



ARTCUT/ Catholic Universities Triennial – International Project

The **Catholic Universities Art Triennial** is an international initiative promoted by the Dicastery for Culture and Education of the Holy See, bringing together Catholic universities, artists, curators and cultural institutions from around the world. Conceived as a collaborative project dedicated to artistic creation, academic research and dialogue, the Triennial **explores the role of art in addressing the most pressing issues of our time** through exhibitions, commissions, publications and public programmes. It will take place throughout 2026–2027, culminating in Venice.

Its inaugural edition, entitled "**Exercises in Empathy**", will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, Bogotá, Boston, Milan, Lisbon and Luanda, bringing together an **international network of universities** and diverse partners to reflect on the role of higher education, human relationships and the concept of empathy. In the Encyclical Magnifica humanitas, Pope Leo XIV states: the so-called artificial intelligences "may ... simulate empathy and understanding, but they do not understand what they produce, for they lack the affective, relational and spiritual perspective through which human beings grow in wisdom" (MH, no. 99). The Catholic Universities Art Triennial seeks to deepen this public debate on safeguarding what is fundamentally human.

Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça, Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, recalls that when Pope Saint John Paul II, in what has become the Magna Carta of Catholic Universities, described them as centres of creativity and radiating influence, he was setting out a programme that every generation is called to implement with renewed energy (Ex corde Ecclesiae). The university, as an educational community, strengthens the human capacity to create—to generate new ideas, to organise what previously appeared fragmented, and to imagine new versions of the world—and should be understood as an invitation to participate in an act of co-creation rather than as a merely technical exercise in repetition. Indeed, in Magnifica humanitas, Pope Leo XIV encourages universities to engage creatively with the complexity of today's challenges and to commit themselves "to mak[ing] the life of our societies more just and fraternal" (MH, no. 47). The **Catholic Universities Art Triennial** seeks to respond positively to this appeal.



Universities participating in the First Edition of the Triennial:

Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (**Brazil**)

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (**Chile**)

Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (**Colombia**)

Boston College (**United States**)

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan (**Italy**)

Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Lisbon (**Portugal**)

Universidade Católica de Angola, Luanda (**Angola**)

Opening Schedule:

27 AUGUST Brazil | Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, until November 15, 2026

3 SEPTEMBER Chile | Santiago - Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, until November 22, 2026

9 SEPTEMBER Colombia | Bogotá - Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, until November 2026

23 SEPTEMBER United States | Boston College, until November 15, 2026

6 OCTOBER Italy | Milan - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, until December 2026

12 OCTOBER Portugal | Lisbon - Universidade Católica Portuguesa, until December 15, 2026

29 OCTOBER Angola | Luanda - Universidade Católica de Angola, until 20 December, 2026

List of artists by city:

Rio de Janeiro

- Ana Maria Maiolino
- Antonio Manuel
- Arthur Jafa
- Brígida Baltar
- Igor Jesus
- João Modé
- Julianknxx

Santiago

- Adán Vallecillo
- Antonio Pichillá
- Benvenuto Chavajay
- Bernardo Oyarzún
- Deborah Stratman
- Detanico Lain



- Donna Conlon
- Glenda León
- Hamish Fulton
- Josefina Guilisasti
- Katherine Jones RA
- Korakrit Arunanondchai
- Kuenan Tikuna
- Nuno da Luz
- Patricia Domínguez
- Pilar Elgueta
- Rivane Neuenschwander
- Rosario López
- Sofía Nercasseau
- Ximena Garrido-Lecca

Bogotá

- Alejandro Castillejo
- Angélica Piedrahita
- Apichatpong Weerasethakul
- Claudia Andujar
- Cromoactivismo
- David Vélez
- François Bucher
- José Ismael Manco
- Julieth Morales
- Leonel Vasquez y Carolina Ortíz
- Mariana Caló y Francisco Queimadela
- Nicolás Leyva Townsend
- Sergio Maggioni

Boston

- Bárbara Wagner & Benjamin de Burca
- Deb Todd Wheeler
- Jeremy Frey
- Lisa Elmaleh
- Lucky Pierre
- Manthia Diawara
- Sidival Fila
- Sonia Gomes
- Sr. Corita Kent

Milan

- Gian Maria Tosatti
- Orla Barry
- Rodrigo Cass



- Rui Chafes

Lisbon

- Andreia Santana
- Aires Mateus
- Amadeo de Souza Cardoso
- Ana Vieira
- Augusto Alves da Silva
- Carlos Bunga
- Cristián Salineros F.
- Daniel Blaufuks
- Délio Jasse
- Dimakatso Mathopa
- Francesca Woodman
- Gordon Matta-Clark
- Heidi Bucher
- Helena Almeida
- Irineu Destourelles
- João Abel Manta
- João Pedro Vale + Nuno Alexandre Ferreira
- Julião Sarmento
- Lara Almárcegui
- Maria Beatriz
- Martha Rosler
- Mona Hatoum
- Nicolás Paris
- Patrícia Garrido
- Pedro Costa
- Rafa Bqueer
- René Tavares
- Taysir Batniji
- Vanderlei Lopes
- William Eggleston

Luanda

- Bárbara Wagner & Benjamin de Burca
- Débora Sandjai
- Deborah Stratman
- Edson Chagas
- Flávio Cardoso
- Gegé M'bakudi
- Gennesis Ferreira
- Geração de 80
- Hemak
- Irene A'mosi
- Iris Chocolate



- Januário Jano
- Joice Zau
- Kiluanji Kia Henda
- Lwana Bartholomeu
- Mónica de Miranda
- Mussunda N'zombo
- Os Espacialistas
- Sammy Baloji
- Sarhai
- Tiago Mena Abrantes

Commissioner: Dicastery for Culture and Education of the Holy See

Chief Curator: Nuno Crespo, curator, art critic, professor and researcher at the Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Portugal)

Nuno Crespo is a curator, art critic, researcher and Director of the School of Arts at the Portuguese Catholic University. He holds a PhD in Philosophy from the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences at NOVA University Lisbon. His research has focused on the intersection of art, architecture and philosophy, as well as on the possibilities of critical thinking. He has written extensively on authors including Adolf Loos, Aldo Rossi, Immanuel Kant, Peter Zumthor, Ludwig Wittgenstein and Walter Benjamin.

His publications include studies devoted to Adriana Molder, Aires Mateus, Axel Hütte, Bernd and Hilla Becher, Candida Höfer, Daniel Blaufuks, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Gerhard Richter, Luísa Cunha, Pedro Costa, Rui Chafes and Vasco Araújo, as well as the volumes *Corpo Impossível* (2006), *Wittgenstein e a Estética* (2011), *Julião Sarmiento: Olhar Animal* (2013), *Textos Públicos. Arte Portuguesa Contemporânea 2003–2023* (2024), among other edited works.

Alongside his academic research, he is an active art critic and has curated numerous exhibitions. He serves as Chief Curator of **ARTCUT – The Catholic Universities Art Triennial**.



DICASTERIUM
DE CULTURA ET EDUCATIONE



**ART
CUT**

Commissioner: Dicastery for Culture and Education

Prefect: Card. José Tolentino de Mendonça

Secretaries: Mons. Paul Tighe, Mons. Carlo Maria Polvani

Contemporary Art Office: Cristiano Grisogoni cristiano.grisogoni@dce.va

Communication Office: Angelica Ferreira angelica.ferreira@dce.va

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