



Magna Żmien Collaboration Procedure

December 2020

For collaboration with artists & researchers, working on a not-for-profit basis and with organisations working on art- and research-based projects for non-commercial use.

Collaboration Overview

Since 2017, Magna Żmien has gathered and digitised a large amount of sound, image and audio-visual material dating from the 20th century, all linked with the Maltese Islands and the Maltese diaspora. This audiovisual content was donated by members of the public from their private home collections in order to preserve it and to allow Magna Żmien and collaborators to reinterpret the material.

Magna Żmien would like to make this material available to artists and researchers for the purposes of artistic and historical research, creative development and public awareness. This access allows for reinterpretation and renewed engagement with the digital collections. However, as this material has been generously donated to us by members of the public, Magna Żmien has a responsibility to ensure that the content of our archive is used respectfully and in line with the wishes of the donors, as well as to protect their privacy.

To this end, Magna Żmien welcomes requests for collaboration, but reserves the right to take each request on its own merit, and within the limitations of the organisation's resources. Although we cannot directly assist financially with any projects, we can be a partner for any suitable funding applications.

Past collaborations include Ilĥna Mitlufa, Etnika, Giulia Privitelli, Caroline Tonna, Fleeting Territories, Justine Balzan, and Timothy Garrett.

More information on: www.magnazmien.com

Initial Contact

Upon initial contact with an artist or researcher, Magna Żmien will request some basic information about the proposed project or collaboration. We will request an overview of the project, proposed dates, other collaborators, and any other relevant information.

The request will be reviewed by the Magna Żmien Foundation, taking into account:

- i) artistic merit;
- ii) strength & relevance of research;
- iii) benefit of collaboration;
- iv) final outcomes;
- v) practicalities.

Meeting

A meeting will be requested with the artist and at least two Magna Żmien members, to clarify any information and find points of collaboration. Ideally this will occur in our studio, where we can help guide you through our collections.

Further information

More detailed information, if required, will be requested in order to ensure a successful collaboration.

Confirmation

If the collaboration is agreed, Magna Żmien will confirm the proposal with the artist, and begin the process of granting access to parts of the archive, depending on the material required.

Upon confirmation, the artist will be expected to sign

- i) a non-disclosure agreement, which restricts the sharing of information or material without express prior permission,
- ii) a short agreement with Magna Żmien detailing the points of the collaboration, and duties of both parties.

Rejection

Magna Żmien may not be in a position to accept every collaboration request. This may be because the project is not aligned with Magna Żmien's aims and objectives, or because the project has a commercial element that we cannot collaborate with as a Voluntary Organisation. It may also be that we simply don't have the capacity to work on a project with you at a particular time.

Access to Material

The artist will work with the Magna Żmien archivist and/or our studio engineers to identify relevant material. The audio-visual content of our archive is accessible via an online portal and the descriptions are accessible via a comprehensive spreadsheet. However, the descriptions of each item, or collection, may not be equally detailed across the entire archive. As such, you will need to be prepared to spend time searching through the collections, whether online, or physically at our studio, depending on the material required and other circumstances..

Intellectual Property

The artist should be aware of the IP rights due to the owner(s) of our material and the agreement of use that Magna Żmien has entered into with these owners. Consultation and further agreement might be required due to the public nature of the project. In simpler terms, the material being accessed belongs in part to individual donors, who may need to be consulted on the use of their material, depending on the nature of the project.

Credit

Adequate credit should be given to the Magna Żmien Foundation and to the donor(s) of the material (unless they have chosen to remain anonymous). Our logo should be used in any printed material, website, etc. We will reciprocally share information about collaborations on our website and our other social / media channels as appropriate.

Please note

Magna Żmien is a voluntary organisation. While every effort will be made to accommodate requests for collaboration, the required resources are not always available from our end. Therefore, requests under tight time constraints may not be accepted.

Exclusion / Eligibility

Magna Żmien will not use its archive for commercial gain, and will not collaborate with private entities on projects which exist purely for commercial profit. Magna Żmien will not collaborate on projects which it deems to be racist or prejudiced, or which are intended to cause harm.

Magna Żmien Main Aims

- a) To collect memories about Malta, the Maltese and the Maltese diaspora that are held on legacy analogue and digital audio-visual media formats (including sound, moving images, still images, and other material ephemera) by digitising and migrating this content for long term preservation and open access;
- b) To record supporting information about this content through documentation and further research,
- c) To produce artistic and academic interpretations of this content in collaboration with memory stakeholders and creative arts practitioners in Malta and abroad; and
- d) To provide advice, consultation and educational programmes in audio-visual preservation practices to individuals and organisations.

Magna Żmien Main Activities

- a) Collecting Malta-related audio-visual ephemeral material, migrating the content from obsolete carriers to more stable and accessible formats, and preserving this content to international archival standards for long term public access;
- b) Documenting communities in Malta and its diaspora by undertaking primary research via interviews, oral histories and other methods;
- c) Conducting academic and artistic research upon Malta-related intangible cultural heritage and disseminating our findings by producing installations, exhibitions, performances, and print and digital publications that creatively reuse and reinterpret this material in publicly engaging contexts, in collaboration with creative practitioners and researchers in Malta and abroad;
- d) Educating individuals and organisations in audio-visual archiving and creative project development through formal and informal training programmes and partnerships;
- e) Developing working relationships with cultural heritage institutions in Malta and abroad; and
- f) Fundraising, and thereby financing, aiding, supporting and developing selected projects that fall within the Foundation's remit.