

Art Odyssey 2026

A sailing adventure of contemporary art



Premise

The Mediterranean has always been, since ancient times, the great conduit connecting different cultures. Homer called it Igrà Kèlefta, a “liquid road” — an interwoven network of routes that for centuries linked peoples, markets, and civilizations.

Artistic forms and techniques also traveled along these routes; our artistic consciousness is shaped by the exchanges carried across the sea.

Today the Mediterranean is an enormous open-air museum, rich in memories of the past. But it is also a vast territory of contemporary artistic production — the art of our time, offering glimpses of what lies ahead for our world and our societies.

Art has always had this power: artists capture the essence of the present moment, often even anticipating future scenarios.

The coasts and islands of the Mediterranean are dotted with centers of artistic creation. In the past, these were great sanctuaries, temples dedicated to the gods, rising above the sea as bastions of civilization. Today, our world has built museums, foundations, galleries, artist studios, experimental platforms, theaters, and libraries — places dedicated to encounter and reflection, spaces of light, secular temples of our present.

The Art Odyssey Project

Art Odyssey was born after the round-the-world voyage undertaken by skippers Valerio Bardi and Lorenzo Cipriani in 2020–2021 aboard *Milanto*, a Nautor Swan 46 MKII.

This extraordinary planetary adventure has been recounted in the book *Il mare sospeso* (Ed. I Libri di Mompracem), and in theatrical productions.



The first two editions of Art Odyssey (2022–23) consisted of two Mediterranean voyages totaling around 5,000 nautical miles along the ancient routes of the peoples and civilizations that shaped Western culture.

From this experience came the book *Mare Nostrum* (Giunti), also translated into Spanish and German, and the theatrical performance *Mediterraneo*.

The 2025 edition of *Art Odyssey* was dedicated to the essences and culinary traditions of the Mediterranean in collaboration with *Acqua dell'Elba*.

The Fourth Edition: A Journey into the Contemporary Art of the Mediterranean



Milanto, the Nautor Swan 46 captained by Valerio Bardi and Lorenzo Cipriani, is now ready to embark on a new edition of *Art Odyssey*.

This new voyage — supported by **Fondazione Acqua dell'Elba** and other partners — aims to connect major contemporary art centers across the Mediterranean through **three**

navigation projects that will cover the entire basin.

- **2026:** Western Mediterranean and North Africa
- **2027:** Eastern Mediterranean — Aegean, Turkey, Middle East
- **2028:** Italy and Adriatic countries, concluding in Venice for the **62nd International Art Biennale**

The First Itinerary — 2026

From May to September 2026, *Milanto* will depart from the island of Elba and sail along the southern coasts of France and Spain, reach the Balearic Islands, then return towards Italy along the western coast of Sardinia, circumnavigate Sicily, and stop in Pantelleria, Malta, and Tunisia.

A key stop will be **Gibellina**, Italy's Capital of Contemporary Art 2026, where the project will be officially presented.

On the return voyage, the route will follow the eastern coast of Sardinia, enter the Strait of Bonifacio, sail up Corsica, and return to the home port at the Circolo della Vela in Marciana Marina, Elba.



Institutions and Art Sites to Be Involved

Tuscany & Liguria

- Fondazione Acqua dell'Elba – Elba
- Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci – Prato
- Biennale del Mare – Livorno
- Rete del Contemporaneo – Regione Toscana
- Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Villa Croce – Genoa

France

- Fondation Maeght – Saint-Paul de Vence

- Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain – Nice
- MoCo – Montpellier
- Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée – Marseille
- Triangle Astérides – Marseille
- Fondation Carmignac – Île de Porquerolles
- Street Art – La Colle-sur-Loup
- Villa Eileen Gray – Roquebrune-Cap-Martin
- Galleries of Saint-Tropez

Spain

- Museu d'Art Contemporani – Barcelona
- IVAM – Valencia
- Museo de Arte Contemporáneo – Alicante
- Art studios – Altea
- Contemporary art and cuisine – Denia
- MACE – Ibiza
- Es Baluard Museu d'Art Contemporani – Palma de Mallorca
- Fundación Juan March – Palma
- Ama Art – Palma

Corsica

- FRAC Corse

Sardinia

- MAN – Nuoro
- Museo Nicola – Nuoro
- Stazione dell'Arte / Maria Lai – Ulassai
- Giardino Sonoro / Giuseppe Sciola – San Sperate

- Fondazione Costantino Nivola – Orani
- Museo d'Arte Contemporanea – Calasetta
- MAB – Bari Sardo
- Spazio EXMA – Cagliari
- Fondazione Bartoli Felter – Cagliari
- Museo d'Arte Contemporanea – Cagliari

Sicily

- Fiumara d'Arte
- Pantelleria
- MACS – Catania
- Fondazione La Verde La Malfa – Parco dell'Arte – Catania
- MACC – Scicli
- Convitto delle Arti – Syracuse
- Farm Cultural Park – Favara
- Teatro di Andromeda – Sicani Mountains
- Giardino Incantato – Sciacca
- Rivolta Femminile – Trapani
- Stefano Bombardieri (Extinction Warning) – Selinunte
- Next Festival – Palermo
- Capital of Contemporary Art 2026 – Gibellina

Malta

- MICAS – Malta International Contemporary Art Space
- Valletta Contemporary
- Malta International Art Festival

Tunisia

- JAOU Biennial – Tunis

- Dream City – Tunis
- Selmi Feriani Gallery – Tunis
- Ibraaz – London

Preparing the Boat



A voyage of this scale requires substantial technical preparation, as well as route planning designed around the art sites to be visited.

We intend to share this preparation phase with project partners, and continue this collaborative storytelling throughout the expedition through various media and social-communication channels.

Media Partners

The project will be followed by media outlets focused on art, but also on travel, sailing, the sea, lifestyle, and culture, including:

Vogue, Vanity Fair, Art Tribune, Finestre sull'arte, Exibart, ArtStyle Magazine, Art Premium, Radio Monte Carlo – MC Marine, Radio Rai 3 (Mediterradio, Pagina 3), Radio Rai 2 (Caterpillar), and various nautical and travel platforms.

Detailed Art Odyssey 2026 Itinerary

Leg 1 – Marciana Marina → Nice

Elba – Corsica – Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat – Villefranche-sur-Mer – Nice

Distance: 136 NM | **Duration:** 7 days (May 1–8) | **Cost:** €900

Art sites: Villa & Jardins Ephrussi de Rothschild; Villa Arson (art school & residencies)

Leg 2 – Nice → Marseille

Nice – Saint-Paul de Vence – Antibes – Cannes – Saint-Tropez – Porquerolles – Cassis – Marseille
Distance: 130 NM | **Duration:** 10 days (May 10–20) | **Cost:** €1,800
Art sites: Fondation Maeght; Fondation Carmignac

Leg 3 – Marseille → Barcelona

Marseille – Aix-en-Provence – Arles – Camargue – Montpellier – Narbonne – Cadaqués – Barcelona
Distance: 200 NM | **Duration:** 10 days (May 22–31) | **Cost:** €1,800
Art sites: Mucem; MoCo

Leg 4 – Barcelona → Valencia → Ibiza

Barcelona – Columbretes Islands – Valencia – Denia – Ibiza
Distance: 220 NM | **Duration:** 7 days (June 2–9) | **Cost:** €1,300
Art sites: MACBA, IVAM, MACE

Leg 5 – Ibiza → Mallorca

Ibiza – Formentera – Mallorca
Distance: 120 NM | **Duration:** 10 days (June 11–21) | **Cost:** €1,800
Art sites: Es Baluard; Fundación Juan March; Ama Art

Leg 6 – Mallorca → Cagliari

Mallorca – Menorca – San Pietro Island – Cagliari
Distance: 300 NM | **Duration:** 10 days (June 23–July 3) | **Cost:** €1,800
Art sites: MuAAC; Cava Arte Contemporanea

Leg 7 – Cagliari → Trapani

Cagliari – Villasimius – Aegadian Islands – Gibellina – Trapani
Distance: 170 NM | **Duration:** 7 days (July 5–12) | **Cost:** €1,300
Art sites: Gibellina, Italian Capital of Contemporary Art 2026

Leg 8 – Trapani → Pantelleria

Trapani – Bizerte (Tunisia) – Pantelleria
Distance: 200 NM | **Duration:** 10 days (July 14–24) | **Cost:** €1,800
Art sites: various Tunisian institutions

Leg 9 – Pantelleria → Syracuse

Pantelleria – Malta – Capo Passero – Marzamemi – Syracuse
Distance: 200 NM | **Duration:** 10 days (July 26–August 5) | **Cost:** €1,800
Art sites: Spazju Kreattiv; MICAS

Leg 10 – Syracuse → Palermo

Syracuse – Taormina – Strait of Messina – Aeolian Islands – Palermo
Distance: 120 NM | **Duration:** 10 days (August 7–16) | **Cost:** €1,800
Art sites: Fiumara d'Arte; Fondazione Antonio Presti

Leg 11 – Palermo → Arbatax

Palermo – Bari Sardo – Arbatax
Distance: 190 NM | **Duration:** 7 days (August 18–25) | **Cost:** €1,300
Art sites: Fondazione Nivola; MAB Arts Center

Leg 12 – Arbatax → Olbia

Arbatax – Gulf of Orosei – Costa Smeralda – Olbia
Distance: 70 NM | **Duration:** 7 days (August 27–September 3) | **Cost:** €1,500
Art sites: Giardino Sonoro; Stazione dell'Arte – Maria Lai

Leg 13 – Olbia → Elba

Olbia – Maddalena Archipelago – Corsica – Elba
Distance: 110 NM | **Duration:** 7 days (September 5–12) | **Cost:** €1,200