

MANIFESTA 11

Who, what, where, when and why?

9 Question and Answers on Manifesta 11

1. Is Manifesta just an exhibition?

Manifesta is a biennial arts festival with a research mandate. Every two years, along with its exhibition project, it also launches a research programme investigating Europe's cultural landscape. Based on Europe's history, continuously developing identity and urban conditions, Manifesta examines the special aspects of a regional cultural context – as it is with 2016 Zurich.

2. Who selects the host cities of Manifesta?

European cities may apply to host Manifesta. The board of the Manifesta Foundation in Amsterdam then draws up a shortlist from the bids received. The bid ultimately decides which city is chosen as host by the board.

3. Why was Zurich selected as host of Manifesta 11?

Zurich is one of the most economically and technologically advanced cities in the world. This situation offers Manifesta 11 the opportunity to investigate globally relevant topics in the context of an urban society and its environment.

4. What role did Zurich's history as a centre of art play?

Zurich continues to prove its great potential as a centre of art with its rich culture of discourse. The city that gave birth to Dada, the centre of «Neues Bauen», where «die Gute Form» originated, the birthplace of Swiss graphic design and the home of the Concrete Artists Max Bill and Richard Paul Lohse, wishes to trigger a new art-historic impulse by hosting Manifesta 11. The Manifesta in Zurich 2016 aims to complement the festivities surrounding the centenary of the Dada with a contemporary, international and visionary dimension.

5. Who selected the curator and what role does he play?

For each edition of Manifesta, a specially established committee comprising representatives of the host city and the Manifesta Foundation selects the curator. Based on an initial discussion, three candidates are invited to explore the city and make a very precise proposal for the concept of Manifesta 11 to the selection committee. Christian Jankowski is the first artist to be named sole curator of a Manifesta.

6. Who is Manifesta aimed at?

Manifesta aims to address diverse target groups: in addition to the people of the region and everyone whose profession is connected to the arts, the main target group is culturally interested tourists. Manifesta's high standards of mediation and comprehensive supporting programme also guarantee a dialogue with young people who are interested in art. The «Parallel Events», which accompany each edition, invite established art and culture platforms to the city and region to take part in a joint framework programme.

7. How is Manifesta 11 organised?

The aforementioned parties – the Manifesta Foundation and the City of Zurich – have founded a new private foundation for Manifesta 11, entitled Stiftung Manifesta 11 Zurich, which represents international and local patrons of the arts and which is responsible for the legal and practical realisation of the concept.

8. How is Manifesta 11 funded?

Manifesta 11 is being realised in co-operation with the City of Zurich and the Manifesta Foundation in Amsterdam. As with each edition of Manifesta, these parties support the city and surrounding region both logistically and financially. Furthermore, as with each edition of Manifesta, the respective host, in this case the City of Zurich, is responsible for the basic funding and drumming up support from public and private sponsors. The Manifesta Foundation is responsible for international non-profit sponsoring and the generation of additional funding.

9. How politically independent is Manifesta?

Manifesta is independent of political parties and commercial enterprises. It is a private, non-commercial organisation with a foundation permanently located in Amsterdam but a consistently nomadic orientation, with all the changes and developments that entails. The board of the Manifesta Foundation pursues the principle of «Code Cultural Governance» as formulated by the Culture Ministry of the Netherlands in order to ensure commensurability and transparency of its projects.