

# Bienal Internacional de Arte de Macau

*o que fazes aqui?*

2025

澳門國際藝術  
雙年展

平行展  
*Exposição Colateral*  
Collateral Exhibition

嗨，你 幹甚麼 來了？

# Macao International Art Biennale

*what brings you here?*

Art  
Macao  
藝文薈澳  
平行展  
*Exposição Colateral*  
Collateral Exhibition



協辦單位 / Patrocinador / Patrons

澳門特別行政區政府社會文化司  
Secretaria da Cultura e do Património da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau

主辦單位 / Organização / Organizers

澳門特別行政區政府文化局  
INSTITUTO CULTURAL do Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau

協辦單位 / Co-organização / Co-organizers

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MUSEU DE MACAU / MUSEUM OF MACAU  
MACAU CULTURAL MUSEUM

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Galaxy Entertainment Group

ADMELCO  
新濠

MGM  
美高梅

金沙中國  
Sands China

澳娛綜合  
SJM Resorts, S.A.

永利  
Wynn

IC Art 藝文薈

澳門文化局 C

# Rules and Regulations for the Open Call of Exhibition Proposals for Collateral Exhibition of “Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025”

The Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR Government (hereafter referred to as the “Organizer”) is now publicly calling for exhibition proposals for the Collateral Exhibition of “Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025” (hereinafter referred to as “Art Macao 2025”). The selected exhibitions will be promoted along with the biennale. Local professionals and organizations engaged in contemporary art are welcome to participate.

## 1. PURPOSE

To provide an international, open, and diversified exchange platform that fosters artistic exchange, cultivates the contemporary art industry, highlights Macao’s art education development and creative energy, and promotes the development of local artistic professions and creative industries.

## 2. THEME

Exhibition Proposal should resonate in the contemporary context and be centered on the theme “Hey, what brings you here?” (Refer to the Appendix of “Introduction to the Theme”).

## 3. REQUIREMENTS

1. Scale: No restrictions.
2. Venue: Indoor or outdoor spaces are acceptable.
3. Exhibition period: Exhibition must open between July 19 and October 12, and no shorter than two weeks.
4. Organization costs: To be borne by the proposer.
5. Other issues: The proposer must resolve legal and safety issues.
6. Submission deadline: May 23, 2025.

※ The Organizers reserve the right to adjust arrangements based on actual circumstances.

## 4. ELIGIBILITY

1. Organizations must be registered in Macao as higher education institutions, commercial companies, or social associations.
2. Individuals must be Macao residents aged 18 or above.

## 5. REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING THE EXHIBITION APPLICATION FORM

1. The "Application Form" (Annex I) must be completed.
2. A detailed exhibition proposal should be submitted according to the requirements listed in Annex 2 ("Contents of the Exhibition Proposal") and provided as an annex.
3. Both items (Exhibition Application Form and Exhibition Proposal) must be emailed as [separate PDF Annexes to artmacao@icm.gov.mo](#) by 5:00 pm (Macao time) on May 23, 2025. The email subject should indicate "Submission of 'Art Macao 2025' Collateral Exhibition Proposal."
4. The submission time will be based on the time received by email.
5. Fax or paper submissions will not be accepted.

6. No materials submitted after the deadline will be accepted, except for additional information requested by the Organizer.
7. Exhibition Proposals and the information submitted will not be returned.
8. Exhibition proposals submitted for other segments of "Art Macao 2025" cannot be used for this call for submissions, nor can they be submitted under a similar concept or modified title.
9. The Exhibition Proposals shall not contain indecent content that may endanger national security, violate public order or good customs, or contain vulgar language, obscenity and pornography, violence, innuendo, or slander.
10. The Organizer reserves the right not to accept any application that fails to comply with the provisions fully.
11. Once the Organizer accepts an exhibition proposal, any significant changes (such as altering the event format, changing the exhibition theme, adding participating artists, replacing more than one-third of the artworks, etc.) must be approved again via email.
12. By submitting an Exhibition Proposal, the proposer is deemed to agree to fully accept and be bound by the terms and conditions of the Rules and Regulations.

## **6. SELECTION PROCESS**

1. Selection criteria:
  - i. The zeitgeist of the curatorial concept and the exhibits;
  - ii. The work being forward-looking, academic, original, novel and unique;
  - iii. The extent of pertinence to the theme of "Art Macao 2025";
  - iv. Artistic qualifications/experience of curator(s) and participating artist(s);
  - v. Feasibility and operability of the Proposal;
  - vi. Compatibility of the venue.
2. The final eligibility of the collateral exhibition is decided by Feng Boyi, the Chief Curator of "Art Macao 2025", and the Organizer will confirm the results.

## **7. OBLIGATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS**

1. Once an exhibition is granted eligibility, it must be organized as scheduled according to the proposal, unless it obtains prior approval from the Organizer.
2. Ensuring the quality of the exhibition production and the safety of the exhibition site.
3. The exhibition should open at least six days a week, for at least seven hours daily. For temporary closure for justifiable reasons, the selected team must obtain email consent from the Organizer in advance.
4. Designing the exhibition imagery and printouts, and being responsible for all printing and production at the exhibition site. Additionally, printed materials for the exhibition and the overall publicity should consistently adhere to the requirements of "Art Macao 2025."
5. Organizing the exhibition opening ceremony. The opening date and relevant arrangements should be emailed to the Organizer in advance.
6. Being responsible for the venue's daily operation, including cleanliness and security.
7. Providing the Organizer with HD images of the exhibits and photographic or video recordings of the exhibition venue and opening ceremonies.
8. Providing the Organizer with the curator's preface, exhibition and exhibit introductions, artist biographies, and exhibition publicity copies in Chinese, Portuguese, and English.

9. Suppose a selected team and/or any of its members fail to comply with the provisions of the Rules and Regulations, the Organizer has the right to disqualify them.

## **8. COPYRIGHT**

1. Participants ensure that all content in Proposals is original and does not infringe any intellectual property rights of any third party. The Organizer reserves the right to disqualify the participants
2. Participants 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 participants 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, introductory texts, and images submitted by the participants 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 and use them and their content therein.
4. 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).

## **9. OTHER ISSUES**

1. Selected collateral exhibitions will be announced at the press launch of "Art Macao 2025".
2. Staff of the Cultural Affairs Bureau are not allowed to participate in this event.
3. The Organizer shall interpret any doubt about or matter not covered by the Rules and Regulations. The Organizer has complete discretion to interpret the open call and reserves the right to alter its content.
4. 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 version shall prevail.
5. The laws of Macao SAR bind the provisions of the Rules and Regulations. The courts of the Macao SAR shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any related appeals or disputes.

## **10. INQUIRY**

For inquiries, please get in touch with the Organizer via email [artmacao@icm.gov.mo](mailto:artmacao@icm.gov.mo) or call +853 87919892 / 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

## Application Form for the Open Call of Exhibition Proposals for Collateral Exhibition of “Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025”

Organizations should fill in section A; individuals should fill in section B.

### A Organization

Name

Chinese if any

☐ Higher education institute

☐ Commercial company

☐ Social association

### B Individual

Name

Chinese if any

No. of Macao ID:

### Participating Artist(s)

1 Name

Chinese if any

☐ Macao resident ☐ Non-Macao resident, please list:

Signature (Please sign matching the signature on the identification document):

2 Name

Chinese if any

☐ Macao resident ☐ Non-Macao resident, please list:

Signature (Please sign matching the signature on the identification document):

3 Name

Chinese if any

☐ Macao resident ☐ Non-Macao resident, please list:

Signature (Please sign matching the signature on the identification document):

\* Additional information about the artist(s) can be listed on the Exhibition Proposal.

### Contact

Name

Chinese if any

Email

Tel

Other contact methods

## Exhibition Information

Title

Chinese:

Portuguese:

English:

Venue

Address:

Area:

Remarks:

Exhibition period

Opening hours

## Signature

I, undersigned, hereby agree to comply with all the terms and conditions in the "Rules and Regulations for Open Call of Exhibition Proposals for Collateral Exhibition of 'Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025'" and declare all information included in this Application Form are true and accurate with no errors, fraud or omissions. The exhibition will be held on time.

( Section A ) Signature and chop:

( Section B ) Signature:

Date :                      YYYY                      MM                      DD

\* If you apply as an organization, please enclose a copy of the organization's business registration, the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region's official gazette, or the association registration. (Except for higher education institutions)

\* If you apply as an individual, please enclose a copy of your identification document

## 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 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.

## Exhibition Proposal Details for Collateral Exhibition of “Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025”

**The Exhibition Proposal should include the following items:**

1. Exhibition theme.
2. Description of the idea/concept.
3. CVs of curator(s) and participating artist(s).
4. List and description of exhibits (description of the media and materials used).
5. Overall work plan, management and workflow (timetable).
6. Expected results.

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

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