

CREATURES



Call for Tenders

Radical Entanglements

Please bring strange things. Please come bringing new things. Let very old things come into your hands. Let what you do not know come into your eyes. Let desert sand harden your feet. Let the arch of your feet be the mountains. Let the paths of your fingertips be your maps and the ways you go be the lines on your palms. Let there be deep snow in your inbreathing and your outbreath be the shining of ice. May your mouth contain the shapes of strange words. May you smell food cooking you have not eaten. May the spring of a foreign river be your navel. May your soul be at home where there are no houses. Walk carefully, well loved one, walk mindfully, well loved one, walk fearlessly, well loved one. Return with us, return to us, be always coming home.

–Ursula K. Le Guin, *Always Coming Home*

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 (<http://www.rmit.eu/>), a member of the CreaTures consortium, invites applications for the awarding of a single subcontract to conceptualise and realise Radical Entanglements, an experimental production (called ExP from now on) exploring the entanglements between the two spheres of creative practices for transformational futures today: 1) myth(ology) and its deep, complex relationship with how socio-ecological conditions are formed, experienced, and imagined across time 2) entanglements and transformative quality of collaborative engagements in creative practice, ranging from an individual perspective to societal change.

General Objectives:

Radical Entanglements ExP invites applications from groups consisting of two or more creative practitioners who have each been working with complex relations of mythology and socio-ecological matters. It is possible for the group to also include someone who may not self-identify as creative practitioner in a professional capacity but have necessary expertise and experiences otherwise (e.g. scientist, philosopher, and so on). They will collaborate in a joint project, and document the process, shedding light on varied entanglements (e.g. artistic, philosophical, methodological, material, sociocultural, and more) that take place in transformative creative practice. Key related themes include, but are not limited to, spirituality, structures of power, space-time, and more-than-human worlds.

We are seeking applications from groups of creative practitioners who have demonstrable experience with collaborative, transdisciplinary creative practice addressing these themes within the frame of socio-ecological transformation. Ideally, the group will involve practitioners who have some but not an extensive history of collaboration with one another within the group, and have some differences in their specific areas and forms of creative exploration. Critical to the process is individual and collective documentation (e.g. audio-visual recordings and text) of the artwork and particularly of the process, and close collaboration with the CreaTures team for its development and research.

An Example ExP Scenario

The group consists of three key practitioners: practitioner #1 mainly works with sound design and installation focused on multi-species relations in Norse mythologies; practitioner #2 works with digital media and performance to tell stories of goddesses in Korean mythology, challenging the patriarchal and colonial oppression across space-times; practitioner #3 is a filmmaker exploring social and environmental justice issues in urban environments. Their collaboration results in three key creative outcomes – e.g. a hybrid performance at the thematic intersection of mythologies and wildfires, critically engaging with matters of grief, hope, and belonging in socio-ecological futures; a set of speculative design artefacts integrated in the performance, and; a film documenting the process of the collaboration, how various forms of entanglements surface, and; how the practitioners change through their dealing with the such entanglements (which can be inspired by but is additional to the documentation required for research).

The above is only one crude, hastily constructed scenario for the ExP. We are hopeful that its name, *Radical Entanglements*, would inspire much more and better ideas than this.

The following sections provide detailed information about the scope of the commissioning and viable forms of involvement.

Detailed scope of work:

The subcontracted work is expected to begin sometime between December 2021 and January 2022, and ideally finish by the end of June 2022 (a detailed schedule and deliverables 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 the 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>)

Key Deliverables:

- Joint project planning
- Production and public showcasing of the final artwork
- Ongoing documentation of the process (e.g. taking pictures and recordings; self-reflective journaling; observation notes)
- 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, July 2022 (details to be confirmed). Costs for this, if any, must be included in the project budget.
- Participation in accompanying engagement activities (e.g. panel, presentation, workshop etc.)
- Participation in research sessions led by CreaTures throughout the duration of the commission (e.g., interviews, observations, internal co-creative workshops)

Key Dates:

- Expression of Interest due (optional): September 24th 2021, 17:00 CEST
- Online Q&A (optional): September 30th 2021, 10:30am CEST
- Final proposal due: October 15th 2021, 17:00 CEST
- Interviews: November 8th – November 12th 2021
- Intended date of notification of award by email: November 19th 2021
- Intended date of contract signature: December 3rd 2021
- Expected contract implementation commencement: Between December 2021 – January 2022

How to apply:

To apply for this CreaTures subcontracted work:

1. Submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) using this online form (<https://forms.office.com/r/JNvh0SGgnU>) by **September 24th 2021**, 17:00 CEST.
2. An invitation will be sent to the email address used in the EOI to participate in an online Q&A session (**September 30th 2021**, 10:30am CEST) on what is expected in the full application.
3. The complete application is due **October 15th 2021**, 17:00 CEST, by sending the application pdf as an attachment in an email addressed to research.europe@rmit.edu.au. If the file size is larger than 30MB, please share the file online and include a link in the email.
4. The application pdf (one single pdf file) must contain:
 - i. A project proposal responding to the above-described assignment, which should outline both the final outcome of the project and the ways the involved practitioners plan to document their collaboration. The proposal should describe the project deliverables and identify key milestones in the development of the project, as well as which practitioner will act as the “leader” accountable for ensuring the completion of which part of the project.
 - ii. A statement (maximum 1 page) detailing why the group’s collaboration in the framework of this project is meaningful.
 - iii. CV and portfolio (maximum 10 pages) of each practitioner involved demonstrating experience in the area of creative practices and socio-ecological transformation, including concrete examples of past projects.
 - iv. A budget detailing how you will achieve the objectives, including the minimum of two showcases. Budget items should be connected to deliverables and milestones in the project proposal and indicate how the budget will be handled among the practitioners (e.g. if one practitioner will be designated to invoicing and distributing funds to the other practitioners or which partner will be handling which part of the budget, and so on). The total proposed budget should not exceed 40.000 euros excluding VAT.
 - v. A signed declaration that the practitioners involved have not collaborated extensively (ordinarily, fewer than three separate projects) in the past, outlining details of their collaborations to date.

Specific requirements and other conditions:

1. 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. Proof of legal registration will be required from the entity/entities who will be in direct contractual agreement with RMIT Europe in the selected team.
2. 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.

We know this clause can sound like an extractivist IP lawyer talk or an insidious trap. We're not here to do that. Hear us out: as part of CreaTures, we are only after some specific documentation for research and communication purposes, which will not even be on an exclusive basis, and details will be discussed and agreed on with the successful applicant, so please ask us for details.

3. 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 January 2022 – 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 8 person months minimum, depending on the content of the proposal.

All instances of the work, and all public communications relating to the work, whether in print or digital format, must acknowledge the funding source with the following text: 'CreaTures project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 870759. The content presented represents the views of the authors, and the European Commission has no liability in respect of the content.' The CreaTures and EU logos should also be displayed when the format permits.

Payment Terms:

1. Payment will be made by bank transfer to the subcontracted entity upon receipt and approval of an invoice. Payment will be made in euros under RMIT Europe's standard payment terms and timeframes (standard payment terms are 30 days upon receipt of an invoice). Any currency exchange rate commissions or bank transfer fees will be borne by the subcontracted entity.
2. Payments will be made in 3 tranches upon the acceptance of the deliverables completed:
 - i. 20% upon acceptance by RMIT Europe of the detailed schedule of work, including deliverables and milestones, due by 14th January 2022.
 - ii. 50% upon acceptance by RMIT Europe of the key deliverables as outlined in the application budget. These would typically be expected to be completed by May 2022 although applicants are free to propose alternative schedules.
 - iii. 30% upon confirmation by RMIT Europe that all project documentation has been received, any required intellectual property rights have been transferred to RMIT Europe, and that all tasks in the agreed schedule of work have been completed.
3. Should the entire schedule of work not be completed, RMIT Europe reserves the right to discount from the final payment amounts proportional to the incomplete work.
4. No costs incurred by the tenderers in preparing or submitting the proposal are reimbursable. All such costs must be borne by the tenderer.

Evaluation and Selection Criteria:

RMIT Europe will award the contract to the supplier based on the best value for money principle (price-quality ratio) per the EU Horizon 2020 funding conditions. An expert panel (normally consisting of 4-5 individuals) will rank the proposals based on the received information according to the following selection criteria, which have been devised to meet the funding requirements.

1. Content (20%): Originality and rigor of the proposed work

2. Experience (20%): Quality of the group members' work as demonstrated in the portfolio and CV
3. Alignment (20%): Addressing the aims and scope of the ExP call and CreaTures project (<https://creatures-eu.org/>)
4. Collaboration Process (20%): Motivation and synergistic potential of collaboration in this project as a group and methods of documenting the collaboration
5. Financial offer (10%): Budget for the work including breakdown of costs to deliver the various components of the work (10%)
6. Feasibility (10%): Technical and financial feasibility of the proposed work

Appeals and Complaints

Tenderers who believe that there has been an error or irregularity during the award process can file a complaint. Appeals must be addressed to RMIT Europe by email to research.europe@rmit.edu.au within three (3) days of receiving the letter of notification.

Main Contact

For any queries, please contact Cristina Ampatzidou 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-focused 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?

The CreaTures project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 870759 and funding terms must be agreed to with all receivers of funding.