Organismo 2027 Open Call

Organismo | Art in Applied Critical Ecologies is an experimental applied research program developed by **TBA21–Academy** and **Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza**. It weaves together **situated investigation, critical theory**, and **speculative practices** through a series of **applied case studies** developed in alliance with **cultural, academic**, and **civic entities**. Organismo operates on the hypothesis that the work of artists guiding interdisciplinary projects can operate as a form of infrastructural activism, going beyond critical reflection to activate **tangible processes of social and ecological and reparation**.

To this end, Organismo proposes t**esting methodologies through entangled practices** and **configurations of actors** across governance frameworks, forms of knowledge, and communities in order to generate prototypes that can effectively intervene in real-world contexts.

Organismo 2027 launches **three** new **case studies** and a new edition of the **Critical Encounters** transversal study module. There are two ways to apply: candidates may apply for FULL enrollment to become a researcher joining one case study in addition to the Critical Encounters. Alternative CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS enrollment can be requested to take part exclusively in this module and will not be involved in the weekly sessions of any case study *** (see the Critical Encounters section for details).

To develop the cases, **three interdisciplinary working cells** will be formed by researchers selected through this international open call, one for each case study. Over the course of seven months, the selected researchers will engage in a **hybrid program** that combines **weekly online sessions** with **three in-person encounters**. Throughout the process, they will be joined by an expanded network of experts, local actors, and representatives of the affiliated entities who will contribute to the collective discussion and methodologies.

The objective of the working cells is to activate **situated research** and **collective creation** processes in order to **develop experimental prototypes** that respond to the specific challenges posed by each case study. This collaborative endeavor is designed not only to imagine alternative futures but also to enable action and achieve effective impact. By working with entities rooted in the territories at stake, the program lays the groundwork for the potential implementation of the proposals beyond the duration of the program's edition.

Organismo is rooted in the long-standing commitment of **TBA21–Academy**—the unorthodox research and advocacy arm of **TBA21**—to promote artistic experimentation and collective work as forces capable of catalyzing the systemic transformations needed to inhabit the planet otherwise. In partnership with **Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza,** Organismo assembles a transdisciplinary ecosystem of cultural agents, researchers, public bodies, and local communities to prototype infrastructural responses to the entangled urgencies of our time. The entities collaborating on the 2027 edition of Organismo are **Antikythera, BC3 Basque Centre for Climate Change, Caja Negra, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales - CSIC, Creative Intelligence Lab - Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC), Dirección General de Sostenibilidad y Control Ambiental del Ayuntamiento de Madrid, FECYT Fundación Española para la Ciencia y Tecnología, Hábitat, Energía y Arquitectura en Transición - HEAT-UPM, Parque de las Ciencias, Oficina Española de Cambio Climático OEEC - MITECO, RAICEX Red de Asociaciones de Investigadores y Científicos Españoles en el Exterior, and Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.**

01. Case studies

The case studies form the backbone of Organismo. They are conceived as gateways into situated forms of knowledge, bringing local contexts and communities together as essential elements for engaging with the complexities of current ecological challenges. Each case study addresses specific contexts and themes and is proposed in conversation with a network of various entities with the capacity to influence the issues at stake. By activating networks rooted in specific territories while also fostering remote forms of learning, the case studies ensure that the processes remain grounded yet open to broader exchanges.

The case studies proposed for Organismo 2027 edition are:

01 THERMAL FUTURES
Communal Blooms Amidst Climate Jeopardy

Beyond rising temperatures, heat encompasses cultural, political, social, and historical meanings that shape our understanding of the climate crisis. This case adopts a thermal studies approach to explore new forms of relationships, solidarities, communities, and collective responses to global warming.

Facilitated by
Parque de las Ciencias,
with the support of Junta de Andalucía, Diputación de Granada, Ayuntamiento de Granada, Universidad de Granada and Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)

In collaboration with
BC3 Basque Centre for Climate Change, Dirección General de Sostenibilidad y Control Ambiental del Ayuntamiento de Madrid, Hábitat, Energía y Arquitectura en Transición - HEAT-UPM, and Oficina Española de Cambio Climático OEEC - MITECO

Pulso
Kent Chan

02 RADICAL SOUNDNESS
Restorative Infrastructures for Long-life

Building on evidence that health is deeply shaped by the environments we inhabit, this case study explores approaches that transcend the healthcare realm, examining the potential of the arts and museums as public infrastructures that can contribute to well-being.

In collaboration with
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales - CSIC, Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza and TBA21 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary.

Pulso
Mayte Gómez Molina

03 UNIVERSAL BASIC AGENCY
Composite Relays for a Para-Society of Trillions

As artificial intelligence expands cognitive capacity, agency may become increasingly distributed across human–AI hybrid networks. This case study explores “Universal Basic Agency” as a framework for redefining, redistributing, and designing collective capacities to act, examining new social contracts, infrastructures, and forms of human–machine coordination.

Facilitated by
Antikythera

In collaboration with
Creative Intelligence Lab, Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC)

Pulso
Nicolay Boyadjiev

02. Working cells

The working cells are the core collaborative units of Organismo. One of the central motivations of the program is to experiment with alternative configurations of actors capable of overcoming the limitations of preconfigured design protocols. In this way, the working cells are conceived as the dynamic building assemblies of the program, enabling the adaptation to the specific needs and contexts of each case study and the collective formulation of their own agreements.

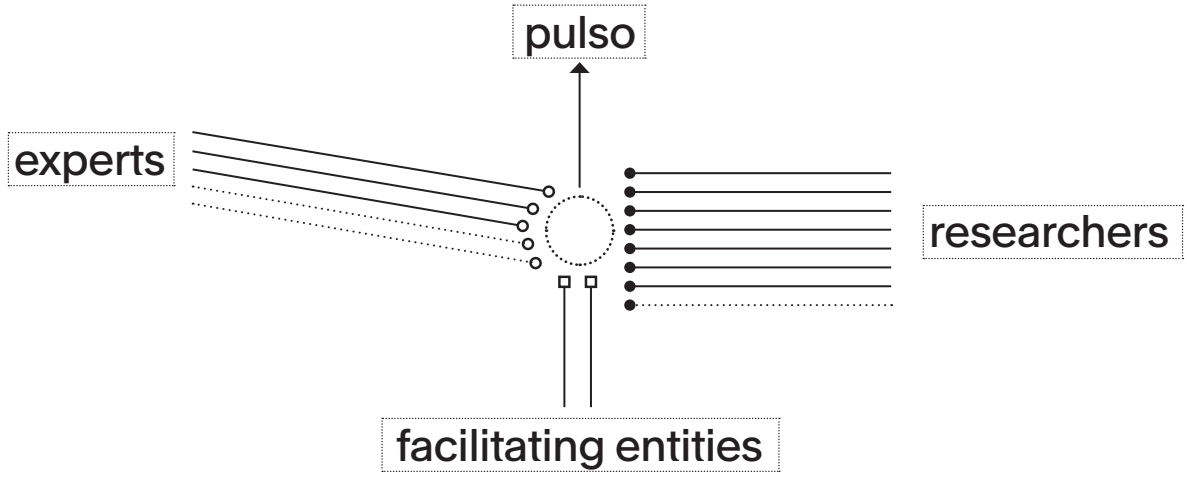
Each working cell begins with a shared initial structure, bringing together complementary roles and perspectives based on a proposed set of initial parameters. As the process progresses, each working cell will self-organize and autonomously evolve its structure, organizational dynamics, and methodological process in response to specific needs, available resources, and established agreements among the members of each case. A willingness to listen, adaptability, initiative, openness to the unexpected, and the ability to navigate uncertainty are essential qualities for anyone applying to the program.

The selection process will aim to ensure the most relevant and appropriate initial composition of actors, taking into account profile complementarity and the specific requirements of each case study.

Organismo embraces a model of collective authorship as a way to activate the inherent potential of collective processes to generate plural and complex responses. Each working cell will collaboratively devise **one prototype**. All members of the cell will be considered co-authors of the proposal, and any project conceived within the framework of the Organismo program will be subject to the **Creative Commons CC BY-NC 4.0 license.**

Each working cell is composed by:

- **Researchers:** Up to nine individuals selected through this international open call, who will take part in the research and prototyping processes.
- ***Pulso*:** The artistic accompaniment, setting the initial approach to the challenge posed by the case study and shaping its methodological framework, dynamics, and theoretical orientation
- **Facilitating and collaborating entities:** Institutions, groups, or organizations that propose, enable, or provide the conditions for the case study to unfold, as well as knowledge, expertise, and access to local networks.
- **Guest experts:** Selected voices on the basis of their knowledge or experience related to the themes explored, who can contribute with specific expertise to the process from different perspectives.
- **Case coordinator:** A TBA21 member assigned to each case study as the person responsible for coordinating, supporting, and articulating the connections and dependencies for the proper development of the process.



03. Pulsos and experts

The network of voices that Organismo brings together will participate with varying levels of involvement in the development of the case studies alongside the selected group of researchers. These collaborators do not assume the role of faculty or instructors, but rather act as peers who support the proper development of each proposal.


Alegría y Piñero


Alex Quicho


Benjamin Bratton


Bogna Konior


Chus Martínez

DISINTEGRATOR

Disintegrator


Fernando Cucchietti


Jiat-Hwee Chang


Kent Chan

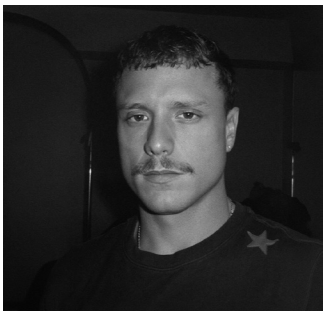

Lola Puga


Mayte Gómez Molina


Nicolay Boyadjiev


Nicole L'Huillier


Pol Esteve

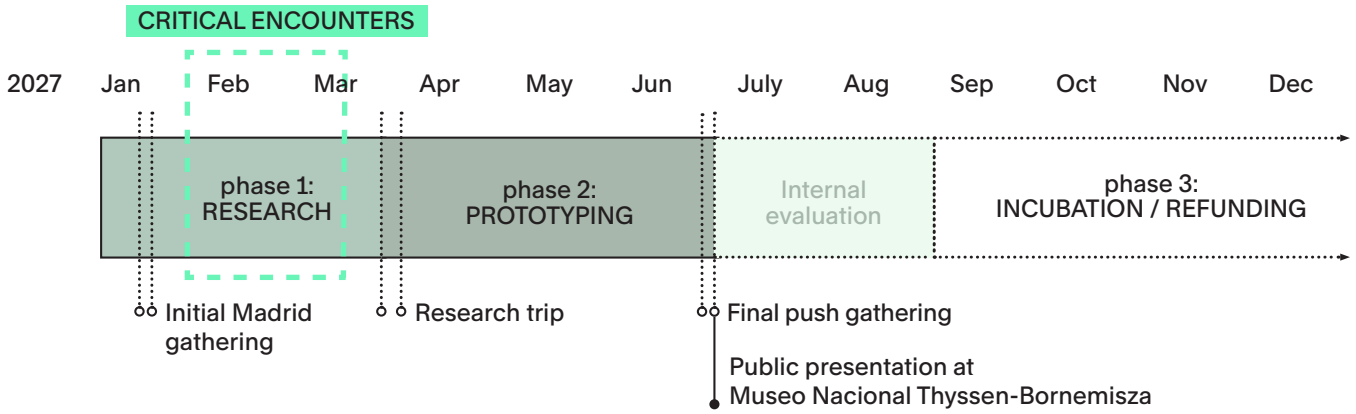

Riccardo Petrini


Sonia Bernac

04. Phases and calendar

Organismo program unfolds in **two primary phases**, running from January to July 2027, with an **optional third phase** that will be activated depending on the progress and needs of each proposal from September 2027 onwards. The program follows a non-exclusive commitment model, so that it is accesible regardless of the particular circumstances of each applicant.

The commitment is estimated at approximately **five hours per week**, except for the three gatherings of in-person intensive work, during which full-time commitment is expected. The regular week will be distributed into two online sessions of 1.5 hours each—scheduled for **Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 18:00 to 19:30 CET** unless otherwise agreed among all parties—in addition to an estimated **two hours of autonomous working time.**



Phase 1: Research
(January–March 2027)

This phase is dedicated to immersion in the overarching framework of Organismo, diving into the methodological approach and providing an in-depth understanding of the initial parameters and agreements, operational protocols, and expectations. It equally serves to lay the foundation for the specific methodological dynamics of each case study and the construction of each research body. It is structured into:

Initial Madrid gathering

A three-day in-person kick-off workshop in Madrid, hosted at Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza on January 27, 28, and 29, 2027. This gathering serves as the foundational moment of Organismo 2027, bringing together most of the actors forming each case study to establish a shared framework, align expectations, and initiate the collaborative dynamics.

Critical Encounters - transversal study module

This module consists of five online sessions designed to establish the overarching conceptual framework of Organismo 2027. Each session brings together the artistic accompaniments or *pulsos* leading the case studies in dialogue with guest experts. These sessions are transversal to all researchers across all case studies, together with an expanded audience who join this module exclusively through a specific open call.

Case study sessions

Each case study will follow its own dedicated program of two weekly online sessions from the beginning of the program, starting in January 2027. In this phase, case-study-dedicated sessions occur once weekly, in addition to the Critical Encounter sessions.

These online sessions are dedicated to immersing into the specific challenges of each case and to introducing the methodology, tools, and approaches proposed by each *pulso*. The purpose is to foster collaborative research, discussion, and the development of working materials that will later feed the prototyping phase. They will combine guidance from the *pulso*, contributions from guest experts, and inputs from representatives of the facilitating and collaborating entities.

04. Phases and calendar

Phase 2: Prototyping
(March–July 2027)

During this phase, each working cell will advance its research toward prototyping responses to the challenges posed by its case study. The working cells enter a stage of collective decision-making, in accordance with the objectives and agreements established among all members. Each case study will produce a single collective proposal, resulting from the collaborative work of all the actors involved. The approach, operative structure, and methodology for each case study will be set in motion by the *pulso* and further developed through collective consensus. In addition, Organismo will introduce cross-case study dynamics aimed at exploring the interrelations between the various developments. In addition to the weekly online meetings, this phase includes three main blocks:

Research trip

The prototyping phase begins with a research trip to a location associated with the case study, together with the *pulso* and/or invited actors whose practice is relevant to contextualising and informing the case study's approaches. The research trip will last between five and seven days. Participation is mandatory. Each trip will follow an agenda designed according to the particular needs of the case study and may include visits to relevant sites, lectures, and encounters with local agents and experts.

Case study sessions

During the prototyping phase, the working cell operates as a design unit mobilized by the *pulso*. The case study sessions of this second phase will combine contributions from guest experts and representatives of the facilitating and collaborating entities, in the form of inputs and feedback, to ensure that the responses shaped by the group align with the questions and aspirations of the entities, as well as with the contextual viability, given the nature of the collaboration. During this phase, both weekly sessions are dedicated to group work, in addition to at least two hours of autonomous work.

Final push gathering and public presentation

Three days of in-person work in Madrid that will bring together all researchers to consolidate the prototype and prepare the public presentation of their collective proposals. This public presentation marks the culmination of the initial two phases of the program, providing an opportunity to share the proposals with a broader audience and representatives of cultural, scientific, and civic entities. Organismo will provide a shared workspace for these working days, prior to the public presentation, which will take place at the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza.

The participation in all the above-mentioned sessions and activities is compulsory. Travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs for the initial and final push gatherings at Madrid, as well as for the research trip, must be covered by each researcher. Further details can be accessed in the Terms and Conditions document.

Online repository and publication

The collectively developed research and proposals by the researchers across the different case studies will be compiled in digital repositories. These online sites will be publicly accessible on the official program website and will be disseminated through Organismo's associated communication channels and media.

Phase 3: Incubation and refinancing
(September 2027 onwards)

This is an optional stage that will be activated only for proposals that prove viable or pertinent and transformative potential. The prototypes presented in July will be internally evaluated jointly with the entities involved in each case study in order to determine their potential for further development. Proposals selected for implementation will receive additional financial support depending on the specific needs and requirements of each project. New agreements will be established among all parties and authors, specifying the levels of involvement and required commitments, to be agreed upon at the beginning of this phase. The implementation timeline will depend on the particular conditions of each project and partnerships supporting it, but will generally unfold from autumn 2027 onward. Researchers who continue into Phase 3 will not be required to pay a new enrollment fee.

05. *Sustrato* fellowship

From the group of up to nine researchers of each case study, up to two will be awarded a *sustrato* fellowship. These fellows are exempt from participation fees and receive a fellowship, of a total of **1,950€** divided into three payments, to cover travel and accommodation expenses for the three in-person activities.

In addition to their commitment as researchers in the case study, they take on support roles within the group, assisting with internal coordination, documentation, communication, and ensuring continuity throughout the program. On the other hand, the *sustrato* fellows will together be committed to exploring different forms of evaluation of the practices Organismo aims to promote.

They are committed to one extra weekly meeting, which means two extra hours of estimated dedication time.

06. Critical Encounters

This module consists of five online sessions designed to establish the overarching conceptual framework of Organismo 2027. Each session brings together the artistic accompaniments or *pulsos* leading the case studies in dialogue with guest experts. These exchanges are aimed at fostering a shared theoretical substrate and meaningful conversation among all researchers in interaction with an expanded audience of candidates who apply specifically to this module. This way, the Critical Encounters constitute an open arena for discussing and problematizing these topics with a wider audience.

The Critical Encounters will occur weekly from February 2 to March 2, on **Tuesdays from 18:00 to 19:30 CET**. They are open to an expanded audience, meaning that **applications are open to join this series of five sessions exclusively**. Researchers of the case study working cells are also part of the audience, committed to attending every session. In total, up to 80 people will constitute the Critical Encounters audience.

Session 1:	February 02: Marina Otero feat Godofredo Enes Pereira
Session 2:	February 09: Kent Chan feat Jiat-Hwee Chang
Session 3:	February 16: Nicolay Boyadjiev feat Disintegrator
Session 4:	February 23: Mayte Gómez Molina feat Nicole L'Huillier
Session 5:	March 02: Metahaven

Participation in the Critical Encounters module costs **190€**. To apply exclusively to this specific module, please fill out this form →

07. Commitment

Organismo is designed to follow a hybrid format throughout the program in order to remain compatible with researchers' other professional commitments and diverse personal circumstances. Given the collective feature of the initiative, participation in every proposed meeting is mandatory to avoid disrupting the collective creative process.

- The case study meetings may be scheduled at different times depending on the availability of the working cell members, provided that consensus is reached among the parties involved.
- The research trip to the specific case study site is proposed to last between five and seven days and to be held during March 2027, unless otherwise agreed upon, depending on the availability of the actors involved.
- The program requires an estimated weekly dedication of five hours, consisting of approximately three hours of online meetings and two additional hours of independent work. This estimate does not include the three in-person gatherings that require full-time dedication.
- The main working language of the program will be English, although Spanish will be essential for communication within the local context. Proficiency in Spanish will not be required, but it will be positively valued during the selection process.
- By applying to this open call, candidates fully accept the Terms and Conditions of Organismo 2027.

08. Enrollment

Organismo is a non-profit initiative, meaning that neither TBA21–Academy, Museo Nacional Thyssen Bornemisza, nor any of the collaborating entities receive any profit from the enrollment fees. All funds are directly reinvested into the program to support its activities and potential future extensions. Admission into the program requires full participation in all mandatory activities and proactive engagement in the collaborative work proposal.

FULL enrollment

Participation in Organismo under FULL enrollment entails full engagement with the program. Selected researchers will join one of the three case studies and actively take part in all components of the initiative—contributing to collective creation processes through weekly online sessions, the Critical Encounters transversal study module, the two on-site gatherings in Madrid, and the research trip to the case study location.

Participation in Organismo also provides continuous mentoring from the Organismo team, access to multiple avenues for publication and dissemination through the program and collaborators' platforms, in addition to the opportunity to activate Phase 3 to continue the development of the projects. Enrollment in Organismo 2027 is limited to a maximum of 24 researchers (between six and nine per case study), who will be officially accredited as Organismo Researchers within TBA21–Academy. This distinction acknowledges their active role as part of the Academy's wider ecosystem of artists, researchers, and practitioners engaged in applied critical ecologies.

The fee for FULL modality enrollment is **€550**.

This fee covers participation in all program activities, not covering travel and accommodation expenses for the two on-site gatherings in Madrid and the research trip, which must be covered by each researcher.

CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS enrollment

Organismo offers a reduced enrollment modality for those who may not have the availability to engage fully with the program or who prefer a more transversal engagement with its themes and contents, without joining a case study or taking part in the development of the prototypes.

Participants in this modality will have access only to the five sessions of the Critical Encounters module that takes place during the research phase (Feb–March), as well as the opportunity to receive continued guidance from the Organismo team and access to TBA21's publication and dissemination platforms.

This modality does not include participation in the in-person residencies nor assignment to a specific case study.

The fee for the CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS modality enrollment is **€190**.

09. How to apply

This program is aimed at people of full age from any background or disciplinary field, with experiences or interests related to the themes proposed by these case studies.

To apply, you must complete the online form no later than **November 15, 2026, at 23:59 CET**. It can be accessed through the APPLY button at

www.tba21.org/organismo → or through this form →

In the online form, you will need to upload a PDF document (of up to 10MB) with the replies to the following questions:

- Could you share some of the significant aspects of your life and intellectual trajectory? What are some of the experiences that have defined your way of thinking?)
- What forms of learning or experience would you like to gather from the program?
- What are your expectations for the program, and what do you hope to activate in your practice through this experience?
- Which case study would you like to join?
  Which case study would you choose as your second option?
- Please explain your motivation for selecting your preferred case study/ies, highlighting the elements that interest you most and how your prior work or studies relate to them.
- Which knowledge, skills, perspectives, ways of doing, and/or sensitivities will you bring to this working cell?
- Could you describe your experience working in a group setting? What tools and dynamics could you contribute to the group?
- What does collective authorship mean to you?

If applying for the *sustrato* fellowship, you will have to respond to the specific question associated with this aim:

- What tools or skills do you have to support, mediate, or facilitate the work of a group of diverse people?
- What does the term evaluate mean to you? Could you speculate on an indicator you would like to experiment with to evaluate the case study?
- Can you commit to the additional time required to complete this task?

Additionally, you may share a **presentation video** (up to 100 MB and up to two minutes) and/or a **dossier of selected work** up to five pages.

Apply to the Critical Encounters

To take part in the Organismo 2027 Critical Encounters edition, you only need to share the personal information requested through this form →

Selection will be made in order of application.

About Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza

Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza houses in the Palacio de Villahermosa one of the most important collections of paintings in the world, with a thousand works of art assembled over seven decades by the Thyssen-Bornemisza family. Since its opening to the public in 1992, MNTB has been fulfilling its mission to transmit knowledge, educate and socially integrate through its collection, an extensive program of exhibitions and the programming of a wide variety of activities. Its daily work is based on values such as excellence, sustainability, innovation, integrity, involvement, trust, teamwork and avant-garde spirit. It also emphasizes the dissemination of its collections with programs aimed at involving all kinds of audiences in a universal cultural project, based on the firm belief in the capacity of art to enrich people and to enhance creativity and critical thinking, improving their quality of life. MNTB, on the other hand, carries out extensive work in the field of sustainability. Both in its exhibitions and activities and in its internal management, it responds to the challenges of the climate emergency, firmly advancing in sustainability and social responsibility in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) included in the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

museothyssen.org →

About TBA21–Academy

TBA21 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary is a leading international art and advocacy foundation. Established in 2002 by philanthropist and art patron Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza, the foundation stewards the TBA21 Collection and its outreach activities, including exhibitions, public initiatives, and educational programs. TBA21 is based in Madrid, where it operates in partnership with the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, and maintains other major hubs of activity: in Venice, through its cultural center Ocean Space, and in Portland (Jamaica). All activity at TBA21 is collaborative, artist-driven above all, and rooted in the belief that art and culture can catalyze social and environmental transformation, ultimately contributing to a culture of peace.

TBA21–Academy is the unorthodox research and action arm of TBA21, fostering deeper relationships with the Earth's hydrosphere and its extended ecologies through the lens of art to activate new forms of care and collective action. For over a decade, it has functioned as an incubator for transdisciplinary inquiry and artistic production at the intersections of art, science, technology, and policy. Operating across Venice, Madrid, and global oceanic contexts, the Academy cultivates collective practices and long-term collaborations that connect citizen action, ecological advocacy, and experimental knowledge production to activate processes of ecological reparation. Among its key initiatives are: Ocean Space in Venice, The Current, Organismo, UNI, Ocean-Archive.org and Bauhaus of the Seas Sails.

tba21.org/academy →