

What is FEĠĠ x ARTI: Assemblies of Becoming?

Spazju Kreattiv and Aġenzija Żgħażaġh are pleased to launch **FEĠĠ x ARTI**, a renewed visual arts programme for emerging artists based in Malta. Led by curator Elyse Tonna, the upcoming edition of the programme will unfold within the curatorial framework **Assemblies of Becoming**, exploring the overarching concept **Soft Infrastructures**.

Assemblies of Becoming supports young artists in developing thoughtful, critically-engaged and process-based artistic work. It invites proposals from individuals or artist collectives of up to four members. The focus is on experimentation, research and artistic exploration. Assemblies of Becoming encourages artists to approach their work as part of a wider ecology which is shaped by dialogue, mentorship, and collective exchange. It values practices that remain open, collaborative and in motion.

This upcoming edition of the programme aims to create a space where emerging artists can test ideas, take conceptual risks and reflect on their position within a broader context of shared practice and dialogue. At its core, it is grounded in the belief that becoming is not something linear or solitary. Through workshops, conversations and peer learning, the programme supports artists in forming connections between thinking and making, between themselves and others.

This project aligns with the values of Spazju Kreattiv's artistic vision and National Youth Policy: Towards 2030. It invites artists to contribute to a wider conversation while developing their own voice within a supportive and reflective setting.

Conceptual Framework

Soft Infrastructures

There are forms of structure that do not present themselves as such. Systems that do not rely on weight or permanence. Some are passed between people without words. Others are built over time without being named. They might be provisional, intuitive or contradictory. They might collapse. They might be repaired. They might be held only briefly before they change shape again.

Soft Infrastructures considers what supports us without needing to be seen. It turns its attention toward the systems that hold people, practices and places together without asking to be formalised. These systems are not always designed. Some grow slowly between people. Some are inherited and reshaped. Some appear only when they begin to wear out.

This framework invites artists to observe the conditions that shape how things continue. A repeated gesture. A ritual of care. A form of resistance. A silence that is understood. A rhythm of survival. A structure that is built without foundations. These may be social or emotional or environmental or digital. They may emerge through routines or conversations or networks, or tensions. They may carry knowledge that is intimate. They may function quietly in the background of larger systems that seem immovable. They may hold for a while. They may not.

Artists are invited to respond through the act of noticing. To spend time with what is easily missed. To hold something without needing to define it. To map or trace or stretch a system that is already present. To imagine one that could replace or subvert or interrupt another. This may involve care work or relational labour or ecological maintenance. It may involve repetition or

return, or slowness. It may begin from personal experience or from collective memory, or from something that cannot yet be described.

Soft Infrastructures does not seek representation or certainty. It proposes a way of working. A way of assembling. A way of holding something together long enough to consider what it is made of. This is a space that tests conditions. That stays with complexity. That moves alongside something until it begins to shift.

This is not a question of what is visible. It is a question of what is felt. What is relied on. What is no longer noticed. And what might become visible if we learn how to attend to it.

Who can apply and participate?

This open call is open to artists aged between 18 and 30 who are based in Malta or Gozo. Proposals may be submitted individually or as part of a group or collective. Artists must have a valid Maltese ID or residence permit and a registered Maltese VAT number. Only one proposal can be submitted by one applicant or group.

Proposals are welcome from artists working in any medium. This may include drawing, printing, painting, sculpture, photography, film, animation, digital media, audio-visual work, sound, performance, socially-engaged practices, literature, installation and architecture. Every form of practice will be considered.

Applicants should be able to commit to developing new work in direct response to the curatorial and conceptual frameworks and the programme's aims. While ephemeral, performative or time-based works are welcomed, it is important that each selected project leaves a permanent or traceable presence within the exhibition space.

What do you need to submit?

Applicants are invited to submit proposals for new and original work via an online form available at the link below. Proposals must not have been previously exhibited.

Selected participants will be invited to develop their work over time in conversation with the curator throughout the process offered by the programme. Works will continue to evolve and may be shaped in response to the exhibition space and context.

To apply, please submit the following:

- Full contact details including full name, I.D. Card no., VAT no., email address and contact number.
- A short artist bio (maximum 100 words) and an artistic CV (maximum 2 pages). In the case of groups or collectives, these need to be collective.
- A portfolio with up to five examples of relevant work (submitted as a PDF or links).
- A concept (*maximum 500 words: outline the core idea behind your proposal, how it responds to the conceptual framework Soft Infrastructures and what questions or observations you are working with*).
- A motivation statement (*maximum 500 words: share why you are interested in participating in this programme at this point in your practice, how this process would support your development, and what you hope to gain or contribute*).

- A brief project description (maximum 500 words: describe how the work will take shape in practice, what medium or form it might take, how it could exist in the exhibition space, what you will need to realise it and how you imagine the process unfolding).
- A proposed timeline and budget.
- Any relevant sketches, videos, audio links or research notes.

Submissions can be made in either Maltese or English.

How will the programme be structured?

Timeline

Throughout this process, the selected artists will be required to make themselves available to ensure the proper development of their work and the expected level of presentation. Failure to do so may result in their project being omitted from the programme.

Deadline for applications: Tuesday, 14th October 2025;

Shortlisted applicants will be informed by: Tuesday, 25th November 2025;

At least four collective meetings with the other selected artists to share

progress: in December 2025, January 2026, February 2026 and April 2026 (exact dates TBC);

Submission of final sketches, technical rider, exhibition design, clear description of the project: Tuesday, 17th March 2026;

Marketing details by: Tuesday, 7th April 2026;

****Installation from** Monday, 12th May till Wednesday, 20th May 2026;

*****The curator and production team will allocate specific slots for the selected artists to set up their work.***

Exhibition duration: Thursday, 21st May (launch event at 7pm) till Sunday, 21st June 2026

Dismantling: Monday, 22nd June 2026.

Public Programme: Public sessions may be organised throughout the exhibition period, curated around the developed works in collaboration between the curator and the selected artists.

Post-mortem session with artists: Last week of June 2026 (exact date TBC).

Structure

The programme will be led by curator Elyse Tonna and shaped through a combination of one-to-one mentoring sessions and collective sessions over several months. These moments are designed to support both individual reflection and shared dialogue.

Each proposal will be offered two one-to-one sessions. These will provide space to explore the work in depth and in conversation with the curator. The four collective sessions will bring participants together to exchange thoughts, offer feedback and reflect on the process. These gatherings focus on making space to listen, shift and build connection through practice.

How will the proposals be evaluated?

- **Concept Proposed (25%):** Clarity and relevance of the idea in response to Soft Infrastructures and the aims of Assemblies of Becoming.

- **Artistic Merit (25%):** Originality and depth of the artistic approach.
- **Work Proposed (20%):** Coherence of the proposed work and its potential within the context of the exhibition.
- **Methodology and Approach (15%):** Soundness of process and openness to dialogue.
- **Feasibility (10%):** Achievability of the proposal in terms of time, space and resources.
- **Public Engagement (5%):** A simple proposal for how the work might be shared with others.

What will the exhibition involve?

The programme will culminate in a collective exhibition in Space A at Spazju Kreattiv between **Thursday, 21st May (launch event at 7pm) and Sunday, 21st June 2026**. The exhibition will bring together the work developed throughout the process, shaped by the space and in close dialogue with the curator and other artists.

A public programme will accompany the exhibition, shaped in dialogue with the artists and offering space for conversation, reflection and shared encounters.

What support is being provided?

Each selected artist or collective will receive:

- A combined fee of €500 (inclusive of VAT, if applicable) per selected project to support both artistic work and production.
- Ongoing curatorial guidance and mentoring from Elyse Tonna and the Spazju Kreattiv artistic team throughout the development and exhibition process.
- Participation in a collective exhibition as part of the Spazju Kreattiv programme from May to June 2026.
- Logistical support and expertise from the Spazju Kreattiv team.
- Social and emotional guidance from Aġenzija Żgħażaġh.
- Provision of the available in-house venue and resources at Spazju Kreattiv.
- Inclusion in the public programme.
- Assistance during installation and with documentation.

The programme is grounded in values of care, commitment, dialogue and collaboration. Artists will be encouraged to work within the available budget and to explore flexible formats or in-kind solutions where needed.

Each selected participant will be offered a short agreement outlining the terms of participation.

What happens after the programme?

At the end of the programme, one participating artist or collective will be invited to further develop their work through a dedicated opportunity at Spazju Kreattiv. This invitation is not based solely on the work being exhibited, but on a combination of artistic engagement, openness to process and the depth of involvement throughout the programme.

The selected participant will receive a monetary award of €600 (inclusive of VAT, if applicable) and the opportunity to present a solo or group exhibition at Spazju Kreattiv, to be developed through further discussion.

This gesture is intended not as a measure of value, but as a way of recognising a practice that continues to ask questions, hold space and grow.

How can you take part?

Interested applicants can apply by filling the form in [MT](#) or [EN](#)

For more information, kindly contact:

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