

PATHWAYS AND THRESHOLDS IN THE STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR



2024-2025
ARTIST RESIDENCY



MZORA
CAR/VANE
قلعة مزورة



Funded by
the European Union



The artist residency Pathways and Thresholds in the Strait of Gibraltar aims to explore the natural, cultural and intangible heritage of the Strait of Gibraltar bioregion*.

The Strait of Gibraltar, with its natural boundaries, political frontiers, pathways, thresholds, and gateways, is the channel of water that connects the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, between the African and European continents. It is a vital thoroughfare for marine life, maritime trade and travel. The Strait is also a threshold, a symbolic gateway between two continents and two seas.

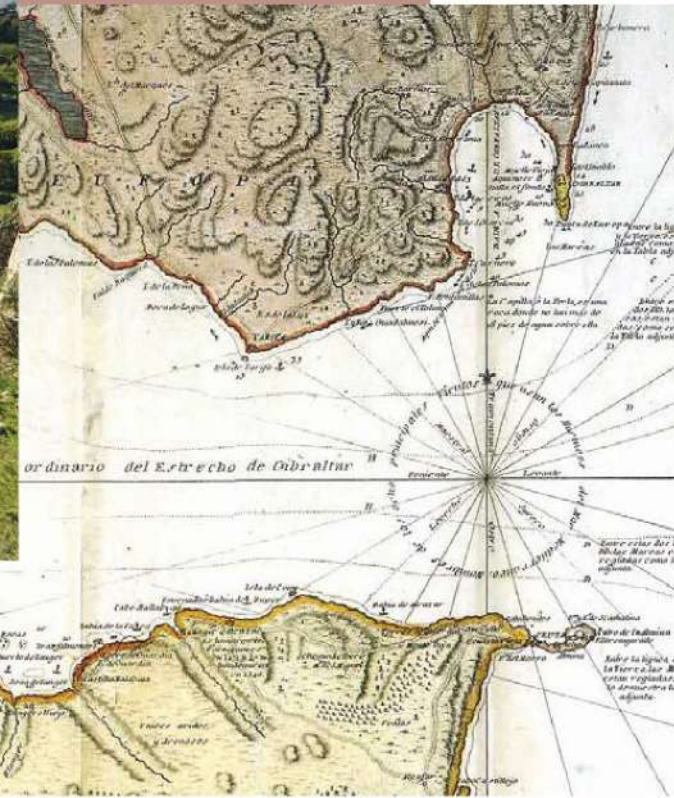
As a bioregion, the Strait of Gibraltar area encompasses not only the waterway itself but also the surrounding land areas and coastal zones of southern Spain, northern Morocco, and the British overseas territory of Gibraltar. This residency will take place on the Iberian peninsula side of the Strait*, and will seek to explore the natural history of the area; exploring its ecosystems and watersheds. Engaging with questions about pathways and borders between nation states, we will explore the issue from the perspectives of the natural world.

*A residency in south side of the Strait is planned for 2025-2026.

EXPLORING BIOREGIONAL ECOLOGICAL IDENTITY



GESTURING TOWARD A CULTURE OF BIOREGIONS



*Bioregions are defined around the geological, climatic and ecological processes that occur within them. Human bioregions are where cultural life is well adapted to the place, where the integration of nature and culture is well adapted to the place, where the integration of nature and culture is still alive in the communities who live there. Bioregions are living, self organising ecosystems.

FABULATE/IDEATE/CURATE ARTISTIC PROJECTS

“While it can be argued that bioregional principles have been the norm for most of human history, contemporary bioregionalism emerged in the mid-1970s as a response to a growing recognition of the extent to which modern industrialization and consumerism contribute to ecological degradation, social alienation, and reduced levels of self-fulfillment. Bioregionalism can be briefly defined as a social movement which seeks to recover a sense of place and a sense of community by revitalizing ecologically sustainable and culturally diverse societies in the context of their local geographical areas or bioregions.”

Richard Evanoff (2017) *Bioregionalism: A Brief Introduction and Overview*.



Challenging ourselves to look beyond anthropocentric values, we will invite artists to explore ecological thinking to broaden the concept of personal/cultural/political identity to a bioregional ecological identity.

Sessions guided by local ornithologists, geologists and conservationists to learn about local flora, fauna, migration movements of birds, marine species, tectonic plates and the human history of the area, will invite artists to fabricate/ideate/curate artistic projects that foster collaborations according to regional biogeographical patterns.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

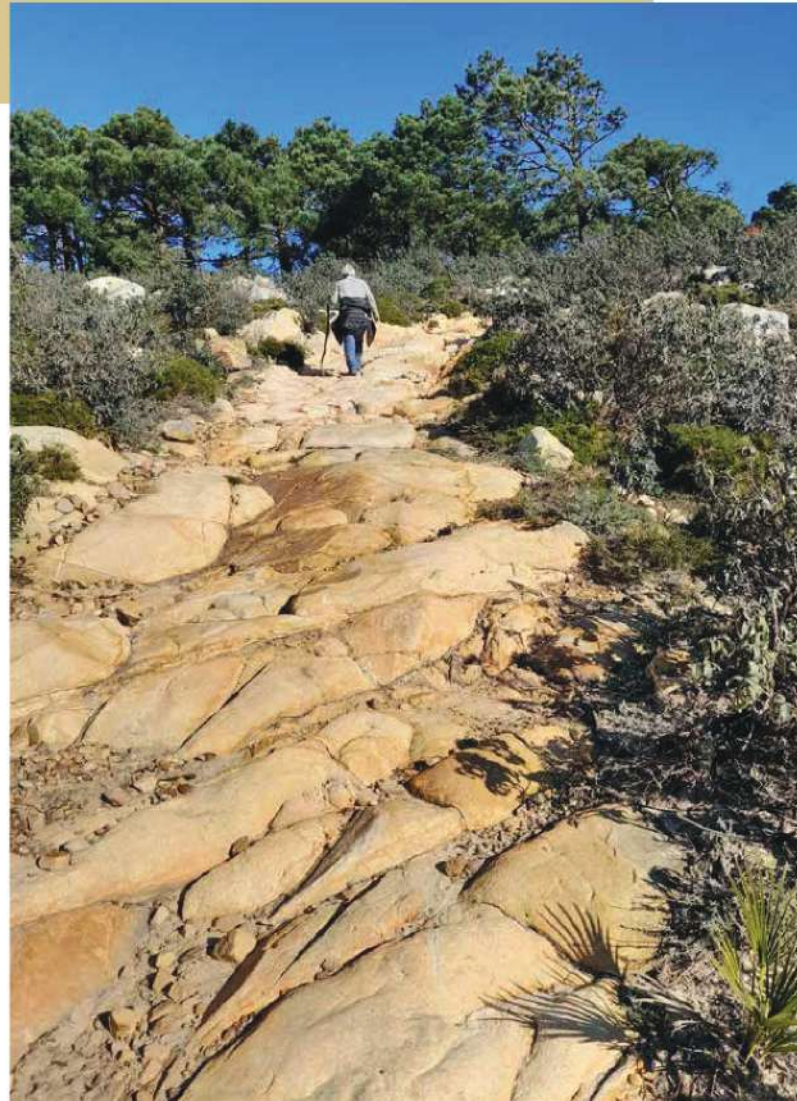
La Espiral Collective, has been working for over a decade with the promotion of cross-cultural understanding, generating mutual knowledge and cooperation through social imagination.

LA ESPIRAL COLLECTIVE CONTEMPORARY ART AND CULTURE

Since 2009, a series of transcultural meetings of artists have been held annually in Northern Morocco and in Spain (primarily in Morocco; M'zora, Larache, Tetuan and Spain; Valencia) as well as curating exhibitions in France and in Belgium. Artists have been exploring the reality and implications of migration between the African and European continent across the Strait of Gibraltar, promoting social integration, incorporating debates and workshops with school children and youth to facilitate accessibility and exchange, as well as bringing socially engaged art to grassroots communities, often created in situ.

As a continuation of this work, La Espiral proposes these artist residencies, reorienting our gaze towards local ecosystems and their historical and eco-mythological narratives in order to foster collaborations on a bioregional scale in Strait of Gibraltar, expanding and building on our current body of work.

By paying attention to our natural environment, our traditional knowledge and resources, we may begin to develop new ways of relating to our neighbours and understand our inevitable interconnections.



COORDINATION

La Espiral Collective, ACC.

FUNDING

Culture Moves Europe / Goethe Institute.
(further grant applications are in process)

RESIDENT ARTISTS

4 artists of all disciplines, curators or researchers
from a Eu member state.

DATES

4 - November / 4 - December - 2024

TIMELINE

March - June - 2024

Administrative preparations

10 April OPEN CALL is open

1st May Application deadline

20th May selection of artists

July - October - 2024

2 online preparation meetings with selected artists,

4 - November / 4 - December - 2024

On site residency

January 2025

online meeting for project assessment

WHAT WE PROVIDE

The residency offers accommodation, local transport, programm sessions, between 350€- 700€ for travel expenses and 750€ for any other expenses for the month of the residency.

Support will be given to selected artists in applying for further grants to supplement artist fees and production expenses.

HOSTING TEAM

Resident artists will be accompanied by mentors who will facilitate contact with local actors and the context of the residency.



Karmit EvenZur, artist resident in Vejer de la Frontera (Cádiz) whose practice revolves around the dynamic interactions between humans and the non-human world. Karmit has ample experience in managing artist residencies, mentoring artists and facilitating groups, offering solid support in each of these areas.



Alberto López Baena, visual artist based in Vejer de la Frontera (Cádiz). He carries out research and artistic creation projects on the relationship between human beings and the biological and cultural systems of the territory they inhabit. His most recent work includes "El Jardín Invasor", a project that analyses and questions concepts such as the local and the foreign through botany.

The residency will also include additional artists who will join the residency at different times.

PROGRAM'S OBJECTIVES

1. Foster a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness between humans, nature, and culture within the Strait of Gibraltar bioregion.
2. Provide a platform for innovative thinking to engage with questions of regeneration, cultural adaptation, and alternative societal organization based on regional biogeographical patterns.
3. Inspire new perspectives and actions towards environmental stewardship and intercultural understanding.
4. Develop work reflecting the above exploration of ecological thinking and bioregional identity.

SELECTION PROCESS

1. The residency open call will be open for applications to artists from all disciplines, curators and researchers from a Eu member state.
2. Applications will be reviewed competitively by a selection panel of Colectivo la Espiral artists and curators. Selection criteria for applicants will be based on:
 - Relevance of artistic practice, process and values to the proposed residency objectives. Artists must be able to demonstrate these through examples from their body of work up to date, whether they are emerging artists or more established ones.
 - Ability to ideate work in response to the social, environmental, historical, political contexts of the geographical area of the residency.
 - Ability and willingness to work collaboratively with the other participating artists, and /or with local players.

COMPOSICIÓN DEL JURADO

Selection jury 3 artists/curator members of La Espiral.

VÍAS Y UMBRALES EN EL ESTRECHO DE GIBRALTAR

2024-2025

"Regions are interpenetrating bodies
in semi-simultaneous spaces".

Max Cafard (1989) *The Surre(gion)alist Manifesto*.



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