



Aachen Battery, Atlantikwall Raversyde, West-Flanders, Belgium wins European Heritage Award / Europe Nostra Award 2022

Brussels / The Hague, 30 June 2022

The European Commission and Europa Nostra have just announced the 2022 winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards, funded by the EU Creative Europe programme. This year, which marks the 20th anniversary of Europe's most prestigious Awards in the heritage field, 30 outstanding heritage achievements from 18 European countries have been awarded. Among this year's winners is the Aachen Battery, Atlantikwall Raversyde, West-Flanders, Belgium, in the category Conservation and Adaptive Reuse.

The winners will be celebrated on 26 September in Prague at the European Heritage Awards Ceremony, to be held at the recently restored State Opera and co-hosted by the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel, and Europa Nostra's Executive President, Prof. Dr. Hermann Parzinger.

Reacting to the announcement of the 2022 winners, the European Commissioner Mariya Gabriel, stated: "I warmly congratulate all the winners of this year's European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards for the exceptional quality of their work and their openness to innovation. 2022 is a special year as we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the EU Prize for Cultural Heritage, which has become the most prominent award for the European heritage community. Many of the awarded initiatives demonstrate the enormous interest and engagement of young people for our heritage, our history, and our cultural identity, which is particularly relevant in this European Year of Youth. A special thought goes to the two Ukrainian laureates. Creative Europe, which is co-funding the Awards, stands for promoting culture and creativity in building inclusive and cohesive societies founded on our core European values."

Europa Nostra's Executive President, Prof. Dr. Hermann Parzinger, said: "This year's Award winners are powerful examples of how our heritage reconnects us with nature, helps create a sense of belonging and place, and is an integral building block in developing a circular economy that supports a sustainable and inclusive way of life. I congratulate these exceptional winners - professionals and enthusiasts alike - for their essential and commendable work".

Aachen Battery, Atlantikwall Raversyde, West-Flanders, Belgium

The Aachen Battery is a German coastal battery from the First World War, located in the Provincial domain Atlantikwall Raversyde, on the coast of West Flanders near the city of Ostend. It is the only German WWI coastal battery of which enough remains for visitors to grasp its structure. This gives **aNNo Architects'** restoration and regeneration of the site great European significance. aNNo Architects and the Province of West Flanders turned a collection of hard to interpret WWI bunkers, gun emplacements and artefacts into a readable and accessible heritage site, well-integrated in the surrounding dune landscape. In close collaboration with scenographic agency **Exponanza**, the story of the Great War was



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visualised and enhanced the visitors' experience. The project was financed by the Province of West Flanders with the support of **Tourism Flanders**, through the impulse programme Flemish Coast 1914-1918, and the EU funded project "World War 2 Heritage" within the Interreg programme **2 Seas**.

During the Second World War, the Aachen Battery was reused as part of the Atlantikwall, the Nazi-German defence line stretching along the west coast of Europe. Before its restoration, the site's WWI story was drowned out by its WWII story. The restoration, which took place in continuous dialogue with various partners and stakeholders, managed to successfully present the site's WWI story in a coherent way.

Physical accessibility was also improved. The Aachen Battery consists of a footpath along the coastline and connects restored bunkers and other buildings with the artillery positions. Wheelchair users can now follow the entire footpath and elements, such as tactile models, subtitled videos and 3D models, which are positioned at a suitable height with enough surrounding space. Throughout the path's construction, the guiding principle was to disturb the ecosystem as little as possible, which led to the choice of clay seashells that integrates harmoniously into the dune landscape. The lighting of the path has a limited impact on the local fauna and is bat-friendly.

The Aachen Battery also presents the human stories connected to the site. In the reconstructed soldiers' quarters, visitors can listen to the soldiers' stories while resting in military hammocks. An important attempt was made to illustrate that the German soldiers, like the allies, also lived in difficult circumstances and that there were also many German casualties in the trenches.

"The revitalisation of the Aachen Battery is unique in its kind, with great European significance and pedagogical value. This well-restored heritage site calls for its visitors to reflect on how to build peace after a terrible war. The incorporation of contemporary art in the heritage space is laudable", commented the Awards' Jury.

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2022 Winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards

Conservation and Adaptive Reuse

Aachen Battery, Atlantikwall Raversyde, West-Flanders, BELGIUM



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[Aachen Battery, Atlantikwall Raversyde, West-Flanders, BELGIUM](#)

[Villa E-1027, Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, FRANCE](#)

[Monument of Episkopi, Sikinos, GREECE](#)

[Atlungstad Distillery, Ottestad, NORWAY](#)

[Convent of the Capuchos, Sintra, PORTUGAL](#)

[House of Religious Freedom, Cluj-Napoca, ROMANIA](#)

[Illa del Rei, Menorca, SPAIN](#)

[St. Andrew's Church, Kyiv, UKRAINE](#)

Research

[Heritage Opportunities/threats within Mega-Events in Europe \(HOMEE\), CYPRUS / ITALY / POLAND / UNITED KINGDOM](#)

[SILKNOW, FRANCE / GERMANY / ITALY / POLAND / SLOVENIA / SPAIN](#)

[Heritage Quest, THE NETHERLANDS](#)

[Safeguarding of Sicilian Puppet Theatre, ITALY](#)

Education, Training and Skills

[Masters and Apprentices, FINLAND](#)

[International Course on Wood Conservation Technology, NORWAY](#)

[TISH Jewish Food Festival, Warsaw, POLAND](#)

[Piscu School Museum and Workshop, ROMANIA](#)

[Sewn Signs, ROMANIA](#)

[Symphony, SPAIN](#)

Citizens' Engagement and Awareness-raising

[Rivers of Sofia, BULGARIA](#)

[Return to the Sámi Homeland, FINLAND](#)

[Swapmuseum, Apulia, ITALY](#)

[Va' Sentiero, ITALY](#)



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[“Lumbardhi Public Again” Project, Prizren, KOSOVO](#) ¹

[Museum in the Village, PORTUGAL](#)

[PAX-Patios de la Axerquía, Córdoba, SPAIN](#)

[Wikipedra, SPAIN](#)

[World Vyshyvanka Day, UKRAINE](#)

Heritage Champions

[Costa Carras †, Athens, GREECE](#) (posthumously)

[La Paranza Cooperative, Naples, ITALY](#)

[Elżbieta Szumska, Złoty Stok, POLAND](#)

In addition, a **Europa Nostra Award** is presented to a remarkable heritage achievement from a European country not taking part in the EU Creative Europe programme:

[Kenan Yavuz Ethnography Museum, Bayburt, TURKEY](#) (Citizens’ Engagement and Awareness-raising)

The Award winners were decided by the [Jury](#) composed of heritage experts from across Europe, upon evaluation by the independent [Selection Committees](#) of candidatures submitted by organisations and individuals from 36 European countries.

2022 European Heritage Awards Ceremony

The winners will be celebrated on **26 September** at the State Opera of **Prague** the **European Heritage Awards Ceremony**, to be co-hosted by the European Commissioner for Culture and the Executive President of Europa Nostra. The **Grand Prix laureates** and the **Public Choice Award winner**, chosen from among this year’s winning projects and entitled to receive €10,000 each, will be announced during the Ceremony. Between **mid-August and mid-September**, heritage supporters and enthusiasts are encouraged to [vote online](#) for the **Public Choice Award** and mobilise support for the winner(s) from their own or another European country.

The European Heritage Awards Ceremony will be a highlight of the **European Cultural Heritage Summit 2022** to be held on **25-27 September** in **Prague**. The Summit, which has been included in the

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



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TO FIND OUT MORE

[Press release in various languages](#)

About each Award winner:

[Information and Jury's comments](#)

[Videos](#) (in high resolution)

[Photos & e-banners](#) (in high resolution)

[Creative Europe website](#)

[Commissioner Gabriel's website](#)

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[Instagram-foto's en -video's](#)

Background

The [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](#) were launched by the European Commission in 2002 and have been run by Europa Nostra ever since. The Awards scheme has the support of the [Creative Europe](#) programme of the European Union. For 20 years, the Awards have highlighted and disseminated heritage excellence and best practices, encouraged the cross-border exchange of knowledge and connected heritage stakeholders in wider networks. The Awards have brought major benefits to the winners, such as greater (inter)national exposure, follow-on funding and increased visitor numbers. In addition, the Awards have fostered a greater care for our shared heritage amongst Europe's citizens. The Awards have therefore been a key tool to promote the multiple values of cultural and



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natural heritage for Europe's society, economy and environment. For additional facts and figures about the Awards, please visit www.europeanheritageawards.eu/facts-figures.

[Europa Nostra](#) is the European voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting cultural and natural heritage. It is a pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals, covering more than 40 countries. Founded in 1963, it is today recognised as the largest and the most representative heritage network in Europe, maintaining close relations with the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and other international bodies.

Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe's endangered monuments, sites and landscapes, in particular through the [7 Most Endangered Programme](#). It celebrates excellence through the [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](#). Europa Nostra actively contributes to the definition and implementation of European strategies and policies related to heritage, through a participatory dialogue with European Institutions and the coordination of the [European Heritage Alliance](#).

Europa Nostra is among the official partners of the [New European Bauhaus](#) initiative developed by the European Commission, and is the Regional Co-Chair of the [Climate Heritage Network](#) for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

[Creative Europe](#) is the EU programme that supports the cultural and creative sectors, enabling them to increase their contribution to Europe's society, economy and living environment. With a budget of €2.4 billion for 2021-2027, it supports organisations in the fields of heritage, performing arts, fine arts, interdisciplinary arts, publishing, film, TV, music, and video games as well as tens of thousands of artists, cultural and audiovisual professionals.