



# EUROPA NOSTRA DIGITAL AGORA

WELCOME TO YOUR  
WEEKLY UPDATE!

#2 - 17 April 2020

*Dear Readers,*

On Wednesday 15 April, people around the Globe celebrated [World Art Day](#) and highlighted the key role of art and heritage for our mental health and [well-being](#). In these trying times, access to culture provides citizens with a safe haven and an antidote to anxiety while fostering solidarity, and enhancing individual and collective creativity, resilience, education and innovation.

On the same day, France, Europe and the World commemorated a very sad anniversary: the terrible fire that devastated **Notre-Dame Cathedral** in Paris one year ago. The resulting wide mobilisation and solidarity movement was yet another proof that our heritage has the power to bring people together. Again and again, we wish to pay tribute to all those who have contributed to save the Cathedral, as well as to the many generous donors (small and large) and, of course, to the many skilled and dedicated [heritage professionals](#) who work tirelessly to heal the wounds of Notre-Dame and make it rise and shine again.

This tragic event reminded us that our heritage remains **fragile and vulnerable**, as demonstrated earlier this week when another fire devastated the wooden dome and the interiors of early 19th century Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church in Milot, a [World Heritage Site in Haiti](#). Let us also recall that one month ago a serious earthquake caused [massive damage to cultural heritage in Zagreb](#), the capital city of Croatia. For all these reasons, we must continue to foster European and international cooperation to save heritage at risk, as advocated during a major conference organised at the end of February by the Croatian Presidency of the European Union.

As most countries in Europe have announced that confinement measures shall last for another few weeks, we will keep updating our [online Agora](#) and bringing every Friday a selection of cultural (heritage) enjoyment and enrichment tips and related news directly to your inbox.

The Europa Nostra Agora remains a “work in progress”. Therefore, we welcome your feedback with concrete suggestions for its improvement and further development. We also thank you for sharing regularly with us your creative initiatives for inclusion in the Agora (**att. Manon Richard, [agora@europanostra.org](mailto:agora@europanostra.org)**).

*We wish you an enriching and inspiring virtual participation in our Agora!*

**#Stayathome #Allwillbewell  
#CreativeEuropeAtHome**

**Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović**  
**Secretary General**

## **EMBRACE EUROPE'S HERITAGE & ARTS**

**France: Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris** - A year ago, on 15 April 2019, a tragic fire devastated a cultural and spiritual wonder of France, Europe, and the entire World. On this occasion, and to pay tribute to the healthcare workforce, the 17th century large bell (Bourdon Emmanuel) of the Cathedral rang at 20:00 (watch [here](#)). Due to the confinement measures adopted by the French government, the restoration works in the Cathedral have been suspended until further notice. Nonetheless, a highly symbolic **Good Friday Easter mass** - exceptionally authorised under lockdown - took place inside the damaged Cathedral with only seven people in attendance including Archbishop Michel Aupetit and classical violinist Renaud Capuçon. For a glimpse into the Cathedral, watch the replay [here](#).

**South-Eastern Europe: Orthodox Easter Eggs** - As most of the South-Eastern European countries are celebrating this weekend the Orthodox Easter, we would like to share with you one of the oldest Easter traditions of Orthodox Christians, the art of red dyed eggs, which is part of our rich intangible heritage. The eggs are traditionally dyed using onion skins for a natural red colour on Thursday before Good Friday. For an extra decorative touch herbs and flowers are used as stencils to create elaborate designs and bring spring on our table. As tradition is coming back, Mad Museum of Arts & Design in New York, posted on [Instagram](#) its own version of this technique implemented by Kazue Taguchi, a Japanese artist in residence. In case you are interested to experiment with this painting technique follow this DIY [online tutorial](#). Read more on the [story](#) behind this tradition. Have you dyed your Easter eggs? Share them with us on social media using #EuropaNostraAgora & #IntangibleHeritage.

**Belgium: Van Eyck from Home** - The Museum of Fine Arts (MSK) Ghent is hosting this year the largest Jan van Eyck exhibition ever "**Van Eyck. An Optical Revolution**". As the exhibition is currently closed, Tourism Flanders filmed a [guided tour](#) of the exhibition with Till-Holger Borchert, Director Museums Bruges, who takes you through the galleries. For a closer look at Van Eyck's paintings, check the [website](#) of the **VERONA project**, where high-quality, standardised technical images of the paintings are available online in open access. This outstanding research project by the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA) received a European Heritage Award / Europa Nostra Awards in 2019.

**Italy: Teatro alla Scala in Milan** - Watch a [free replay](#) of Giuseppe Verdi's "**Simon Boccanegra**" performed in a historical opera house. This performance features our President **Plácido Domingo** in the title role and Maestro Daniel Barenboim as conductor.

**Germany: Berliner Philharmoniker** - The [Digital Concert Hall](#) is now free for everyone to watch live or on-demand concerts, films or interviews from your home – on your TV, computer, tablet or smartphone.

## **PARTICIPATE IN E-DEBATING & LEARNING**

**UNESCO** is launching the [ResiliArt](#) global movement bringing together key professionals of the creative industries to raise awareness about the far-reaching ramification of COVID-19 across the sector and aiming to support artists during and following the crisis. The inaugural debate, which took place on **15 April 2020** on the occasion of World Art Day, was opened by

**Audrey Azoulay**, UNESCO Director-General, with several prominent representatives of the sector, including, among others, **Nina Obuljen-Koržinek** (Minister of Culture of Croatia and violinist) and **Jean Michel Jarre** (Composer, performer, CISAC President and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador). You can watch the debate [here](#).

The **Interpret Europe** conference ‘**Fostering heritage communities**’, which was due to take place in Haapsalu, Estonia, will take place as **an online event on 8-11 May 2020**. Building upon the confirmed speeches, workshops and presentations, more space will be given to attendees who are strongly encouraged to share their ideas and contribute to a broad range of activities including ‘Spring walk’, ‘My favourite site’, ‘From my home’, ‘Old skills’ and podcasts. Find out more about the programme [here](#) and register [here](#) (early bird discount until 20 April).

**Ki Culture**, based in **Amsterdam, The Netherlands**, is organising a series of live webinars on **Heritage & Sustainability** for cultural heritage professionals around the world. Starting on 14 April, founder Caitlin Southwick will help practitioners understand how to engage with sustainability and be part of this global transformation. Specific themes include “Sustainability in Cultural Heritage”, “Energy”, “Waste and Materials”, and “Social Sustainability”. More information on the themes and registration [here](#).

The **International Cultural Center** based in **Krakow, Poland**, is inviting school teachers to enroll their classes for the **Use Heritage!** free lessons on cultural heritage online. Classes, run by experienced educators, will provide a better understanding of issues related to tangible and intangible heritage, multiculturalism, civil society and practical knowledge on how to use cultural resources online. Topics include “Heritage from scratch”, “My little homeland - local heritage”, “Multicultural Krakow”, “Heritage on the web”, and “Krakow - the city of kings”. More information [here](#).

**Getty Publications Virtual Library** offers more than 300 books to read and download for free online. This wide variety of books covers the fields of art, photography, archaeology, architecture, conservation, and the humanities for both the general public and specialists. Explore the library [here](#).

#### **ENGAGE ON THE SOCIAL MEDIA AGORA - #EuropaNostraAgora**

**#IcomosIDMS2020** - Let’s celebrate **ICOMOS International Day for Monuments and Sites** on **18 April** on the theme ‘#SharedCultures, #SharedHeritage, #SharedResponsibility!’ Share photos of your favorite heritage places with the hashtag #IcomosIDMS2020 and discover other ways to get engaged and celebrate remotely [here](#).

**#EUROBALCON** - Musicians and dancers across Europe have been living in lockdown for several weeks, and are facing the challenge of rehearsing for exams and auditions from home. The **National Conservatories in Paris and Lyon**, France, are encouraging students, professors, audiences, and all who sing or play an instrument to symbolically perform the prelude from Marc-Antoine Charpentier’s Te Deum, formerly the Eurovision theme, every Friday at 19:00. The performances are shared on social media with the hashtag #Eurobalcon. More information [here](#).

**#tussenkunstenquarantaine** - Literally meaning “between art & quarantine”, this popular Dutch [Instagram initiative](#) is challenging everyone to reenact pieces of classical artwork. To get started with your homemade art, pic your artwork, use 3 items in your home, take a photo and share it on social media with the hashtag #tussenkunstenquarantaine. Museums such as

the [Rijksmuseum](#) in Amsterdam (The Netherlands) and the [Getty Museum](#) in Los Angeles (U.S.), also started their challenges inspired by Tussen Kunst & Quarantaine.

**IMPORTANT:** Do not forget to join & contribute to our conversation on social media with the hashtag **#EuropaNostraAgora!** Every day, we are also promoting past winners of our **#EuropeanHeritageAwards** until we announce the **2020 winners on 7 May**. Stay tuned on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) to discover their success stories!

### **MONITOR & JOIN ADVOCACY & POLICY ACTION**

**Croatian Presidency of the European Union:** The conference “**Fostering European Cooperation for Cultural Heritage at Risk**” organised in the frame of Croatia’s EU Council Presidency took place on 27-28 February 2020 in Dubrovnik. The objective of the conference was to discuss the state of play at national, international and European level of preparedness strategies and to raise awareness on the available instruments at EU level for risk reduction, both in terms of innovation and management. Delve into the presentations of inspiring speakers, including representatives of Europa Nostra. Available [here](#)

**ICCROM** has launched the “**Culture Counts**” [Ticker](#), providing a rich collection of tips, resources and stories related to the culture and heritage sectors’ response to the Covid-19 crisis. It is a space for ICCROM’s extended community to come together and share knowledge, experience and tools to overcome the crisis.

**RURITAGE** (Rural regeneration through systemic heritage-led strategies) is a project financed by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The RURITAGE project is gathering expertise and experience to increase resilience in rural communities facing the current Covid-19 crisis. Share your rural area’s deeds to obtain and strengthen the community through [this form](#).

**ERIH - European Route of Industrial Heritage** launched a [survey](#) to collect and share ideas on how ERIH sites cope with the current Covid-19 shutdown. Contribute to the survey by 18 April 18 and check ERIH’s [Virtual Exhibition ‘Linking Europe’](#), including objects, personalities, stories and traces making contexts of Europe’s industrial history visible.

**FRH - Future for Religious Heritage** is initiating a comprehensive [survey](#) aimed at religious heritage organisations to determine the scope of the impact the COVID-19 crisis is having on the sector, and to highlight best practices in mitigating its negative effects. Stay tuned, FRH will be sharing these projects, stories and actions over the coming weeks.

### **FUNDING & SUPPORT TO THE SECTOR**

**DAFNE** (Donors and Foundations Networks in Europe) & **EFC** (European Foundation Centre) have issued the **European Philanthropy Statement** recognising that the COVID-19 outbreak and related challenges demand greater flexibility and understanding from the European philanthropy ecosystem in order to support the work of civil society organisations and the survival of the sector through the crisis and beyond. The statement is open for signatures from all funders active in Europe. Read and sign [here](#).

**Creative Europe Call for proposals Bridging culture and audiovisual content through digital** - In its proposal for Creative Europe post-2020 the Commission proposed establishing a Creative Innovation Lab for cross-sectoral collaboration and innovation. Pilot projects will be supported in 2020 which explore the potential for cross-sectoral collaboration in view of

the Creative Innovation Lab, by supporting activities at the crossroads between different cultural and creative sectors, including audiovisual, and through the use of innovative technologies. More information and apply by 14 May [here](#).

**Call for Contemporary European Music Projects face the COVID** - Elektramusic and Musiques Eclatées have joined forces to propose a call for projects aimed at fostering innovative and musical initiatives in contemporary music across Europe, in a spirit of solidarity. The selected projects will receive support for a full year: coaching, administration, communication, online digital distribution, concert in Strasbourg, European capital, in 2021. Submit your project by 31 August [here](#).

## **EUROPA NOSTRA**

The European Voice of Civil Society committed to Cultural Heritage

### **Headquarters**

Lange Voorhout 35, 2514 EC The Hague, The Netherlands  
[info@europanostra.org](mailto:info@europanostra.org)

### **Brussels Office**

Rue de Treves/Trierstraat 45, 1040 Brussels, Belgium  
[bxl@europanostra.org](mailto:bxl@europanostra.org)

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