# UNFRAMING KNOWLEDGE

## Artistic Research Beyond Theory and Practice

27–29
October
—2025

**P+ARTS** – Partnership for Artistic Research in Technology and Sustainability – is proud to present the **first international conference** on Artistic Research within **Italian Higher Education in Art, Music and Dance Institutions (AFAM)** conducted through a double-blind peer review process.

This milestone initiative establishes a framework of academic excellence and integrity, while fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and positioning **Italian Artistic Research** within a wider international context.

**NABA, Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti,** in collaboration with **Accademia di Belle Arti di Napoli,** presents:

+ # UNFRAMING KNOWLEDGE

Artistic Research Beyond
Theory and Practice

Structured as a three-day event, the conference will feature a rich and diverse programme, providing a **unique context for dialogue and exchange within the Artistic Research community**.

The event stands as one of the **flagship initiatives** of the **P+ARTS project**, supported by the **European Union — NextGenerationEU** within the framework of the **National Recovery and Resilience Plan** (PNRR).

Envisioned as a two-year programme, **P+ARTS** provides a unique platform to strengthen and internationalise research within **Italian Higher Education in Art, Music, Dance Institutions and Universities**, fostering dialogue and collaboration at both national and international levels.

As the first initiative of its kind in Italy, *Unframing Knowledge*, will provide a **space for open and interdisciplinary encounters**, where emergent trajectories of Artistic Research unfold across theory and practice, cultural and ecological thought, artificial intelligence, and the vital role of the Mediterranean as a crucible of contemporary cultural renewal.

+ conference
structure
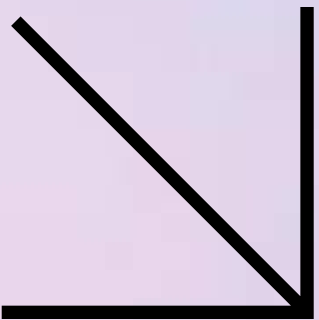
*Unframing Knowledge* is envisioned as a space of convergence and exchange, a generative encounter where the **higher education artistic community may recognise itself**, **grow stronger and speak with one voice**. We are particularly delighted that so many Italian institutions from this vibrant sector are part of this international gathering. The **PhD Forum**, represents a **historic milestone**: the establishment of a national platform that brings the work of our most promising researchers into dialogue with doctoral projects from across Europe and beyond. We are honoured to host this vibrant exchange, enriched by such diverse and compelling cultural perspectives on Artistic Research.

+ **Elisa Poli** – Scientific Coordinator

# Conference Scientific Committee

**Elisa Poli**
P+ARTS Scientific Coordinator

**Andrea Facchetti**
P+ARTS Academy Press Coordinator

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P+ARTS Conference Coordinator

**Michele Lomonaco**
P+ARTS Project Assistant

**Fabiola Mele**
P+ARTS Project Assistant

**10+
Anonymous
Peer
Reviewers**

+
# The conference is structured around seven main thematic tracks:

01 **Rethinking Research Methods**

02 **Art, Media, and Technology**

03 **Mediterranean Ecologies and Situated Perspectives**

04 **AI: Mapping Tools and Critical Deconstruction**

05 **AI and Emergent Practices**

06 **Exhibiting and Distributing Artistic Research**

07 **New Ecologies in Artistic Research**

→ TRACK–01

# Rethinking Research Methods

## EPISTEMOLOGIES, METRICS, AND INSTITUTIONAL ECOLOGIES OF ARTISTIC RESEARCH

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This session explores how Artistic Research (AR) generates knowledge –poetically, conceptually, and institutionally–while experimenting with new modes of evaluation and mapping.
It encompasses a case study on INAR's poetic/conceptual inquiry, an Italian digital cartography of AR, proposals to integrate "impact" into assessment, media historical accounts of "tacit games" as method, a performance lecture on the conflation of AR across university and artworld frameworks, and a cross sectoral perspective that interweaves art, science, and community.

# Art, Media, and Technology

## HYBRID INFRASTRUCTURES, PERFORMATIVE MACHINES, AND POST DIGITAL STAGES

→ TRACK–02

Focusing on the medial conditions of research, these contributions interweave "old" and "new" media, articulate cybernetics as an epistemic matrix for media art, and stage machinic masks as performative agents. Theatre migrates to virtual worlds, the "elusive image" invites phenomenological inquiry, and simulated hybrid environments serve as controlled settings for testing practice based Artistic Research.

# Mediterranean Ecologies and Situated Perspectives

PLURIVERSAL SHORES, TRANSNATIONAL NETWORKS, FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES AND LOGISTICS OF CULTURE

→ TRACK–03

Framing the Mediterranean as a living research milieu, this session foregrounds shoreline ecologies, feminist epistemologies rooted in embodied knowledge and action, and infrastructural circuits that link artisanal gestures to digital forms across Europe.
It culminates in proposals for a transnational Mediterranean art network that reimagines creativity through mobility and exchange.

→ TRACK–04
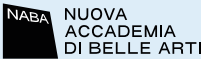
# AI: Mapping Tools and Critical Deconstruction

ALGORITHMS, ARCHIVES, AND THE POLITICS OF COMPUTATION

In this session, AI is positioned both as a method and as an object of critique: from the fantasy space of democratic spectacle, to fabulatory engagements with architectural archives, and practices of "unlearning" algorithmic intelligence. The track also examines platform-based tools in higher arts education and frames AI as a site of tactical resistance and artistic politics.

# AI and Emergent Practices

## IMPROVISATION, POSTHUMAN MUSICIANSHIP, AND SEMANTIC CO-PRODUCTION

→ TRACK–05

Positioning AI as a collaborator, these papers outline posthuman frameworks for experimental music, the creation of digital doubles in mixed music, and improvisation with AI as a generator of the *unexpected*. They further probe how AI's "universal memory paths" can revitalize waste and scrap materials beyond trend-driven aesthetics, and how artistic engagements with text-to-image models co-produce meaning.

# Exhibiting and Distributing Artistic Research

**VISUALIZATION, ONLINE ARCHIVES, AND RESEARCH JUSTICE**

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This session examines how Artistic Research is made public: visualizing research across diverse configurations, rethinking the inhabitation of archives and online exhibitions, retracing modes of display from the Wunderkammer to the database, and reclaiming DIY-zine cultures as practices of research justice and counter-distribution.

→ TRACK–06
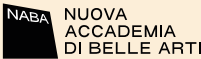
# New Ecologies in Artistic Research

## SOLAR DRAWING, MORE THAN HUMAN SENSING, AND PLATFORM WORLDS

→ TRACK–07

Centering ecological imaginaries and posthuman perception, this track explores architectural drawing with the sun and the move "beyond the soundscape" toward posthuman ecologies. It also examines post digital memory and recognition, bioacoustic sonology as a tool for ecological perception, and resistance in the platform age framed as *digital neomedievalism.*

The call for papers
had a remarkable impact.
We have received

# 185

## proposals

submitted from
researchers and
artists **across
the globe**.
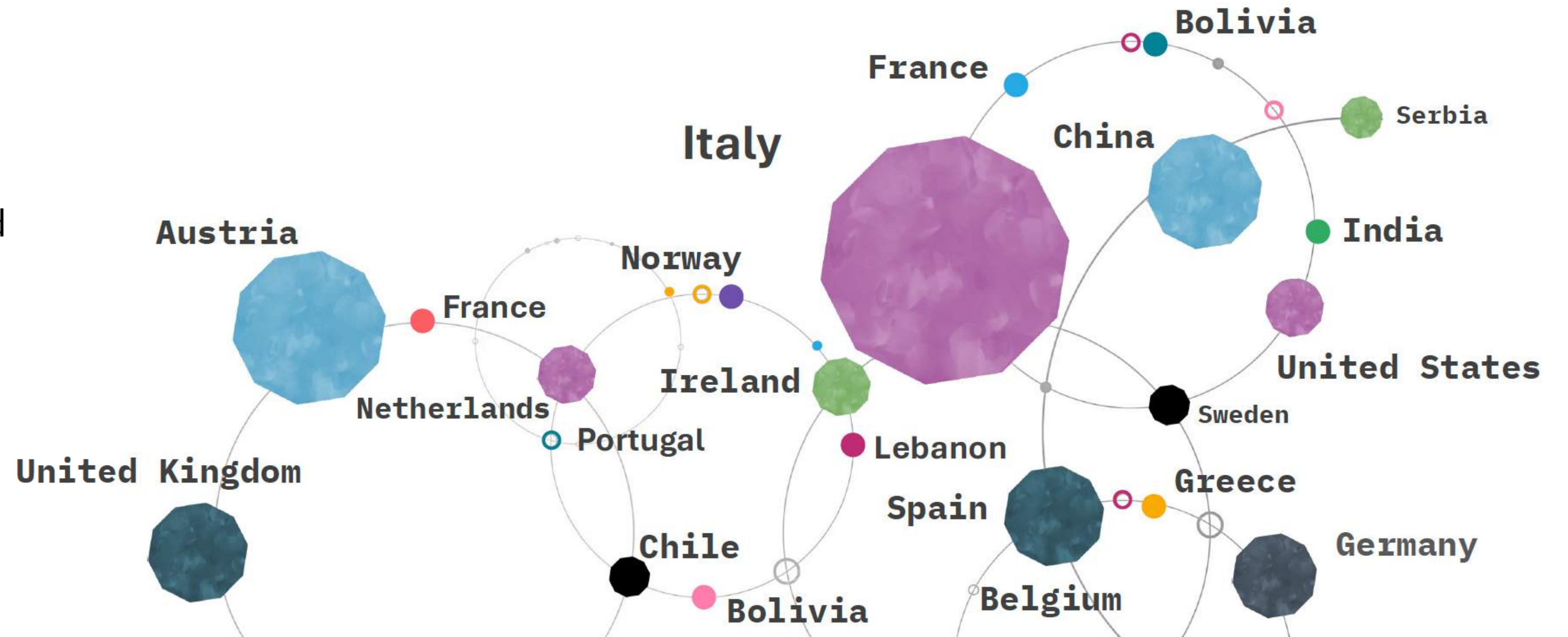
After an accurate double-blind peer-reviewed process we present **35 academic papers** and **21 PhD posters selected** for the three-day programme featuring **panels**, **keynote speakers**, **round tables**, a **PhD Forum** and **artistic contributions**.

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The initiative engages the **six disciplinary clusters** of the **Artistic Italian higher education system: Design, Visual Arts, Music, Cinema, Theatre/Performing Arts, Technology**.

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The *PhD Forum* aims to create a network of researchers from diverse backgrounds — including visual and performing arts, film, music and sound, and cultural studies — fostering the exchange of cultural formations, practices, intellectual geographies and research interests.
The forum aspires to be an extraordinary place for debating **doctoral research across disciplines and approaches**, a place where voices, challenges and projects are transformed into concrete initiatives capable of shaping the landscape of contemporary artistic and cultural research.

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**Gina Annunziata** – Accademia di Belle Arti di Napoli