



Conditions of Belonging

Joy

**OPEN CALL | A Group Exhibition at MAAM / Metropolitiz,
Rome for the IPER Festival**

16 March, 2026

OPEN CALL

Conditions of Belonging

Joy

CURATOR AND CONTACT

Cory Henry
Atelier Cory Henry, office@a-ch.com

VENUE

Metropoliz / MAAM
Via Prenestina, Roma

CONTEXT

IPER 2026

I - CURATORIAL STATEMENT

Conditions of Belonging: Joy is an exhibition that asks how identity, home, social stability, and joy are created within unstable conditions. Our venue is Metropoliz (MAAM), an occupied abandoned factory that is now home to an informal residential community from over a dozen countries, and a museum built through artistic intervention to make this community harder to displace.

Embedded within the exhibition is an examination and understanding of the precarious conditions under which residents live. Including legal status, housing precarity, infrastructure inequality, informal economies, culture, and visibility. However, this exhibit moves away from the tendency to frame marginality solely through difficulty and trauma. Its lens is Joy, and that

joy is evidence of feeling and showing belonging.

This exhibition will bring together artists from various backgrounds, working across a wide range of mediums. Some works may be bespoke; however, the project does not call for new commissions exclusively. Given the timeline and lack of funding for production and shipping, the exhibition is structured to accommodate strong existing or in-progress works that are adaptable, as well as interventions that align with the curatorial theme and can enter into dialogue with the site and community.



On the eastern periphery of Rome, along the Via Prenestina, sits a former salami factory that the world's major art institutions have not managed to replicate. Since 2009, when a community of over 200 immigrants, occasional workers, and homeless families - from Africa, Italy, Peru, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Ecuador - occupied the abandoned industrial building and transformed it into homes, Metropoliz has embodied collective survival and self-determination.

In 2012, anthropologist, filmmaker, and curator Giorgio de Finis arrived with a radical proposition: that beauty could function as a barricade against eviction. Together with the community, he transformed the inhabited building into a museum; the first inhabited contemporary art museum in the world. Today MAAM holds over 650 works by more than 450 artists. It is open every Saturday morning. Admission is free.

MAAM has been recognized by the City of Rome as a model of social and cultural vitality. It has survived demolition threats, court orders, and political indifference. It is a museum that is simultaneously an occupation by residents, a community center, and one of the most significant conceptual art spaces in Europe.

address -Via Prenestina, 913, 00155 Roma RM, Italy



III — SITE CONDITIONS

Artists should note the following before confirming participation:

MAAM is an outdoor and indoor environment in equal measure. Most works will be sited in exterior courtyards and corridors; spaces that are the most part of the community's daily life.

While some interior spaces will be used, they are also subject to the elements. Artists should select or configure their work(s) with this in mind. The curatorial team will work closely with each artist to find the right placement, and that conversation begins early.

Unfortunately, this exhibition does not have production funding. Artists are responsible for the costs of producing, shipping, installing, and insuring their work.

MAAM is a living museum. Over 650 works are permanently embedded in its walls, corridors, and courtyards by artists who chose to leave their work there. Artists participating in Conditions of Belonging are asked to indicate, at the time of confirmation, whether they wish their work to remain on site permanently or to be returned following the exhibition. Both are valid choices, and placement decisions will be made in dialogue with Cory Henry and Giorgio de Finis.

IV — SCHEDULE

The exhibition opens the last weekend of May 2026, as part of IPER — Festival delle Periferie, Fifth Edition.

The following milestones guide the period between submission and opening:

Now - March 30: Artist confirmations finalized.

April 1 - May 11: Site visits and artist research periods; work proposals reviewed and placements determined. (site visit on April 04)

May 12 - May 25: Installation period; coordination with MAAM staff.

May 29 - June 01: Opening, Metropolit / MAAM.

IV — INTEREST FORM

Artists who wish to be considered are invited to complete the interest form at the link below.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/bjpWKMWjAN>

