



Art for Tomorrow 2025 Agenda*

Overcoming, Together

In 2025, the world is facing unprecedented challenges, many of them rooted in the inequalities that have only been exacerbated by the triple threat of political, economic and climate crises. These challenges can lead to fracture and isolation, to turning away from each other instead of coming together, and leaving the most vulnerable behind. But change will only come if we turn outward instead of inward, to our friends, our communities and our planet.

Art for Tomorrow 2025 is about tapping into this shared humanity to learn about creative solutions to the most entrenched problems. This May 12-14, we will convene influential figures from the arts, design and architecture in Milan, to explore the impact that these fields can and do have on society.

The iconic building of Triennale Milano, where this year's event will be hosted, is the perfect setting in which to consider contemporary challenges. Art for Tomorrow is proud to be collaborating with both Triennale Milano, which will present the 24th International Exhibition titled "Inequalities" from May 13 to November 9, and Milan Art Week, taking place in April with the theme "Among Friends." Art for Tomorrow will take place right after the opening of the Venice Architecture Biennale, giving delegates the opportunity to take advantage of myriad critical events. We will also explore Milan's vibrant cultural landscape, venturing into museums, performance spaces and design studios to see the arts in action.

MONDAY, MAY 12 (in collaboration with Triennale Milano)

Venue: Triennale Milano

13:30 - 15:30 **Tour of Triennale Milano International Exhibition**

15:00 **Registration opens**

16:00 - 16:10 **Welcome Remarks**

- Achilles Tsaltas, President, Democracy & Culture Foundation
- Stefano Boeri, Urban Planner and President, Triennale Milano

16:15 - 17:00 **Opening Panel: Going Deep: Community-Based Arts**

In this era of division, wealth gaps and filter bubbles leave us further away from understanding one another. To bridge the divide, an increasing number of architects, artists and institutions are adopting a grassroots approach, deeply embedding themselves in the communities that will use or witness their work.



What are some of the techniques being used to respond to real needs? Does some of the creative vision need to be sacrificed in the process?

- Alvaro Barrington, Artist
- Alessandro Cinque, Photojournalist
- Michele De Lucchi, Architect and Founder, AMDL CIRCLE
- Eneri, Visual Artist and Pixadora

Moderated by Roslyn Sulcas, Culture Writer, The New York Times

17:05 - 17:35

Spotlight Conversation

- Theaster Gates, Artist and Professor of Visual Arts, University of Chicago**

Moderated by Farah Nayeri, Culture Writer, The New York Times

17:35 - 17:45

Performance Short

17:50 - 18:30

Culture for Tomorrow

The last 10 years have seen massive shifts in the interplay between culture, politics and society, and those changes have only accelerated in recent months. For the opening of Triennale Milano's "Inequalities" and Art for Tomorrow's 10th anniversary, we speak to three visionaries who have truly shaped the arts and architecture over recent decades, and will surely play key roles in determining its future. They will lay out their visions for the next decade, imagining how culture can navigate a world in turmoil.

- Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairperson, Qatar Museums
- Stefano Boeri, Urban Planner and President, Triennale Milano
- Lord Norman Foster, President, Norman Foster Foundation

Moderated by Scott Reyburn, Journalist, The New York Times and The Art Newspaper

19:30

**Triennale Milano International Exhibition Opening Reception
(by invitation only)**

TUESDAY, MAY 13

Venue: Triennale Milano

9:30 - 9:45

Welcome Remarks

- Achilles Tsaltas, President, Democracy & Culture Foundation
- Kim Conniff Taber, Editorial Director, Democracy & Culture Foundation

9:50 - 10:30

Panel: World-Building: A Peek Inside the Creative Process

- Jakob Kudsk Steensen, Artist and Animator
- Melanie Challenger, Writer and Researcher
- Okkyung Lee, Cellist, Composer and Improviser



Moderated by Martine d'Anglejan-Chatillon, Founder & C.E.O., MDAC Productions

10:35 - 10:50 Lightning Talk: Visualizing Inequality

A picture may be worth a thousand words, and it can also be worth a thousand numbers. We speak to a star in the growing field of data visualization, who uses creative graphics and images to drive home the most salient statistics about inequality: from income to gender to climate.

- Federica Fragapane, Information Designer**

Moderated by Sofia Lekka Angelopoulou, Editor in Chief, Designboom

10:50 - 11:20 Coffee Break

11:20 - 11:35 Lightning Talk

- Audrey Teichmann, Art Curator, Audemars Piguet

Moderated by Roslyn Sulcas, Culture Writer, The New York Times

11:40 - 12:10 Spotlight Conversation

- Michelangelo Pistoletto, Artist

Moderated by Yorgos Archimandritis, Author, Cultural Radio and TV Host

12:20 - 13:00 Parallel Sessions

Panel Symposium: Introducing the Bukhara Biennial (Salone)

Supported by the Uzbekistan Art and Culture Development Foundation

Uzbekistan, which has long been known as a center of ancient culture along the Silk Road, is now on the rise as an incubator for contemporary arts. The city of Bukhara was named a UNESCO Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art in 2023, and later this year it will host Central Asia's first major international art gathering, the Bukhara Biennial. In a rare commitment to local talent, all of the works presented at the Biennial will be produced in the country. We speak with the commissioner, this year's curator and one of the participating artists to discuss the curatorial concept for the event, the long-term vision, and Bukhara's architecture as inspiration.

- Gayane Umerova, Commissioner, Bukhara Biennial and Chairperson, Uzbekistan Art and Culture Development Foundation
- Diana Campbell, Artistic Director, "Recipes for Broken Hearts" (Burkhara Biennial 2025 Edition) and Head of Global Initiatives, Hartwig Art Foundation
- Antony Gormely, Sculptor

Moderated by Jelena Trkulja, Senior Adviser for Academic and Cultural Affairs, Qatar Museums

Presentation and Workshop: Navigating Trauma through Art (Agora)

- Ronen Berger, Expert in Art-Based Community Resiliency Development and Senior Arts Therapist

13:05 - 14:05 Lunch



14:15 - 14:25 Provocation

- Michael P. Nash, Artist and Filmmaker

14:30 - 15:10 Panel: Worlds Imagined: Biodiversity and Tech

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, more than 46,000 species are threatened with extinction, a colossal 26 percent of all species the organization tracks. That's a 12 percent deterioration in the last 20 years. As alarming as these statistics are, what if we could envision all that's at risk? Some artists are doing just that, using technology to recreate lost worlds or peer into alternative futures where biodiversity thrives.

- Susanna Barla, Founder and C.E.O., Genesis 3.0 and Creators Fund
- Bjørnstjerne Christiansen, Artist, Superflex
- Beatriz Colomina, Professor of Architecture, Princeton University**
- Bettina Kames, Co-Founder and C.E.O., LAS Art Foundation, Berlin

Moderated by Louis Jebb, Managing Editor, The Art Newspaper

15:15 - 15:45 Spotlight Conversation

- David Salle, Artist

Moderated by Roslyn Sulcas, Culture Writer, The New York Times

16:15 - 17:30 Cultural Tours

- Loris Cecchini's studio
- Massimo De Carlo Gallery - tour and cocktail
- Michele De Lucchi - Produzione Privata

18:15 Tour and cocktail of the exhibition "Rauschenberg e Il Novecento" at Museo del Novecento (hosted by Thaddaeus Ropac Gallery)

Venue: Sala Conferenze, Palazzo Reale

19:15 - 20:00 Panel: The Institution of the Future

In a time of major cultural and political upheaval, some see institutions as part of the problem, and others as part of the solution. What role should the museum play as social fabric frays in many places around the world? What are the challenges of funding such a place? And how should cultural institutions navigate the shifting priorities of local and national governments?

Introduction by Giuseppe Sala, Mayor of Milan or Tommaso Sacchi, Deputy Mayor for Culture, Milan

- Courtney J. Martin, Executive Director, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation
- Simon Njami, Writer, Art Critic and Curator
- Hans Ulrich Obrist, Curator and Artistic Director, Serpentine Galleries**
- Vicente Todolí, Curator and Artistic Director, Pirelli HangarBicocca



Moderated by Farah Nayeri, Culture Writer, The New York Times

- 20:05 - 20:25** **Inaugural Creativity for Social Change Award**
Presented by Adama Sanneh, Co-Founder and C.E.O., Moleskine Foundation; Anna Meneguzzo, Brand and Communication Creative Officer, Moleskine; and Achilles Tsaltas, President, Democracy & Culture Foundation
- 20:30** **Cocktail dînatoire at Sala delle Otto Colonne, Palazzo Reale**
(by invitation only)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

Venue: Triennale Milano

- 10:00 - 10:05** **Welcome Remarks**
- Achilles Tsaltas, President, Democracy & Culture Foundation
- 10:10 - 10:55** **Culture as Capital: Can the Arts Galvanize Economies?**
As nations rethink economic growth and development, creative industries have become strategic assets. From film and fashion to gaming and design, culture-driven economies are fueling innovation, shaping national identities, and redefining global influence. Governments worldwide are aiming to leverage the creative sector to diversify industries, attract investment and foster social progress. But as culture is also increasingly seen as political, can creativity truly become a cornerstone of economic resilience?
- Giuseppe Sala, Mayor of Milan OR Tommaso Sacchi, Deputy Mayor for Culture, City of Milan
 - Gayane Umerova, Chairperson, Uzbekistan Art and Culture Development Foundation
 - Jiyoony Lee, Founder, SUUM Project
- Moderated by Jelena Trkulja, Senior Adviser for Academic and Cultural Affairs, Qatar Museums*
- 11:00 - 11:30** **Spotlight Conversation**
- Antony Gormley, Sculptor
- Moderated by Roslyn Sulcas, Culture Writer, The New York Times*
- 11:30 - 12:00** **Coffee Break**
- 11:35 - 11:55** **Virtual Tour of Fenix Museum of Migration, Rotterdam (Agora Room)**
- Wim Pijbes, Art Historian and Director, Droom en Daad (virtual)
- 12:00 - 12:15** **Lightning Talk**
- Massimo De Carlo, Gallery Founder



Moderated by Farah Nayeri, Culture Writer, The New York Times

12:20 - 13:00 Panel: Politics and the Art Market

Recent elections have seen political power shift decidedly rightward in several countries, not least in the United States – which is home to 40 percent of the art market. Meanwhile the contemporary art world has historically leaned left and explored progressive, or even rebellious themes. How might the political shift play out in the market?

- Elena Bonanno di Linguaglossa, Executive Director, Thaddaeus Ropac Milan
- Pearl Lam, Founder, Pearl Lam Galleries, China Art Foundation, and Host, “The Pearl Lam Podcast”
- Alain Servais, Collector

Moderated by Scott Reyburn, Journalist, The New York Times and The Art Newspaper

13:05 - 13:15 Lightning Talk: (Un)Tradeable

- João Correia, Art Historian and Founder, Collezionista
- Eneri, Visual Artist and Pixadora

13:15 - 14:15 Lunch

14:15 - 14:55 Panel: Art in a War Zone

With conflicts raging from Gaza to Ukraine, Sudan to Syria, one might assume that artistic production would be stifled when daily survival is in question. But often the opposite is true, with creativity enduring and even flourishing. How can art help people cope in dark times, and how might it help others understand both the horror and resilience in times of war?

- Khalid Albaih, Political Cartoonist
- Nomi Bar-Yaacov, International Negotiator and Associate Fellow, Chatham House
- Yaryna Chornohuz, Poet (Virtual)

Moderated by Scott Reyburn, Journalist, The New York Times and The Art Newspaper

15:00 - 15:30 Spotlight Conversation

- Shirin Neshat, Artist and Photographer

Moderated by Farah Nayeri, Culture Writer, The New York Times

15:45 - 18:00 Cultural Tour of Pirelli HangarBicocca

Venue: Teatro Lirico Milano

18:30 - 19:30 Public Lecture with Jeff Koons



Confirmed Speakers

Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin
Khalifa Al Thani
Khalid Albaih
Nomi Bar-Yaacov
Susanna Barla
Alvaro Barrington
Ronen Berger
Stefano Boeri
Elena Bonanno di Linguaglossa
Beatriz Colomina**
Melanie Challenger
Bjørnstjerne Christiansen, Superflex
Yaryna Chornohuz
Alessandro Cinque
João Correia
Massimo De Carlo
Michele De Lucchi
Martine d'Anglejan-Chatillon
Eneri
Lord Norman Foster**
Federica Frapane**

Theaster Gates**
Antony Gormley
Anthony Huberman
Bettina Kames
Jeff Koons
Jakob Kudsk Steensen
Pearl Lam
Okkyung Lee
Jiyeon Lee
Sofia Lekka Angelopoulou
Courtney J. Martin
Michael P. Nash
Shirin Neshat
Simon Njami
Hans Ulrich Obrist**
Michelangelo Pistoletto
Nicola Ricciardi
David Salle
Adama Sanneh
Audrey Teichmann
Vicente Todolí
Gayane Umerova