



UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN MACEDONIA
SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

Department of Fine and Applied Arts



International Walking Arts Encounters/Conference

Monday, July 3rd to Sunday, July 9th 2023, Prespa, Greece

Walking Visions/Visions for Walking

Description:

Walking goes far beyond the geographical, territorial, and tangible perimeters of the land. 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?

The first **Walking Arts Encounters/Conference (WAC)** held in Prespes (2019) focused on “walking bodies” and on physical and perceptible relations to the landscape. The second WAC event (2021) brought up a more socio-political perspective, by addressing “walking as a question”. In this third encounter, we go 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 up 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?

Themes

- **Peripatetic Philosophy:** How does walking relate to a philosophical act? How do we think on our feet, or in motion? How might ideas unfold through the actions of walking?
- **Walking in the imagination:** How does walking transform our society as an instrument of creativity? How does walking become art? How do science fiction, afro-futurism and speculative writing connect with walking visions?
- **Walking Landscapes:** How is landscape affected by walking and how does walking change landscape? How have pandemic changes adapted city scapes? How are rural environments perceived in relation to permissions to walk or not walk (private property, rights of way, racism, trespass)?
- **Ableism¹ and Movement:** What is walking for those who cannot walk? How can we interpret walking if we do not focus on the rhythmic movement of the legs? How can walking practices that use remote, proxy or virtual approaches enable more people to experience walking?
- **Walking and activism/ Political walking:** What sort of vision can walking as an aesthetic practice ask of our future — economy, climate crisis, migration? What does walking demand when used as an activist medium in the context of art?
- **Walking as an invisible monument:** How is walking connected to memory? How is this concept connected to the construction or recollection of memories in a walking process? How does walking bring people together to commemorate and make visible?

¹ ableism: discrimination in favour of non-disabled people.

- **Future landscapes and Future nature:** How can we structure futures that centre walking in creative and pleasurable ways - enabling more people to have agency over their mobility? How can walking build connections with food and sustenance through foraging, patchwork food growing, guerilla gardening?
- **Walking as utopian, mystical and magic experience:** Is walking a universal act? Is it a way or method to connect to the spiritual and the magical of our world, through rituals, meditation? Is it a symbolic act that creates a space for reflection and action for new and possible futures? How do indigenous epistemologies relate to walking?
- **Walking and psychological well being:** what kinds of walking practices target mental health challenges? Are there particular walking methods that aim to clear one's mind, fight one's inner demons, release one's sense of humor or open one's heart? Can walking collectively become a form of mutual aid?

We invite proposals from artists, writers and other creative practitioners, critics and scholars that take up the provocation of the encounters/conference themes.

We are open to paper proposals and artistic or workshop proposals in different media and formats: interdisciplinary and fine arts, video and film, poetry and other textual interventions, sonic investigations and audio papers, performances, immersive virtual experiences, digital and new media art as well as sound walks, guided walks, workshops/workshops etc. We ask proposals to consider how the work can be experienced virtually if it is also conducted on the ground, in real time

It is not obliged to submit a proposal to participate in the encounters/conference, your participation as an attendee is very much welcomed and allows you to take part in all activities.

Please visit <https://icowaf.eetf.uowm.gr/> to learn more about the first iterations of the Walking Encounters Conference (2019 and 2021). You may also visit the video archive of the workshops that were realized in 2019 and 2021 in <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCa1TjD5UrWZzlaeLCW950Q/playlists>

ARTISTIC/SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio, Lecturer at University of Barcelona, Spain

Fiona Hesse, Art Historian (PhD), Independent Curator, and Associate Curator at Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel, Switzerland

Anna Luyten, Lecturer at KASK, University of the Arts Ghent and Institute of Performative Arts Hogeschool Zuyd Maastricht

Lydia Matthews, Professor of Visual Culture, Parsons School of Design / The New School, New York, USA

Clare Qualmann, Associate Professor (Reader) in Performance, University of East London, United Kingdom

Geert Vermeire, Artist, Curator, the Milena principle & walk · listen · create (WLC), (Walking Encounters coordinator, "Made of Walking" coordinator), Belgium

Yannis Ziogas, Painter, Professor, School of Fine and Applied Arts, School of Fine Arts, University of Western Macedonia, Greece

APPLICATION PROCESS

Artists and creatives are invited to explore these questions on foot and with materials and media in a variety of ways. For example (but not exclusively) with media and sound walks, performative walks, guided walks, walking as drawing or other hybrid formats between visual arts and walking, hybrid formats of writing and walking, virtual and digital interactions, engagement. etc.

The Encounters/Conference invites proposals from artists and researchers, creative practitioners and academic researchers investigations in different media and disciplines, including video and film, poetry, visual artworks, texts, audio paper and other.

SUBMISSIONS

A proposal for **papers and audiopapers, workshops or other creative proposals** may be **submitted online** by an individual or small group in relationship to the Encounters/Conference theme. Priority will be given to proposals that will be presented or realized in Prespa. The conference organizers are open to a range of formats as indicated above.

The application should be submitted at <http://icowaf.eetf.uowm.gr/>

The application should include the following:

- Thematic connection: How does your artistic work/workshop/paper take up the theme of Walking Visions?
- It needs to be specified if the application is for a artistic work/workshop, paper, an audio paper Description of the project or an abstract of the paper (up to 300 words)
- Short CV (up to 150 words)
- Location: Is the artistic work/workshop/paper being proposed for Prespa or will it be remote?
- 5 photos or images (if needed) or links related to the proposal.
- For the workshops, information about an estimated duration, desired time of the day (dawn, morning, midday, afternoon, dusk/evening, night) and a maximum number of participants needs to be included

Submission Deadline: 15th of March 2023

By **April 10th 2023** the applicants will receive a notification of acceptance.

IMPORTANT

In the proposal the applicant should specify whether he/she intends to travel to Prespa or will participate from a distance, and as well if this participation will take shape as an individual or as a hub (a local group or local initiative). It needs to be clear in the application in which way the proposals are integrated in the general process of the Encounters/Conference in Prespa (local or global) and in which way this will be connected both to the subject of the Encounters/Conference and the place of Prespa.

The official language of the conference is English.

Important dates

March 15th, 2023: Submission of abstract/art projects.

April 10th, 2023: Author/Artist Notification.

April 30th, to June 20th, 2023: Registration.

July 3rd to 9th, 2023: Walking Encounters /Conference.

August 30th, 2023: Submission of the final papers/ description and documentation of the projects.

Registration fees

For participants who travel from Latin-America, Africa and Asia the fees can be waived or reduced in case the registration fee is making it difficult to participate in the Encounters/Conference. For artists/cultural workers who lost income because of the pandemic, unemployed or artists with no other income, and for students of EETF the fees are waived.

We would like to underline that registration fees include a welcome pack, free coffee breaks, meals and snacks during the conference. The Encounters/Conference is not a festival that commissions art work or provides budgets to artists, it is a non profit meeting place to share work and ideas as a community, partially made possible by the agency of this community, and would not be possible if not by the priceless and voluntary effort of many people locally and around the world. As organizers we are aware of the difficult situation affecting many artists around the world and we try to take this into account as much as possible to offer equal chances for everyone to take part.

Early birds payments (till May 15th, 2023)

120 euros supporting a participant without the means to take part - for first paper/art proposal per participant for early bird registrations - if your University or Institution will pay your registration fee, this is the rate that you should request.

80 euros for first paper/art proposal per participant - authors and co-authors for early bird registrations

20 euros for any additional paper/art proposal for early bird registrations

10 euros for students (please provide evidence) /student participation for early bird registrations

40 euros for any attendee (those who don't present a paper, project)

for early bird registrations

For unemployed, including artists and cultural workers with no other means of income or that have lost income by the pandemic (on written declaration of honor), for EETF graduates and students there is no fee (please provide evidence).

In case that you belong to one of these categories (unemployed or artist with no other means of income, EETF graduates or students) please notify the Committee with the contact form of the site: (<http://icowaf.eetf.uowm.gr/contact/>)

For those who acquire the printed volume of the 2019 proceedings (Walking Practices/Walking Art/Walking Bodies) they will have a 25% discount in their registration fee. For acquiring this publication see following link <http://icowaf.eetf.uowm.gr/conference-proceedings/>

Regular payment (after May 15th, 2023)

130 euros supporting a participant without the means to take part - for first paper/art proposal per participant -if your University or Institution will pay your registration fee, this is the rate that you should request.

100 euros for first paper/art proposal per participant / authors and co-authors

30 euros for any additional paper/art proposal

20 euros for students (please provide evidence)

50 euros for any attendee (those who don't present a paper, project)

For unemployed, including artists and cultural workers with no other means of income or that have lost their income by the pandemic, EETF graduates and students there is no fee (please provide evidence).

In case that you belong to one of these categories (unemployed or artist with no other means of income, EETF graduates or students) please notify the Committee with the contact form of the site: (<http://icowaf.eetf.uowm.gr/contact/>)

The conference registration includes:

The attendees/participants will receive a certificate of attendance from the University of Western Macedonia

Access to all official conference sessions

Conference bag with program booklet and digital conference proceedings

Buffet, coffee breaks and snacks. Refreshments during coffee breaks, buffet lunch during lunch breaks of the conference sessions.

Donations:

We would appreciate a donation on the conference bank account. Your contribution will go to the artists- and students- volunteers and the local community during the encounters/conference.

Accommodation:

For a small group of participants, we can provide free accommodation in the annex of the art school in Florina. Simple accommodation is offered in bunk beds in a female/male dormitory, with use of shared kitchen and female/male bathroom. Places are limited, so contact us as soon as possible if you want to use our facilities. The kitchen, dining room and workspace of the annex is available for all participants.

Hotel accommodation starts at 35 euro/night in Prespes.

IMPORTANT

The Organizing Committee will follow all the measures related to the pandemic situation as addressed from the Hellenic Public Health Organisation (EOΔY/EODY). Also all those who will be selected to participate in Prespa will have to sign a consent document, concerning safety and health issues.

CONTACT E-MAIL sinedrioteet@uowm.gr

WEBSITE <http://icowaf.eetf.uowm.gr/> (will be updated from February 4th)

WAC is organized by the University of Western Macedonia, co-organized and in partnership with Made of Walking/the Milena principle, walk · listen · create (WLC).