

# CREATURES



## Call for Tenders Open Urban Forest

*“We need acts of restoration, not only for polluted waters and degraded lands, but also for our relationship to the world. We need to restore honor to the way we live, so that when we walk through the world we don’t have to avert our eyes with shame, so that we can hold our heads up high and receive the respectful acknowledgment of the rest of the earth’s beings.”*

– Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*

The **CreaTures project** (<https://creatures-eu.org/>) is calling for tenders from creative practitioners engaged with matters of socio-ecological transformation to collaborate on a short-term experimental production (ExP).

The CreaTures project (Creative Practices for Transformational Futures) aims to demonstrate the power of existing and emerging creative practices to move the world towards socio-ecologically sustainable futures. Our aim with the project is to understand the transformative potential of creative practices through experimentation and direct engagement, to explore how it can be better recognised by diverse publics, including creative practitioners themselves and policy-makers.

[RMIT Europe](#), a member of the CreaTures consortium, invites applications for the awarding of a single subcontract to conceptualise and realise Open Urban Forest, an ExP to explore multiple voices, relations, and stories that form and emerge from an urban forest, and can inspire new ways to imagine socio-ecologically sustainable futures. We are particularly interested in creative inquiries into the messy, and often conflicted entanglements between the rendering of the urban forest by digital data, sensors, and algorithms, and by stories, traditions, and cultures deeply rooted in place. Key related themes include, but are not limited to, attuning and listening, care and reciprocity, indigenous ways of being and knowing, deep time, and more-than-human worlds.

We are looking for an entity who has demonstrable experience with site-specific creative work addressing socio-ecological sustainability. Ideally, the ExP will involve strong multi-sensory, performative aspects. Critical to the process is documentation (e.g. audio-visual recordings and text) of the artwork and process, and close collaboration with the CreaTures team for its development and research. The following sections provide detailed information about the scope of the commissioning and viable forms of involvement.

### Details:

#### Scope of work

The subcontracted work is expected to begin in November 2021 and finish by the end of June 2022 (a detailed schedule will be agreed upon selection). Prior to commencement of the work, the

subcontracted entity must appoint a main contact person responsible for communication with the CreaTures team throughout the duration of the commissioned work. Interactions between a responsible member of the subcontracted entity and CreaTures researchers are expected to happen in a hybrid format (online and in-person where possible). The subcontracted work and outcomes will be included in the CreaTures Laboratory and Observatory collections of sustainable creative practices (<https://creatures-eu.org>)

The work will involve several types of activities on the part of the subcontracted entity

- Joint project planning
- Production and public showcasing of the final artwork
- Presentation of the final artwork either in full or a version appropriate for an artistic exhibition at the CreaTures Final Event to take place in Barcelona, September 2022 (details to be confirmed)
- Ongoing documentation of the process (e.g. taking pictures and recordings; self-reflective journaling; observation notes)
- Participation in accompanying engagement activities (e.g. panel, presentation, and workshop)
- Participation in research sessions led by CreaTures throughout the duration of the commission (e.g., interviews, observations, internal co-creative workshops)

### Requirements

To apply for this CreaTures subcontracted work, please submit in one PDF:

1. A project proposal responding to the above described assignment.
2. A budget detailing how you will achieve objectives, including the minimum of two showcases. The total proposed budget should not exceed 6000 euros excluding VAT.
3. A portfolio demonstrating experience in the area of creative practices and socio-ecological transformation, including concrete examples of past projects (the material can exist online, e.g. as website)
4. Submit the complete application no later than **August 27th 2021, 12 am CEST** by sending the pdf attached in an email to [research.europe@rmit.edu.au](mailto:research.europe@rmit.edu.au)
5. The call for tenders is open to legal entities anywhere in the world, which can legally sign a subcontract agreement with RMIT Europe (legal entity established in Spain) and issue invoices to RMIT Europe, as payment can only be made on receipt of an invoice.
6. The subcontract agreement terms will require transfer to RMIT Europe of ownership of intellectual property for the commissioned work, which in this case is the *documentation* of the artwork, and of the creative and research processes. The subcontracted entity must agree with the authors of the work on the transfer to RMIT Europe of ownership of any results, and any intellectual property to these results. Proposals must be submitted with a full acknowledgement (letter of commitment) to this effect signed by the authorised representative of the submitting entity.
7. It is important that the person(s) to be involved in realising the work are able to commit on a flexible, part-time basis for the whole program duration November 2021 – June 2022, according to a schedule, which will be defined jointly at the outset of the collaboration (we are flexible too). The expected work time dedication within this period is 2 person months minimum, depending on the content of the proposal.

### Selection Criteria

1. Originality and rigor of the proposed work
2. Alignment of the applicant's expertise with the outlined scope of work
3. Alignment with CreaTures research aims and scope (<https://creatures-eu.org/>)

4. Budget for the work including breakdown of costs to deliver the various components of the work
5. Technical and financial feasibility of the proposed work
6. Availability and flexibility to collaborate with the CreaTures research team for the stipulated period

#### Main Contact

For any queries, please reach out to Cristina Ampatzidou [cristina.ampatzidou@rmit.edu.au](mailto:cristina.ampatzidou@rmit.edu.au)

#### **About the CreaTures project**

CreaTures (Creative Practices for Transformational Futures, <https://creatures-eu.org/>) is a three-year H2020 project that explores the potential of creative art and design practices in supporting socio-ecological transformation. The project involves a consortium of 11 partners working closely together while combining their expertise from transformative art, design, research and policy. Starting from the proposition that creative practices hold immense potential in supporting sustainable transformations but their impact is largely under-recognised, the consortium conducts a systematic practice-based interrogation to demonstrate the power of arts to move the world towards sustainability. Through direct engagement and co-creation, our Observatory, Laboratory, Evaluation, and Engagement procedures bring together diverse creative projects and develop insights allowing them to focus their efforts more effectively. Drawing on evolving outcomes, we produce opportunities for collaborative action and widely accessible knowledge transfer among diverse stakeholders, including creative practitioners, members of the public, policy actors, and academic/scientific communities.

#### **RMIT Europe**

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Spain (RMIT Europe) located in Barcelona, Spain, is the collaboration-focussed European hub of RMIT University headquartered in Melbourne, Australia. RMIT Europe acts as a bridge between RMIT University's campuses in Australia and Asia, and key European universities, research institutes, companies, NGOs and public entities. Within CreaTures, RMIT leads the Engagement and Dissemination work package, centered around the question: How might we encourage and support future transformational creative practices from the individual to infrastructural level across Europe and beyond?

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