

MANIFESTA15
Barcelona
Metropolitana
2024

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Press release

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27th of
November 2024

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Manifesta 15 Barcelona Metropolitana closes its doors after 12 weeks in 12 cities, proving that a local audience is willing to travel outside their own cities for culture.

Manifesta 15 presented a 78-day programme to Barcelona and its metropolitan region and closed its doors on Sunday the 24th of November 2024.

Manifesta 15 Barcelona Metropolitana has calculated 291,336 visits at the closing of the 16 venues on Sunday the 24th of November 2024.*

A Call to Action for eco-social transformation, the decentralised edition had the largest geographical scope in the biennial's history, unfolding across 16 remarkable venues, proving that an alternative cultural ecosystem would work for Catalan visitors. The 15th edition of the European Nomadic Biennial touched upon global issues and concerns such as growth and degrowth, the custody of the environment, healing and repairing, polarisation and misinformation. The programme presented by the Artistic Team of Manifesta 15 was led by Manifesta 15's Director Hedwig Fijen, Creative Mediators Sergio Pardo and Filipa Oliveira and 11 Artistic Representatives and was strengthened by the research of an interdisciplinary group of individuals ranging from academics, teachers, ecologists and more. This remarkable edition developed a decentralised and collaborative approach to knowledge production and cultural programming, bringing together,

amongst others, four newly commissioned archives which illuminated the region's nuanced past and offered historical insights into some of today's most pressing challenges.

The biennial programme, divided into three clusters and presenting the multidisciplinary work of over 90 participants, encouraged inhabitants of the region to travel to different cities and to move beyond their own mental boundaries to find a new interconnect-edness in their urban environment.

Manifesta 15 succeeded in moving beyond the traditional confines of a contemporary art biennial, investigating how artistic activism and citizen involvement can engage with a large and diverse audience and become instrumental for eco-social transformations. This was showcased in participatory projects created by amongst other participants such as Embassy of the North Sea, Lara Schnitger and Binta Diaw. Large scale urban projects, such as the Manifesta 15 Bicietada, welcomed over 700 people to cycle between the two flanking rivers of Barcelona, opening the industrial port and creating a renewed feeling of connection of inhabitants with their city's natural boundaries. This edition therefore acted more as a provocation or invitation for people to step out of their urban comfort zone and to acknowledge their proximity to, and the power of, culture as a catalyst for change. It encouraged people to delve into their different (untold) histories and to critically reflect upon the futures of their cities and metropolitan region.

* These numbers do not include visits of the 12 major artworks and installations in public space across the metropolitan region. The average venues visited per visitor is currently being analysed to be published in the Manifesta 15 Public Survey at the beginning of 2025.

The creation of Focus Weeks in each participating municipality and the Manifesta 15 + programme further celebrated the cultural density of the region. The Manifesta 15 + programme presented the work of more than 300 participants, in more than 33 exhibitions and 95 events and welcomed more than 33,195 visits.

The biennial concluded with an investigatory debate which addressed what the possible futures would hold for some of Manifesta 15 key sites: the modernist villa in El Prat entitled Casa Gomis, the Manifesta 15 headquarters, the former Gustavo Gili publishing house in Eixample, and the iconic Three Chimneys of Sant Adrià de Besòs. 45 key decision makers and cultural producers voiced their envisioned futures for these sites and the main conclusions have been published [**See Annexe 2**].

Manifesta 15 proved that the average visitor (not the traditional art world audience) was willing to leave their city in order to explore the metropolitan region. It also proved that mediation was an important role to mobilise a broad audience, welcoming 16,000 participants to its programmes.

Manifesta 15 would like to thank all its participants, partners and stakeholders for their dedication to the project. Thank you to the 12 participating municipalities and the Artistic Representatives for their patience, flexibility and open-mindedness in working with us for one of the biggest cultural events ever presented across the region. A special thank you goes to the Manifesta 15 team members and the Creative Mediators for their tireless work and resonating spirit to bring this project to so many people.

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.

Press Kit:

Click on **this link**.

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[Annexe 1](#)

Manifesta 15 Barcelona Metropolitana in short

[Annexe 2](#)

Manifesta 15 Final Debate. Imagining the future: What's next?

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

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