BEYOND CREATION

Embassy of Italy
Accra

OPEN CALL ANOUNCEMENT

BEYOND CREATION:

HUMANITY, NATURE AND SPIRITUALITY -A UNIVERSAL MESSAGE

Marking the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi

The Embassy of Italy in Ghana and Togo is pleased to announce an open call for artists to participate in the international art exhibition **"Beyond Creation"**, taking place in Accra, Ghana, from **October 4 to November 4, 2026**.

Curated by **Nuna Adisenu-Doe** and **Andrea Walter Ghia**, the exhibition explores the profound connections between humanity, nature, and spirituality, inviting artists to reflect on creation as a universal and transcultural message.

Concept

Beyond Creation iis a contemplative exhibition examining the enduring relationship between humanity, nature, and spirituality across cultures and belief systems.

At its spiritual point of departure lies the legacy of Saint Francis of Assisi, who regarded the natural world as sacred and alive with divine presence. He spoke of the sun as "Brother Sun" and the moon as "Sister Moon," preached to birds, cared for animals, and called for humility and compassion toward all living beings. His life embodied a radical conviction: that care for the Earth is inseparable from care for the human soul.

While inspired by Francis' vision, the exhibition extends beyond any single tradition. Across Africa — including Ghana — and in numerous spiritual and cultural systems worldwide, nature is not viewed as property to be exploited, but as a living inheritance to be safeguarded. Forests, rivers, mountains, and animals are often regarded as sacred, and stewardship of the land is understood as a moral duty toward both present and future generations.

Indigenous conservation practices, ecological philosophies, and contemporary environmental movements reflect a shared ethic of respect, reciprocity, and balance.

Bringing together diverse artistic voices, Beyond Creation invites reflection on humanity's responsibility toward the planet at a time of urgent ecological crisis. The exhibition positions spirituality — broadly understood — as a universal language that encourages a shift from domination and extraction toward reverence, coexistence, and care.

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Through this open call, artists are invited to explore ecology not solely as an environmental issue, but as a spiritual, cultural, and human concern linking our shared past to our collective future.

Theme

Artists are invited to submit works that engage with one or more of the following themes:

- The relationship between humanity and the natural world
- Spirituality as a universal language
- Creation as a bridge between cultures
- Ecological awareness and ethical responsibility
- Sacred symbolism and contemporary reinterpretations

All artistic media are welcome, including (but not limited to): painting, sculpture, installation, photography, digital art, mixed media and interdisciplinary practices.

Eligibility

The call is open to:

- Emerging and established artists
- Individual artists and collectives
- Artists based in Ghana, Italy and internationally

Selection Criteria

Selected artists will be chosen by the curatorial team based on:

- Relevance to the exhibition theme
- Artistic quality and originality
- Conceptual strength and coherence

Application Requirements & Deadline

Applications will be accepted until **May 31, 2026**.

Application guidelines are available on the official website of the Embassy:

🔗 https://ambaccra.esteri.it/en

Applications must be submitted exclusively through the online application form:

🔗 https://forms.gle/XbzPE2AorYq8bWqP6

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Apply

Guidelines

For inquiries:

📩 beyondcreation.event@gmail.com

The Embassy looks forward to receiving proposals that inspire dialogue, reflection, and a renewed vision of creation beyond boundaries.