

*Public announcement of a comparative selection procedure involving assessment of CVs and cultural projects and an interview, leading to the appointment of Artistic Director for the MACRO museum project from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022.*

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The Azienda Speciale Palaexpo, an agency operating on behalf of Roma Capitale, intends to proceed with the selection, through a comparative process, of the Artistic and Curating Director of the MACRO museum located at no. 138 Via Nizza, Rome.

## INTRODUCTION

By resolution no. 126/2016 of the City Council, the Azienda Speciale Palaexpo is taking responsibility for the management and cultural programming of the MACRO museum in Via Nizza and of the Mattatoio (Pavilions 9a, 9b and Pelanda), in addition to the management and cultural programming of the Palazzo delle Esposizioni.

The MACRO in Via Nizza is in the Salario-Nomentano district of Rome and occupies part of the complex that was previously used by the Peroni brewery for its production activities, until 1971. The building was designed by Gustavo Giovannoni and is one of the city's rare examples of industrial archaeology. When the Brewery's activities ended in 1974 the company developed a renovation plan together with Rome city council, including the transfer of part of the brewery to the City Council in 1982, to be used to supply public services in the district.

Following the restoration work on the complex, carried out between 1995 and 1999, the exhibition surface areas and storage areas were revealed to be completely inadequate. An architectural competition was launched in 2000 to meet not only these requirements but also the need to redefine the image and functioning of the entire complex: it was to provide new spaces in response to the heterogeneous nature of contemporary artistic production, within a system of relationships and connections with the existing spaces, as well as with the surrounding urban spaces.

The winner of the competition, French architect Odile Decq, created a dynamic system of structures and multiple connections for the museum. The large spaces such as the exhibition rooms (occupying an overall surface area of 4350 sq m), the foyer, the auditorium and the terrace (or panoramic garden) are connected by stairways, lifts, galleries and passageways that, in addition to offering peripheral perspectives and sequential views, offer visitors a dynamic, attractive, and continually fresh and varying experience of the museum's architecture. The total surface area is about 14,000 square metres.

MACRO – the Rome Museum of Contemporary Art – has succeeded in creating a specific and autonomous national identity for itself over time, within the cultural situation in Rome, with significant openings also onto the international scene. Until 2017, MACRO was part of the City Museum system under the Rome Department for Cultural Heritage; in 2018, the museum management was assigned to Azienda Speciale Palaexpo, an agency operating on behalf of Roma Capitale, the Office for Cultural Development.

MACRO is considered a landmark for public contemporary art in Rome, to whom operators in the sector, as well as the general public, turn to propose their ideas for exhibitions. MACRO is a centre for contemporary art that intends to become increasingly multipurpose while preserving its own city identity and reinforcing its involvement and relations with the community in all its artistic, cultural and intellectual sectors.

Since 2018, MACRO has been part of the emerging Centre for Contemporary Cultures – promoted by the Office for Cultural Development of the city of Rome – helping, along with the other institutions in Rome and in Italy generally, to reposition Rome as a capital of contemporary cultural life.

With the experimental MACRO Asilo project, the MACRO museum has shown that it can create a dimension within its own spaces that is open to proposals from artists, curators and researchers from the different disciplines, as well as promoting a dialogue with the city that allows everyone to join in and is free of charge and accessible to all.

It involves a project proposal that enhances the function of the public museum: a radical and courageous proposal that puts the creation of participatory processes at the centre of its mission and its strategy, establishing true communities for investigation and learning.

In terms of the public response, inspired by the MACRO Asilo project, MACRO has succeeded in involving more extensive layers of the population, whose relations with the museum have traditionally been distant, and in offering cultural and social messages in a new way, imparting a dynamism to its function as a public institution and opening up new possibilities for interpretation of the cultural heritage, for experimentation and research, and for creating individual and collective experiences.

The Azienda Speciale Palaexpo intends to support, revive and expand the project for an open, diverse MACRO, a place that can offer a varied and accessible cultural programme as well as forms of research and experimentation with artistic languages and with ways of exploiting culture in contemporary society.

## **1. The appointment**

The appointment is for the role of Artistic Director, responsible for the curating project for the MACRO museum.

The Artistic Director is responsible for curating the cultural programme of the MACRO in close collaboration with the company's programming committee and consistently with the guidelines approved by the Board of Directors.

The successful candidate will be offered a professional contract lasting 36 months, from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022.

Information about the remuneration will be provided during the interview.

## **2. Candidate specifications**

### **2.1 General specifications:**

## Candidates

- a.** should be over 18 years of age;
- b.** should be in full possession of civil and political rights;
- c.** should have no criminal record, including where final judgement has not been passed in the case of crimes listed under Item 1 of Title II of Book II of the Italian Criminal Code;
- d.** should not have been dismissed or discharged from employment with public corporations for persistent poor performance, and should not have been dismissed following a disciplinary procedure for poor performance or for having obtained the position through supplying false documents or by fraudulent means;
- e.** should have excellent command of the Italian language and excellent knowledge of the English language;
- f.** should have a degree (a Masters or specialist degree, or an undergraduate degree under the old university system) or an equivalent or similar qualification obtained in Italy or abroad.

### 2.2 Professional specifications:

- a.** 10 years of proven experience in the sector of curating contemporary art exhibitions and/or organizing cultural activities; of which:
- b.** 3 years of proven experience as director or curator responsible for the cultural activities of museums, foundations and other institutions or organizations in the area of cultural and artistic programming for contemporary art.

### 2.3 Other qualifications that would be an advantage:

- a.** Experience and achievements in the field of curating cultural activities in Italy and/or abroad;
- b.** Proven collaboration activities with curators, artists or other operators in the sector at a national and international level;
- c.** Proven multidisciplinary abilities in the artistic field

## 3. Applications

The procedure consists of:

- a.** an application to be received no later than **22 July 2019** by email to: [ufficio.personale@palaexpo.it](mailto:ufficio.personale@palaexpo.it) complete with: **i)** a self-certification of the required qualifications signed by the candidate; **ii)** a *curriculum vitae* including authorization of the processing of the candidate's personal data; **iii)** a motivation letter and **iv)** a copy of a valid identity document;
- b.** presentation of a proposal for the three-year cultural project for MACRO, maximum 10 pages, as part of a medium-term vision, in harmony with the objectives of the Azienda Speciale Palaexpo as set out in the guidelines attached to this announcement, with particular reference to the following topics:

- to develop, expand and provide continuity to the guidelines based on openness, diversity, discourse and dialogue, and creation of community;
- to promote universal accessibility;
- to foster the active role of the public in developing activities;
- to provide space for artistic research and experimentation including in an interdisciplinary way;
- to enhance the MACRO collections through collaborative relationships with the Rome Department of Cultural Heritage that owns it;
- to promote and manage collaboration with cultural and educational institutions, artistic communities and foreign Academies in Rome;
- to promote and manage collaborations with Italian and foreign institutions;
- to be ready to launch an operational programme from 1 February 2020.

Candidates may also make a joint application to the selection procedure together with other persons. In this case:

- each candidate should possess and declare that they meet the specifications listed in points 2.1 - 2.2 - 2.3 above;
- each candidate should declare that they meet the requirements stated in point 3.a above;
- the project described in point 3.b above should be one single project and should comply with the indicated limits;
- a separate independent professional contract will be drawn up for each participant;
- the remuneration of the Director will remain unchanged and will be divided between the participants on a pro rata basis.

The budget estimate allocated to MACRO, indicated for reference as the basis for planning the cultural project in order to enable comparison of all the candidates is 400,000 euros per annum.

Applications that arrive after the deadline indicated above or that do not conform to the instructions provided above will not be considered.

#### **4. Selection procedure**

Candidates will be selected based on assessment of their qualifications, experience and the interview.

The assessment will take place in three phases:

- the first phase involves verification by the Azienda Speciale Palaexpo that each candidate meets the general specifications stated in point 2.1.;
- the second phase is restricted to those candidates who have successfully progressed from the first phase, and involves the assessment by a Commission specifically set up for the

purpose and which may include external members, of the specifications set out in points 2.2 and 2.3, and of the cultural project submitted by each candidate;

- the third phase, restricted to those candidates who have successfully progressed from the previous two phases, consists of an interview.

**This procedure is carried out solely in order to gather applications from suitable candidates interested in the position, and it does not in any way represent a competition, nor does it entail any right to a contract with the Azienda Speciale Palaexpo.**

In participating in this application procedure, candidates declare in accordance with art. 13 and subsequent paragraphs of the EU GDPR 2019/679, that they authorize the processing of their data.