

CRAFT – Cultural Heritage

Organized by Aalborg University –
Department of Civil Engineering - Center for Food Science, Design & Experience:
A joint project with Universidad de Oviedo, Spain /
Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal / Universe V Ljubljani, Slovenia

In the context of Biennale Sessions
Special Programme for Higher Education Institutions
at La Biennale di Venezia's 58th International Art Exhibition

The aim of the European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018) was to encourage more people to discover and engage with Europe's cultural heritage, and to reinforce a sense of belonging to a common European space.

All over the world, a lot of cultural heritage is available to us, something that is worth remembering, discovering (again) and being aware of. In today's world, a shared cultural heritage is a valuable tool to promote intercultural understanding and create relations between identities, representations and performances of history.

For those reasons and many more, we created **CRAFT**, an Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership including six partners in total, representing five European Countries (Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Italy & Slovenia). Each country is represented by a higher educational and/or cultural institution or company and in the project, we are working within interdisciplinary roots, i.e. CRAFT aims to connect higher educational institutions with cultural institutions and companies to working in interdisciplinary, new and innovative ways.

The goal of CRAFT is to teach new generations of young people by implementing a new Joint Multidisciplinary Curriculum, providing the students with relevant and high-quality skills and competencies needed to meet the expectations of the changing labour market. It is therefore an important feature of CRAFT that the project involves both theory and practice, bringing together both educational and cultural institutions, and cultural actors from across Europe.

During the Art Biennale 2019 in Venice, CRAFT is facilitating a five-day Workshop. In CRAFT, we work with a new interdisciplinary educational concept, focusing on the cross-examinations of the cultural heritage of the **chair** and traditions of sitting; investigating the comparative historical, cultural and metaphorical differences the chair embodies as a pleasurable, artistic-playful artefact and socio-functional crafted object.

The chosen chair for this event, the **Monobloc**, will be the point of departure when gathering 50 students and teachers from Europe to an exceptional teaching module. The project will, through creative, interdisciplinary research exercises, discover, analyse, develop, and transform key areas of the Monobloc, by situating the chair into a series of particular careful chosen contexts within Venice. The students has to establish their individual critical frameworks and contextualised designs in relation to the sub-themes put forth by the partners of CRAFT – the results will be presented at the Biennale Session on Saturday 21. September.