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**WALC**  
Walking Arts  
& Local Communities



UNIVERSITY OF WEST MACEDONIA  
SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS  
Department of Fine and Applied Arts



# OPEN **EXTENDED** CALL

Open call for International Prespa Walking Arts Encounters

## WAC 25

**Submission Deadline:**

**28/2/2025**





# WAC 25

**Monday, June 30 to Sunday, July 6, 2025, Prespa, Greece**  
International Prespa Walking Arts Encounters 2025 (WAC 25)  
Walking Home / Walking in Transition

The *International Prespa Walking Arts Encounters 2025* (WAC 25) will be titled **Walking Home / Walking in Transition**. We invite artists, writers and other creative practitioners, critics, and researchers to gather in Prespa, Greece in summer 2025 (Monday, June 30 to Sunday, July 6). Anyone wishing to participate as an attendee is also welcome.

The *International Prespa Walking Arts Encounters 2025* (WAC 25) is an event in the frame of the Creative Europe co-funded project Walking Arts & Local Communities (WALC), starting in January 2024 for four years. Initiated by seven partners from five countries, WALC establishes a larger International Center for Artistic Research and Practice of Walking Arts, in Prespa, Greece, at the border with Albania and North Macedonia, backed up by an online counterpart in the format of a digital platform for walking arts.

The Prespa area, a unique environment with two lakes (Megali Prespa and Mikri Prespa), is the *locus* where the field research of the walking art project *Visual March to Prespa* is taking place, organized by the 1st Painting Workshop of the School of Visual Arts of the University of Western Macedonia. It was initiated in 2007 and the current International Encounters/Conference is a continuation of three International Encounters/Conferences (WAC) in 2019, 2021, and 2023, during which over 600 participants from all over the world met in Prespa. Since 2024 WAC has been part of the WALC program.

The partners of WALC are Visual March to Prespas, University of Western Macedonia (Leader, Πανεπιστήμιο Δυτικής Μακεδονίας, UOWM, Greece), walk · listen · create (WLC, Belgium), WalkLab2.PT at the University of Minho (UMINHO, Universidade do Minho, Portugal), Contemporary Art Center Nau Còclea (Centre de Creació Contemporània Nau Còclea, Catalonia, Spain), Association Temps Réel (Gigacircus, France), Action Synergy SA (AS, Greece), School of Gaasbeek (De School van Gaasbeek, SvG, Belgium). Artistic co-ordinators of the WALC project are Geert Vermeire (WLC) and Yannis Ziogas (UOWM).

#### TOPICS

The topics of the *International Prespa Walking Arts Encounters 2025* (WAC 25) **Walking Home / Walking in Transition** are the following:

1. **Walking as a feast**
2. **Walking manifestos**
3. **Walking beyond boundaries**
4. **Walking as resistance**
5. **Walking as healing**
6. **Walking ... home**
7. **Walking with locals**
8. **Pluriverse walking**
9. **Walking to, with, and from communities**
10. **Walking with children**

## ARTISTIC/SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

### Coordinators

**Yannis Ziogas**, Painter, Professor, School of Fine and Applied Arts, School of Fine Arts, University of Western Macedonia, Greece, coordinator of WAC, co-artistic coordinator WAC

**Geert Vermeire**, Artist Curator, walk · listen · create, Made of Walking / the Milena principle, co-artistic coordinator WAC

### Members

**Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio**, Lecturer at the University of Barcelona, Spain

**Jez Hastings**, PhD, Walking Artist

**Lydia Matthews**, Professor Emeritus 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

**Clara Gari**, director Centre de Creació Contemporània Nau Còclea, Catalonia, Spain

**Sylvie Marchand**, PhD, artistic director Gigacircus, France

**Miguel Bandeira Duarte**, Assistant Professor, EAAD-UMinho, Portugal

**Faye Tzanetoulakou**, Dr. Art History, Adjunct Lecturer UNIWA, former Secretary General AICA Hellas

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The Encounters are open to proposals by artists and researchers, creative practitioners and academic researchers exploring Walking Art and Practices, as well as with their affinity to Communities. This will be manifested in the actual implementation of the walking project in Prespes.

Artists and creatives are invited to explore on foot the issues addressed in the **Walking Home / Walking in Transition** topics in a variety of ways. Walking will be the main tool. Walking can be supported in other ways, for example (but not exclusively) with new media and sound walks, as guided walks, through walking as drawing or other hybrid formats of visual arts and walking, hybrid formats of writing and walking, virtual and digital interactions and engagement etc.

Papers are also welcome. Researchers are invited to present and submit papers with issues related to the **Walking Home / Walking in Transition** topics that will be presented during the Conference session of the Encounters.

## SUBMISSIONS

A proposal for **walkshops, papers, and other creative proposals** may be **submitted online** by an individual or small group in relation to the Encounters theme **Walking Home / Walking in Transition**. The proposals need to be presented or realized in Prespa. The Encounters' organizers are open to a range of formats, as indicated above.

Submissions should be in English. Following the conclusion of the Encounters/Conference, its proceedings will be published in English.

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

The application should include the following:

- Thematic relevance: How does your artistic work/walkshop/paper take up the theme **Walking Home / Walking in Transition?** (up to 100 words)
- How does/will your artistic piece/walkshop engage with the local community? (up to 50 words)
- It should be clarified whether the application concerns an artistic work/walkshop or a paper.
- Description of the walkshop or an abstract of the paper (up to 200 words).
- Short bio (up to 100 words).
- 5 photos or images (if needed) or links related to the proposal.

- For the workshops: estimated duration, desired time of the day (dawn, morning, midday, afternoon, dusk/evening, night) and a maximum number of participants. Selection of the site in Prespes where the proposal will be developed in the most creative way.
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## Submission Deadline: February 28, 2025

By **March 10, 2025** the selected applicants will receive a notification of acceptance.

The official language of the conference is English.

### Important dates

**February 28, 2025:** Submission of abstract/art projects

**March 10, 2025:** Author/Artist Notification

**March 30, to May 30, 2025:** Registration

**June 30 to July 6, 2025:** Walking Encounters/Conference

**August 30, 2025:** Submission of the finalized papers / description and documentation of the projects

### Registration fees

The Encounters 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 crowd-sourced community, fuelled to a large extent by the agency of this community, and would not be possible without the invaluable and voluntary efforts of many people locally and around the world. As organizers we are aware of the difficult situation affecting many artists globally and we try to take this into account as much as possible, in order to offer equal chances for everyone to take part.

For the unemployed, including artists, and cultural workers with no other means of income (on written declaration of honor), for EETF/UOWM (Department of Fine and Applied Arts / University of Western of Macedonia) graduates and students there is no fee (proof required).

### 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 tote 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

### Early birds payments (till May 15, 2025)

**120€** supporting a participant without the means to take part - for first paper/art proposal per participant for early bird registrations

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

**20€** for any additional paper/art proposal for early bird registrations

**10€** for students (proof required) / student participation for early bird registrations

**40€** for any attendee (those not presenting any paper or project)

In case you belong to one of the waived-fee categories please notify the Committee through the contact form of the site: <https://icowaf.eetf.uowm.gr/2025/contact/>

For those participants/attendees who wish to acquire the printed volume of the 2019 proceedings (Walking Practices / Walking Art / Walking Bodies), there will be a 25% discount in their registration fee. To acquire this publication please consult the following link: <https://icowaf.eef.uowm.gr/2025/archives/conference-proceedings/>

**Regular payment (after May 15, 2025)**

140€ supporting a participant without the means to take part - for first paper/art proposal per participant

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

30€ for any additional paper/art proposal

20€ for students (proof required)

50€ for any attendee (those not presenting any paper or project)

**Donations:**

Donations on the conference bank account are welcome. Your contribution will go to the artists- and students-volunteers and the local community during the encounters/conference.

**IMPORTANT**

Those who will be selected to participate in Prespa will have to sign a Consent Form, concerning safety and health issues.

**CONTACT E-MAIL** [sinedrioteet@uowm.gr](mailto:sinedrioteet@uowm.gr)

**WEBSITE** <https://icowaf.eef.uowm.gr/2025/>

WAC is organized by the University of Western Macedonia

**ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

**General Coordination:** Aspasia Voudouri

**Financial Management:** Achilleas Stergiou

**General Secretarial Duties:** Athanasia Tziona

**Secretarial Duties:** Katerina Florou

**Secretary-Certificates:** Sofia Grigoriadou, Giota Terzi

**Administration Protocol:** Nikos Theodoropoulos

**Proofreading / Translations:** Nikos Theodoropoulos, Dora Babali

**Activities in the Field:** Kiriakos Iliadis

**Collecting / Classifying the Audio-Visual Material:** Sofia Papadopoulou

**Graphics:** Annita Koutsonanou

**Social Media:** Iris Boumazou

**Documentary:** Christos Ioannidis

**WAC Website:** Yorgos Semertzidis, Cynthia Gerotherasiou, Sofia Papadopoulou, Annita Koutsonanou

walk · listen · create (Belgium) | WalkLab2.PT at the University of Minho (Portugal)

Contemporary Art Center Nau Còclea (Spain) | Association Temps Réel (France)

Action Synergy SA (Greece) | School of Gaasbeek (Belgium)

