



**July 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Prespa, Greece**

***Walking Visions/Visions for Walking***

### **PRESS RELEASE**

The Encounters/Conference *Walking Visions/Visions for Walking* (WAC 2023) is an international art event that will take place from July 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 9<sup>th</sup> in the border area of Prespa for a third time, the previous ones being in 2019 and 2021. The International Encounters/Conference *Walking Visions /Visions for Walking* are organized by the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, School of Fine Arts, University of Western Macedonia, Greece in collaboration with Made of Walking (VIII) / the Milena principle and Walk Listen Create.

The Encounters/Conference has contributed to the sustainable development of the area with the participation of hundreds of artists, scientists, and art lovers from various countries around the world transforming Prespa into an international art center. The area has obtained an artistic identity related to the contemporary concept of walking and how it transforms art-practices.

The first Walking Arts Encounters/Conference (WAC 2019) focused on “walking bodies” and on physical and perceptible relations to the landscape. The second WAC 2021 brought up a more socio-political perspective, by addressing “walking as a question”. The third WAC *Walking Visions /Visions for Walking* goes beyond the tangible presence of the body in space, or the different approaches that walking has in addressing socio, political, economic, or ecological issues. We open a third dimension, connected to the main idea of “Walking Visions”. How does walking allow us to access intangible experiences or potential conditions, past, present or future? What are the imaginative and visionary potentials of walking? Towards what future are we walking? How can walking as an artistic practice enable new visions?

Prespa will be transformed for a week into an open laboratory of ideas and the participants will have the opportunity to work together creating innovative art practices, ideas, and concepts.

The 139 participants will present walkshops, papers, audio papers, audio walks, and HUBS. They come from twenty one (21) countries in four continents: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, USA. The participants are affiliated with thirty seven (37) universities, museums, research centers, and institutions: Athens School of Fine Arts (EL), Concordia University (CN), Contemporary Art Centre Nau Côlea (SP), Cyprus University of Technology (CY), Deakin University (AU), Florina Conservatory (EL), Hellenic Society of Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy (EL), Ionian University (EL), Meliti Environmental Education Center (EL), Montclair State University (US), Nakas Conservatory, Thessaloniki (EL), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (EL), National Theatre of Greece (EL),



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Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (SG), Parsons School of Design (US), Royal Academy of Fine Arts (Antwerp) (BE), Royal Academy of Fine Arts (KASK) of Ghent (BE), Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) (AU), Smithsonian Institution – National Museum of the American Indian (US), Staffordshire University (UK), Toneelacademie Maastricht, Institute of Performative Arts (NL), Tor Vergata University of Rome (IT), University College Dublin SMARTlab (IE), University of the Arts London (UK), University of Brazilia (BR), University of Corsica (FR), University of East London (UK), University of Edinburgh (UK), University of Lethbridge (CN), University of Minho (PT), University of Patras (EL), University of Quebec in Montreal (CN), University of the Peloponnese (EL), University of Thessaly (EL), University of West Attica (EL), University of Western Macedonia (EL), Urban School of San Francisco (US).

**Website:** <http://icowaf.eetf.uowm.gr/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/WACInternationalEncountersConference>



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