary journey in China. His arrival likely prompted the same question inside and outside the imperial court: “What brings him here?”

In *The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci*, the late American historian Jonathan Spence writes that in this unfamiliar land, Ricci had ventured too far, beyond his expectations. At times, he felt lost, unsure if he should return or could even return (translation adapted).

Reflecting on Ricci’s 28 arduous years in China, we see that the beginning of his journey was also his destination. As the first person to introduce Western knowledge to the East, with Macao as his starting point, he laid the groundwork for Western science and technology to take root in China. By establishing a true and practical cultural exchange between Europe and China, Ricci created a connection that allowed these two great civilizations to meet and collide, creating a legacy that cannot be overlooked.

Today, however, we live in an era that is no longer enthusiastic about discussing the Age of Exploration. Barriers and changes to globalization, geopolitical divisions, the rise of ‘cultural cold war’, and historical repetitions have fueled a limited worldview, fostering insularity and internal conflicts. The rise of narrow nationalism and populism erodes our curiosity about the wider world. Recent global crises, especially the pandemic, have intensified our isolation and distance in the world. How long has it been since we spoke of a ‘global village’ or proclaimed a tourist slogan like ‘XXX welcomes you’?

The loneliness we all face today is mirrored in contemporary art. Once driven by the allure of globalization, the art world now feels that pull weakening in terms of visual concepts and creative contexts. Artists are neither gathering here nor launching from this point. Under the pressure of internal and external constraints and subjective imbalance, contemporary art finds itself facing an unprecedented challenge and dilemmas, urgently in need of new pathways for growth and innovation within a shared domain to assiduously navigate the intricate interplay of ‘globalization and locality’.

In this context, the question “Hey, what brings you here?” becomes a profound call for reflection. What is our purpose upon entering this world? Life’s uncertainties, confusion, powerlessness, and chaos feel even more intense in an era saturated with unprecedented complexities and unknowns. Following this spirit of questioning as a guide, we seek direction, grounding, and a sense of belonging for building mutual connection, moving from inquiry to expression. As we step further into both digital existence and the growing influence of artificial intelligence, it raises an awareness and the question: ‘Where do I come from, and where am I going?’ We try to find direction, exploring what is possible and impossible in the future. This is a path of active questioning, a process of seeking life’s meaning, value, and responsibility through self-discovery and creative exploration.

As Macao became the first point of cultural exchange between China and the West, it marked the beginning of the resulting characteristics and challenges that have emerged from cross-regional cultural and artistic connections since the 16th century. Macao’s sea breeze and tides have nurtured its natural environment and enabled rich cultural exchanges.

Under the theme of “Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025”, we aim to broaden horizons and explore how meaningful dialogue can occur – both with ourselves and across different regions and identities. We seek to gather artists’ creations that bridge local and global contexts, transcending boundaries of geography and cultural identity to complete the exploration and identification of Macao’s art and culture. This endeavor is driven by both cultural awareness and the artists’ profound sense of social responsibility.

The question may sound simple and popular in this context, but its significance runs deep. We are all travelers in a fast-paced world, increasingly sensitive to the direction of societal tides and sudden shifts of the times. When footsteps approach and the door opens to a bright influx of liveliness, we witness growth in every area through travel, observation, art, cultural exchange, and meaningful encounters that build connections.

This is the essence and brilliance of Art Macao, a true celebration of multicultural vibrancy!

Chief Curator
Feng Boyi

Annex 1

(Please put this form into the "Part I" envelope.)

Application Form for Open Call of Exhibition Proposals for the Local Curatorial Project of "Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025" and the Preliminary Selection for the 61st International Art Exhibition of *La Biennale di Venezia* – Collateral Event from Macao, China

FOR ORGANIZER ONLY

Application No.

- Application form completed
- ID/Passport copy
- Proof of education/qualification
- Proof of curator/curatorial group's experience

CURATOR / CURATORIAL GROUP

1 Name

Macao resident

For non-Macao resident, please list nationality

2 Name

Macao resident

For non-Macao resident, please list nationality

PARTICIPATION ARTIST(S)

1 Name

Macao resident

For non-Macao resident, please list nationality

Signature (The signature should be identical to that on the identity card.)

2 Name

Macao resident

For non-Macao resident, please list nationality

Signature (The signature should be identical to that on the identity card.)

3 Name

Macao resident

For non-Macao resident, please list nationality

Signature (The signature should be identical to that on the identity card.)

PERSON OF CONTACT

Name

E-mail

Tel.

TITLE OF EXHIBITION PROPOSAL

Chinese:

English:

PROPOSED EXHIBITION VENUE

Address

Area of exhibition space

Brief introduction of
the exhibition venue

SIGNATURE OF CURATOR/CURATORIAL GROUP

I, undersigned, hereby agree to comply with all the terms and conditions in the “ Rules and Regulations for Open Call of Exhibition Proposals for the Local Curatorial Project of ‘Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025’ and the Preliminary Selection for the 61st International Art Exhibition of *La Biennale di Venezia* – Collateral Event from Macao, China” and declare all information included in this Application Form are true and accurate with no errors, fraud or omissions.

Signature

Date:

YYYY/

MM /

DD

- * Please enclose a photocopy of all application team members' Macao IDs. (If they are not Macao residents, a photocopy of their identity card or passport must be enclosed.)
- * All team members need to sign for confirmation. If any non-local member is unable to sign, a copy of a declaration confirming their knowledge of participation in the event is required.
- * If there is not enough space to fill in the information about curators, curatorial groups, or participating artists, please enclose an additional application form.

Personal Information Collection Statement

As stipulated in Law no. 8/2005 Personal Data Protection Act:

1. The personal information collected in this form will be used for processing your application only.
2. Such information may be transferred by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) to an authorized administrative or judicial entity to fulfill statutory obligations. When processing such data, these entities shall comply with legal procedures.
3. The applicant has the right to request access, correct or update the personal information in this application held by IC.
4. The information collected in connection with your application will be kept confidential and treated with due care by IC staff until the completion of your application and the expiry of the storage period. According to the law, the information will then be destroyed.

EXPERIENCE OF CURATOR/CURATORIAL GROUP

(List no more than 5 curated exhibitions, each with the information including names, venues, exhibiting regions, and year)

Name

1

2

3

4

5

Name

1

2

3

4

5

EXPERIENCE OF PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

(List no more than 5 curated exhibitions, each with the information including names, venues, exhibiting regions, and year)

Name

1

2

3

4

5

Name

1

2

3

4

5

Name

1

2

3

4

5



Annex II

(Please put this form into the "Part II" envelope.)

Exhibition Proposals for the Local Curatorial Project of "Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025" and the Preliminary Selection for the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia – Collateral Event from Macao, China

FOR ORGANIZER ONLY

Application No.

A complete Exhibition Proposal has been submitted.

The Exhibition Proposal must include the following items:

1. Exhibition title and the theme.
2. Description of the creative idea/concept.
3. Exhibition venue planning and exhibit design sketches; site plan (presented in graphic, 3D, video formats, or effect drawings for evaluation; please indicate the dimensions and media type of the actual work(s) for reference).
4. List and description of exhibits (description of the media and materials used).
5. Overall work plan, management, and workflow (timetable); an estimated work schedule describing each work phase and its planned duration.
6. Expected results.
7. Exhibition production budget details and related explanations.

* Please write the Proposal in Chinese and the English translation. A Chinese version is required if the Exhibition Proposal is written in Portuguese or English.

PART II LIST OF INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED

(Please describe in detail for the Organizer to verify.)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

收集個人資料聲明 · Declaração de recolha de dados pessoais · Personal Information Collection Statement

根據第 8/2005 號法律《個人資料保護法》規定：

1. 在本表格內所提供的個人資料僅會用作處理申請的用途；
2. 基於履行法定義務，上述資料亦有可能轉交其他有權限的行政及司法機關，有權限機關應遵守適用的法例規定處理有關個人資料；
3. 申請人有權依法申請查閱，更正或更新存於本局的個人資料；
4. 本局人員在處理申請者的個人資料時，均會作出保密及妥善保管的措施，直至該等資料使用完畢及保存期結束，屆時有關資料將按法例規定銷毀或封存。

Nos termos da Lei n.º 8/2005 (Lei da Protecção de Dados Pessoais)

1. Os dados pessoais recolhidos neste formulário serão utilizados apenas para o processamento dos pedidos;
2. Para cumprimento de obrigações legais, os dados pessoais recolhidos e tratados pelo IC poderão ser transferidos para outros órgãos administrativos ou judiciais, devendo estes, no tratamento dos dados pessoais, observar as disposições legais aplicáveis;
3. O titular dos dados pode, nos termos da lei, consultar, rectificar e actualizar os dados pessoais na posse deste Instituto;
4. Ao tratar os dados pessoais, o pessoal deste Instituto toma as medidas e precauções adequadas para sigilo e conservação dos dados, até ao termo da sua utilização ou do seu prazo de conservação, altura em que serão, nos termos das disposições legais em vigor, destruídos ou bloqueados.

As stipulated in Law no. 8/2005 Personal Data Protection Act:

1. The personal information collected in this form will be used for processing your application only.
2. Such information may be transferred by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) to an authorized administrative or judiciary entities to fulfill statutory obligations. When processing such data, these entities shall comply with legal procedures.
3. The applicant has the right to request access, correct or update the personal information in this application held by IC.
4. The information collected in connection with your application will be kept confidential and treated with due care by IC staff until the completion of your application and the expiry of the storage period. According to the law, the information will then be destroyed or archived.