

MANIFESTA15 Barcelona Metropolitana 2024

Annexe 5 — Manifesta 15 Barcelona Metropolitana Archives

The European Nomadic Biennial prides itself on moving beyond a surface-level engagement with its Host Cities and Regions. For Manifesta 15, the biennial has inquired into the legacies of events and initiatives that have taken place in the near and distant past in Barcelona and the metropolitan region, and which relate both thematically and geographically to the biennial's three clusters. The biennial has done so not only by consulting existing archives, but also by partnering with specialists to generate new archives. This line of inquiry has resulted in the organisation of four archival presentations, three of which are presented in the former Gustavo Gili publishing house in Barcelona and one in the Three Chimneys in Sant Adrià de Besòs.

Former Gustavo Gili Publishing House

The three archival presentations in the Gustavo Gili collectively form the historical foundation for Manifesta 15 Barcelona Metropolitana. They are titled *Fora per fer escola: Radical practices from Catalan Pedagogies*, *Escola de Passats: Barcelona and the radical political imagination* and *Arxius Negres: Fragments of an anticolonial metropolis*, respectively. Filled with original and interpretative materials, the presentations critically (re)evaluate customs, movements and methodologies that have been overlooked, underappreciated or repressed. Taken as a whole, the presentations illuminate the region's nuanced trajectory and offer versatile historical insights for confronting today's most pressing challenges.

Fora per fer escola is conceptualised by the Manifesta 15 Education and Mediation Department. Translated from Catalan, the title of the presentation has multiple connotations: taking education outdoors, setting precedents and being dismissed – or even exiled – for creating a school. The presentation springs from the research that the biennial commissioned Spanish collectives and artists to conduct about the *Escola de Bosc* (Forest School, founded 1914), *Escola del Mar* (School of the Sea, founded 1921), *Escola Vil·la Joana* (founded 1921), *Batec* (Heartbeat) teachers' collective (1930s), and *Escoles en Lluita* (Schools in Struggle, late 1970s).

Escola de Passats is conceptualised by Germán Labrador Méndez – a scholar of Modern and Contemporary Spain on the faculty at Princeton University. The presentation is an archive of historical experiences, aesthetic and political in nature, situated in metropolitan Barcelona and arranged through six key historical passages – from the colonial origins of industrial capitalism to the current eco-social crisis. In the presentation, the past is summoned as a democratic laboratory, compiled into an archive of utopian imaginations, from which to project desirable collective futures.

Arxius Negres is conceptualised by Tania Safura Adam – a curator, researcher and founder of Radio Africa. Focused on black life in the metropolitan region, the presentation is an exercise in history and writing that seeks to establish collective memory by drawing together sometimes disparate fragments that are scattered across the political, cultural and domestic spectrums, and which operate in the border zones between the informal and the formal, the lawful and the illicit and the chaotic and the ordered.

The Three Chimneys

The presentation at the Three Chimneys is titled *Memory of the Smoke. Eco-social conflicts in sacrifice zones*. It maps the social and industrial history of Sant Adrià de Besòs, shining a light on residents' longstanding struggle for equitable living conditions while emphasising that their aspirations must be prioritised in the thermal power station's repurposing.

Memory of the Smoke is prepared by Manifesta 15 and many collaborators – individuals and associations – from Sant Adrià. Featuring archival and documentary materials, the presentation brings together diverse perspectives and proposes alternative models of co-authorship and coexistence. Throughout the biennial, the presentation is brought to life by a series of special programmes, which cater to local communities and the broader public.

Notes for the editors:

Manifesta 15 Barcelona Metropolitana 2024 is co-initiated by the Municipality of Barcelona and the International Foundation Manifesta. Additional public partners are the Barcelona Provincial Council, the Government of Catalonia and the Ministry of Culture and Sport of Spain.

Tickets:

Manifesta 15 will have a all-inclusive ticket price of €15, valid for the entire duration of the biennial at the three leading venues: Casa Gomis, the Monastery of Sant Cugat, and the Three Chimneys. Admission to all other venues will be free. Tickets are currently on sale on the Manifesta 15 website.

Press Kit:

Click on **this link**.

Press Release:

5th of September 2024

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Complete list of participants

[Annexe 2](#)

Manifesta 15 venues

[Annexe 3](#)

Manifesta 15 + programme

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Manifesta 15 Facts and Figures

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Press kit

Click this link or access the press kit through the following QR code:



About Manifesta 15:

<https://manifesta15.org/about-manifesta>

Manifesta 15 Barcelona Metropolitana:

8th of September – 24th of November 2024

Next Manifesta Host Region:

Manifesta 16 Ruhr Area 2026

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