

SUART 2026 at Palazzo Reale: The Forum on Sustainable Art Bringing Public Policy, Culture, Art, and Economics into Dialogue

Milan, 8 July 2026 – At a time when sustainability is increasingly becoming a key criterion in shaping public policy, investment, and development strategies, culture and artistic production are likewise being called upon to address new economic, social, and environmental responsibilities.

Against this backdrop, **SUART – SUSTainable ART**, the annual international event, returns to Palazzo Reale in Milan with **SUART 2026**, under the **artistic curation and scientific direction** of the art critic **Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico**.

The 2026 edition is organised by **Ethicando Association** and the **Maria Cristina Carlini ETS Foundation** in collaboration with the **Municipality of Milan, Palazzo Reale**, and the **partner universities: Comillas Pontifical University, Madrid (ICADE); the University of Milan (Department of Private Law and Legal History); the University of Florence (Department of Legal Sciences); and UnitelmaSapienza University of Rome**. The event comprises an international conference on the sustainability of art and the exhibition “Materie viventi” by the sculptor Maria Cristina Carlini at Palazzo Reale. The forum and the inauguration of the exhibition are held under the patronage of the **Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy**, while the event as a whole enjoys the patronage of the **Antonietta Viganone Foundation, the Sangregorio Giancarlo Foundation, and the 100 Amici del Libro Association**, together with that of other public and private bodies.

An international event with an **academic, interdisciplinary, institutional, and artistic focus**, dedicated to examining the evolution of the concept of the sustainability of art across the established dimensions of sustainable development: environmental, social, and economic. The forum brings together institutions, universities, and representatives of the cultural and economic sectors in a discussion aimed at highlighting the role of art as a driver of sustainable development and cultural policy.

SUART, together with SUSTART (SUSTainable ART), both conceived by Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico, constitute the two principal occasions for public scientific and institutional debate on the sustainability of art promoted by the “Sustainable Art” Scientific Committee of the Ethicando Association.

While SUART, with its predominantly academic focus, is held each year at institutional, museum, and academic venues in Italy and abroad, SUSTART, which has a more institutional orientation and primarily involves representatives of local, national, and international public bodies, takes place in Rome at the Chamber of Deputies.

The event will take place on Thursday, **9 July 2026**, in the **Conference Hall of Palazzo Reale**, from **11.00 am to 6.00 pm**. At the close of the conference, the exhibition “**Materie viventi**” by **Maria Cristina Carlini** will be **inaugurated**. It will be open to the public from **10 July to 30 August 2026** in the outdoor spaces of Palazzo Reale (the Courtyard of Honour and the Garden).

Following the institutional greetings by **Tommaso Sacchi**, Deputy Mayor for Culture of the Municipality of Milan, and **Domenico Piraina**, Director of Culture and Director of Palazzo Reale for the Municipality of Milan, the speakers will include the artist **Maria Cristina Carlini**, the curator of the exhibition and of SUART, **Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico**, and the President of the Maria Cristina Carlini ETS Foundation, **Pietro Guidobono Cavalchini**. This will be followed by a presentation by **Chiara Rostagno**, Deputy Director of the Pinacoteca di Brera, who, together with **Alessandro Coscia**, Exhibitions and Events Coordinator at the Pinacoteca di Brera, will discuss the sustainability of contemporary museum provision, also in the light of the continuing development of new technologies.

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The academic contribution will feature **Albina Candian** and **Laura Castelli** from the University of Milan, together with **Sara Landini** from the University of Florence, and **Abel B. Veiga Copo** and **José Luis Rey Pérez** from Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid, who will offer a comparative perspective on art law and the regulation of cultural markets in Europe in the digital age. **Clodia Vurro** and **Maria Letizia Giorgetti** from the University of Milan will provide a legal and economic perspective on the relationship between artistic production and sustainable development. **Anna Lisa Tota**, from Roma Tre University (currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor), will explore the role of art in contemporary cultural processes and in shaping public discourse on sustainability. **Rosella Castellano** from UnitelmaSapienza University of Rome and **Emanuele Vannucci** from the University of Pisa will address the issue of risks to local cultural identity. **Roberto Rosso** from the Brera Academy of Fine Arts in Milan will examine the evolution of the language of contemporary photography in the light of the development of new technologies. **Cesare Biasini Selvaggi**, Editorial Director of *exibart.com*, will discuss the promotion of art through contemporary digital publishing platforms.

Giovanni Aloï, Lecturer in Art History at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), **Giuseppe Tortato**, architect and Technical Director of the exhibition “Materie viventi” by Maria Cristina Carlini, and fashion designer **Andrea Brocca** will offer valuable contributions on various aspects of sustainability in contemporary art, illustrating a number of case studies from their respective fields of expertise.

Alongside the academic contributions, the forum will also feature testimonies and case studies highlighting the role of foundations, associations, and economic stakeholders in the promotion of art. **Alexia Boro**, **Francesco Fabbiani**, **Domenica D'Elia**, **Emanuele Beluffi**, and **Alain Salem** will present the perspectives of foundations and associations engaged in the promotion of culture, while **Jean-Pierre Diserens** and **Afaf Konja** will address the topic of financial investment in art in the digital age.

The contributions form part of the international debate promoted by UNESCO, which has identified 23 impact indicators for assessing the effects of exhibitions and cultural projects on local economic development, social inclusion, accessibility, education, territorial reputation and environmental sustainability.

A framework that makes it possible to view art as cultural infrastructure rather than as a self-referential field, in line with the 2030 Agenda and with the evolution of ESG criteria as they are increasingly applied to the creative sector.

SUART has been held in a number of different venues: in **2024** in **Madrid**, at **Comillas Pontifical University**, with a focus on the artist **Antonietta Viganone**; and in **2025** in **Milan**, at **Fabbrica del Vapore** during Milan ArtWeek, with an exhibition dedicated to **Tiziano Calcarì**.

*“The sustainability of art is no longer an abstract or merely ethical category,” says **Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico**, Artistic Curator and Scientific Director of SUART. “Today, it is a systemic parameter that encompasses production processes, models of promotion, institutional policies, and the ability of art to generate lasting value for communities and places. In this sense, art fully enters the realm of public policy.”*

Within the framework of SUART 2026, the theoretical reflection also finds concrete expression in the exhibition “Materie viventi” by **Maria Cristina Carlini**, promoted by Palazzo Reale, the Municipality of Milan, and the Maria Cristina Carlini ETS Foundation in collaboration with Ethicando Association. Curated by **Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico**, the exhibition presents a practical case study of sustainable art, in which materials, the creative process, and the experience of the viewer become integral to the reflection on the relationship between matter, time, and human responsibility.

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SUART 2026 thus turns Milan into a place for structured dialogue between culture, institutions, and the economy, recognising the central role of art in shaping models of sustainable development and contemporary cultural policy.

SUART Scientific Committee (in alphabetical order):

- Federico Boni (Full Professor of Sociology of Cultural and Communication Processes, UNIMI)
- Albina Candian (Full Professor of Comparative Private Law, UNIMI)
- Rosella Castellano (Full Professor of Mathematical Methods for Economics and Actuarial and Financial Sciences, Director of the Finance and Business School, and Vice-Rector for Internationalisation, UnitelmaSapienza University of Rome)
- Laura Castelli (Associate Professor of Private Law, UNIMI)
- Alessandro Coscia (Exhibitions and Events Coordinator, Pinacoteca di Brera, Milan)
- Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico (Art critic; Lecturer in the Advanced Course in Art Criticism UNIMI; Artistic Curator of the Maria Cristina Carlini exhibition; Coordinator of the SUART Scientific Committee)
- Maria Letizia Giorgetti (Associate Professor of Industrial Economics, University of Milan; Coordinator of the First-Level Master's Degree in Business Innovation, UNIMI)
- Sara Landini (Full Professor of Law and Economics, University of Florence)
- Miguel Martínez Muñoz (Associate Professor of Market Regulation, Comillas Pontifical University, Madrid)
- José Luis Rey Pérez (Professor of Philosophy of Law, Comillas Pontifical University, Madrid)
- Roberto Rosso (Full Professor of Photography, Brera Academy of Fine Arts, Milan)
- Chiara Rostagno (Deputy Director, Pinacoteca di Brera, Milan)
- Anna Lisa Tota (Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Sociology of Art, Roma Tre University)
- Emanuele Vannucci (Researcher in Mathematical Methods for Economics and Actuarial and Financial Sciences, University of Pisa)
- Abel B. Veiga Copo (Head of the Department of Economic and Social Law and Professor of Art Law, Comillas Pontifical University, Madrid)
- Clodia Vurro (Full Professor of Economics & Business Administration, University of Milan)

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