

# Organismo

Art in Applied  
Critical Ecologies

## Independent Study Program Open call for applications

TBA21–Academy and Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza present Organismo | Art in Applied Critical Ecologies, an independent study program connecting research, theory, and speculation with specific cases of regenerative interventions that take place through different forms of alliance. The project began with the aim of exploring new methodologies and configurations of actors in processes of ecological transformation. Its foundational hypothesis is that the work of artists leading interdisciplinary projects have great potential to contribute to a cultural paradigm shift that results in new ways of inhabiting the planet that embrace complexity and are inclusive.

Organismo is based on the experiences of TBA21–Academy, Fundación TBA21's research center and incubator for collaborative inquiry, artistic production, and environmental advocacy, which has served for over a decade as a catalyst for new forms of knowledge arising from the relationship between art, science, public policy, and conservation. Based on this same approach, Organismo functions as a system of connections between art practices, interdisciplinary research, government bodies, and local communities to facilitate the co-development of plural and intersectional projects necessary to address the challenges and converging crises of today.

Experimentation with methodologies is inherent in the process of thinking and designing of Organismo. Thus, this year zero of the independent study program is conceived as a prototyping process during which we will test patterns, hypotheses, and organizational structures. To this end, Organismo proposes working from multidisciplinary, multiagent, multiscalar, and multispecies approaches as a way to activate our collective intelligence. Placing artistic practice as a driving force and building bridges between speculation and application, Organismo intends to mobilize cultural and political transformations by developing narratives and languages that would help us imagine other ecological orders.



THYSSEN-  
BORNEMISZA  
MUSEO NACIONAL

EVERY  
ONE'S  
MUSEUM

T ~ Thyssen-Bornemisza  
B Art Contemporary  
→ A Academy

## 01. RESEARCH LINES

The research lines of this pilot program respond to the work carried out at TBA21–Academy since its foundation in 2011. They are organized along the following lines:

- **Collective intelligence**
- **Convivial conservation**
- **The rights of more-than-human**
- **Liquid intelligence**
- **Ecologies of technologies**

## 02. CASE STUDIES

Organismo's study program is structured around applied cases, which for this year zero are:

- **United Nations Ocean Conference-Bauhaus of the Seas Sails**
- **Madrid, Barcelona and Nice**  
Facilitated by TBA21.
- **Suq Centeno**
- **Córdoba**  
Facilitated by Plata (in collaboration with Fundación Daniel y Nina Carasso).
- **Territorio Abadía Retuerta**
- **Sardón del Duero, Valladolid**  
Facilitated by Abadía Retuerta.
- **ARQVA**
- **Museo Nacional de Arqueología Subacuática, Cartagena, Murcia**  
Facilitated by the Spanish Ministry of Culture and Sports.
- **Altamira**
- **Museo Nacional y Centro de Investigación de Altamira, Santillana del Mar, Cantabria**  
Facilitated by the Spanish Ministry of Culture.
- **Immersive Narratives**
- **Virtual**  
Facilitated by TBA21.

Depending on location, geographic condition, theme, resources, and availability of the participants in each case study, these will be developed over different durations, through specific compositions of agents, and operational dynamics.

## 03. PARAMETERS, STRUCTURE AND TIMELINE

This year zero of Organismo's independent study program will take place between January and June 2024. It is designed as a hybrid format (both in-person and online) to be compatible with participants' other commitments, and it combines various types of sessions and meeting formats.

The program's structure involves:

- **Encounters that are part of Organismo's public program and are open to the general public. These will take place on Thursday evenings and will explore various formats. Participants of the independent study program will have access to audiovisual recordings from this program in case they cannot attend in person.**
- **Working sessions specifically intended for participants of the independent study program. These sessions will be conducted online on Friday evenings.**
- **Collective working sessions organized by case study groups on Saturdays, either in person or online, or as scheduled based on availability of the participants and other people involved.**

The schedule has three phases:

- **Phase 1: Case design**  
**January 2024**  
The design of the approach, the organizational structure, and the process of each case study are developed as the program's initial exercise. This will happen through multiple workshops, including one in-person meeting in Madrid that will involve collaborative work between the complete team working on the case. Participation in the design workshops is mandatory.
- **Phase 2: Study, research and understanding of the place**  
**February - April 2024**  
Each case group will undertake a trip to the location of the case study, along with an external agent whose profile, practice, and context will inform the case's themes. This is a mandatory trip covered by TBA21-Academy. Onsite, each group will develop activities or workshops proposed by the accompanying agent.
- **Phase 3: Autonomous case development**  
**April - June 2024**  
The groups will then independently continue to develop their project according to the objectives established among all the members over the previous months. In June, a public event will be held to present the cases, the learnings outcomes, and the places reached by the program participants.

The contents and sessions that make up the program will be developed by a selection of people from different disciplines with related practices, both local and international, who make up a diverse group of external guests and team members of TBA21-Academy. Their names are available on the TBA21 website, where you can also find more information about the research lines, case studies, methodology, structure, and schedule. You can access the website via this [link](#).

## 04. COLLABORATORS

The independent study program of Organismo | Art in Applied Critical Ecologies is an initiative by TBA21-Academy and Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza.

Organismo is a platform developed by multiple collaborators that for its year zero has the following partners:

- Abadía Retuerta
- Fundación Arquia
- Fundación Española para la Ciencia y la Tecnología (FECYT) - Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades
- Fundación Innovación, Transformación y Desarrollo (FITD)
- Plata (in collaboration with Fundación Daniel y Nina Carasso)
- Sónar +D
- The national museums ARQVA Museo Nacional de Arqueología Subacuática and Museo Nacional y Centro de Investigación de Altamira - Subdirección General de Museos Estatales, Dirección General de Patrimonio Cultural y Bellas Artes - Ministerio de Cultura de España.

## 05. APPLICATION

This program is aimed at adults, with no requirement for a degree or other prerequisites, who are interested in interdisciplinary approaches and/or of experience related to the proposed research lines and case studies that will be developed.

Each candidate who applies to participate in the independent study program through this open call will need to choose one of the six case studies. Between 5 and 7 participants will be selected for each study case, so the program as a whole will invite between 30 and 42 participants. Participation in the course costs €310. Organismo will offer a scholarship to six participants, one per case study, who will take on the role of documenting and reporting on the development of the different cases. The scholarship covers the program tuition and provides a grant of €1500.

## 06. APPLICATION FORM

To apply to the program, send a maximum three-page pdf file answering the questions below to [organismo@tba21.org](mailto:organismo@tba21.org). In addition, you may share a video presentation of up to two minutes. All information must be no larger than 15MB. Applications must be received by December 27, 2023 at 23:59, including:

- Name(s) and Last Name(s)
- Telephone number
- Age
- Place of residence
- About yourself:
  - Tell us about some significant elements or features of your life and intellectual trajectory.
  - Which are some experiences that have defined your way of thinking?
  - How do you imagine yourself developing your practice in the future?
- About the program and case study:
  - What topics and research lines interest you, what issues would you like to work on, and why?
  - Which case study would you like to join? Why would you like to be part of this case? Are there any other cases you feel close to?
  - With which knowledges, skills, ways of doing and/or sensitivities will you bring to this research group?
- About the language (short answers):
  - This program will take place in both Spanish and English. Do you feel comfortable expressing and articulating your thoughts in both languages?
- If you would like to apply for the grant:
  - What would you like to explore through this role?
  - What tools do you have to carry out this task?

The cost of the program and its conditions are set out in the terms and conditions attached to this call.

Annex: [terms & conditions](#)

### ABOUT TBA21-ACADEMY

TBA21 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary is one of the leading international foundations for art and public engagement. Established in 2002 by philanthropist and collector Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza, the Foundation operates through the TBA21 Collection and a significant program of activities, including exhibitions and public and educational programs. TBA21 is based in Madrid, working in partnership with the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, and has other important points of action in Venice and Portland (Jamaica). TBA21's work is primarily driven by artists and the belief that art and culture serve as agents of social and environmental transformation, ultimately contributing to the creation of spaces for peace.

TBA21-Academy, the research center of TBA21 Foundation, seeks a deeper connection with the ocean and other aquatic ecosystems, functioning as an incubator for collaborative research, artistic production, and environmental advocacy. For over a decade, TBA21-Academy has catalyzed new forms of knowledge emerging from exchanges between art, science, politics, and conservation in a long-term commitment to collaboration through commissions, exhibitions, public programs, scholarships, residency programs, and other activities in a wide variety of formats.

Among its major projects are the Ocean Space art center (Venice), the independent study program Organism | Art in Applied Critical Ecologies (Madrid, MNTB), Alligator Head Foundation (Port Antonio, Jamaica), The Current Pacific/Mediterranean/Caribbean, OCEAN/UNI, Ocean-Archive.org, and The Bauhaus of the Sea Sails.

### ABOUT MUSEO NACIONAL THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA

The Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, located in the Villahermosa Palace, houses one of the most important art collections in the world, with nearly 900 artworks gathered over seven decades by the Thyssen-Bornemisza family. Over the past 30 years, the museum has fulfilled its mission of transmitting knowledge, educating, and socially integrating through its collection and comprehensive program of exhibitions and a wide variety of activities.

The museum carries out its mission supported by values such as excellence, sustainability, innovation, integrity, involvement, trust, teamwork, and a pioneering spirit, among others. It has always placed maximum emphasis on the goal of disseminating the collections, with programs aimed at engaging all kinds of audiences in its universal cultural project.

It undertakes extensive work in the field of sustainability. It aims to develop, in its activities and exhibition halls, a program that addresses the challenges of the climate emergency and strongly advances sustainability and social responsibility by adopting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) included in the United Nations' Agenda 2030.

The MNTB believes in the power of art to enrich people and enhance creativity and critical thinking, thus improving their quality of life.