

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Video Mapping Competition for the  
*Constellations de Metz*  
International Festival

Pierres Numériques – “Digital Stones” – Night-time Trail

Ninth Festival – June 19 to August 30, 2025

## Regulations

Pôle Culture de la Ville de Metz  
Mairie de Metz  
Service Action Culturelle  
B.P. 21025 / 57036 METZ Cedex 1  
[poleculture@mairie-metz.fr](mailto:poleculture@mairie-metz.fr)

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## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND

The City of Metz has backed the *Constellations de Metz* international festival with its partners since 2017. The event is one of the highlights of Metz's cultural calendar and tourist season, and its reputation has spread far beyond the city limits.

*Constellations de Metz* has been designed to be an artistic journey of discovery to be enjoyed by day and by night. Visitors are invited to come and explore the city as it changes complexion with a rich, multi-disciplinary line-up of events and different forms of art. In fact, art takes over the streets for more than two months, giving visitors the chance to see the region in a new light as they discover two art trails (*Pierres Numériques* – "Digital Stones" – and *Art & Jardins* – "Art & Gardens") alongside a programme devoted to urban art.

The *Pierres Numériques* night-time trail is just one of the ways that the festival showcases Metz's architectural heritage. This unique journey explores digital art in all its wealth, shapes and sizes, including video mapping and immersive audiovisual installations alongside interactive, participatory installations.

*Constellations de Metz* is recognised far and wide by the public and press alike, garnering extensive international, national and local media coverage. It is now established as one of the major cultural events of the summer in France. The number of visitors to the festival has doubled in eight years: from 600,000 in its first year to almost 1.2 million in 2024, positioning Metz as a cultural capital of the wider region, France and Europe.

The City of Metz is hosting the international *Constellations de Metz* festival once more in 2025, when one of the repeat highlights will be the *Pierres Numériques* night-time art trail. To mark the occasion, the cloister of the Trinitaires will be adorned with works chosen as part of this call for proposals.

Find out more about the festival: [www.constellations-metz.fr](http://www.constellations-metz.fr)

### PURPOSE

The City of Metz is holding a video mapping competition based on this call for proposals as part of the international *Constellations de Metz* festival, which will run from June 19 to August 30, 2025.

The selected project will illuminate the facades of the cloister of the Trinitaires, one of Metz's heritage sites. It will be on display as part of the night-time *Pierres Numériques* art trail on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

The aim of this call for proposals is to identify and select five candidates based on their references, experience, statements of intent and proposals for the mapping.

## APPLICATION

### SPECIFICATIONS

Each work should last approximately 3 minutes.

The works must be set to music and tailored to the architecture of the facades of the cloister of the Trinitaires on the theme "artificial metamorphoses" (see *Appendix 1 for the statement of intent by Jérémie Bellot, artistic curator of the Pierres Numériques trail*).

The proposed work of art must be engaging and eye-catching thanks to its original touch and the quality of its artistic approach. In addition, it must be within reach of as wide an audience as possible.

Any work that is obscene, racist, defamatory, discriminatory, offensive to human dignity, or religiously offensive and inconsistent with the laws in force, contrary to good morals and/or public order, or that violates the rights of a third party, particularly human rights, will automatically be ruled out. Candidates have no recourse in this regard against the organisers and/or members of the jury.

The selected artists may be asked to make technical and/or artistic changes in accordance with the recommendations of the planning authorities, in particular the Architecte des Bâtiments de France (given that the cloister is a historic monument) or the departments in charge of all requests for regulatory authorisation for installing the work. Where this is the case, the artists undertake to make the relevant changes in order to obtain the authorisation for creating and projecting their work.

### CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Participation in the competition, which is free, is open to professional artists, artist collectives or cultural operators in France and abroad. Participants must either be employed by an organisation with the authority to issue invoices or be registered with the Maison des Artistes or AGESEA.

### APPLICATION PACK

Application packs will be available on request by email from [constellations@mairie-metz.fr](mailto:constellations@mairie-metz.fr). They must be returned before Sunday, February 23, 2025. The application pack includes a registration form for candidates to fill out together with a technical file that includes the template of the facades.

Applications are to be submitted using an online data transfer service. They must include all the following:

- The duly-completed candidate profile
- A candidate or team portfolio with references
- A statement of intent (500 characters)
- A storyboard about the work of art from start to finish
- A 15-second snippet of the creative design with embedded soundtrack (.mp4 format)
- 3 images of the work that can be used for publicity if selected (300DPI – landscape + portrait)
- Bank account details or RIB
- A copy of a valid insurance certificate (optional)

Artists registered with the Maison des Artistes or AGESEA: please provide a double-sided copy of your social security card and a certificate of rights together, if applicable, with the deduction exemption certificate.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

## **SELECTION**

The five successful projects will be selected during the week of Monday March 10, 2025 based on the criteria outlined below and under the following conditions:

### **SELECTION CRITERIA AND SCORECARD**

All applications that comply with the specifications will be reviewed and graded on the basis of the following scorecard:

The rating out of a total of 20 points as follows:

- The aesthetic size of the work (50%)
- The link with the theme (50%)

All candidates will be notified of the result after the selection committee has come to a decision.

### **SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

The selection committee will be made up of members identified as follows: the councillor responsible for culture, the artistic curator of the art trail, a representative of the Bliida third space, a representative of the Cité-Musicale Metz, a representative of the project's sponsor, a representative from Caen's Millénaire 2025 project, and a representative of the Fête des Lumières de Lyon.

## **BUDGET CRITERIA**

### **INDEMNIFICATION AND CONTRACTUALISATION**

Once the jury has finished its deliberations, the five highest-scoring projects will be selected, and screened publicly on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings as part of the international *Constellations de Metz* festival. The works will be shown several times an evening and during the hours of the *Pierres Numériques* night-time trail.

The five selected projects will receive compensation of €3,000 (including tax).

The work created by the selected artists will be covered by a copyright transfer agreement drawn up in advance between the City of Metz and the artist (or collective). This will specify the rights and obligations of the two parties, not least the obligation for the artist to be present on certain jointly-defined dates, all the provisions regarding publicity and copyright, etc.

### **PRIZE**

Visitors to the *Constellations de Metz* festival will be able to vote for their favourite mapping on the festival website. The winning project chosen at the end of the festival period will receive a prize of €5,000 (including tax).

## TIMETABLE

- 1 – Application packs available on request by email from [constellations@mairie-metz.fr](mailto:constellations@mairie-metz.fr)
- 2 – Deadline for submission of applications: Sunday, February 23, 2025
- 3 – Results: mid-March 2025
- 4 – Receipt of final files for the screening: before Thursday, May 15, 2025
- 5 – Test evenings and private showings: between June 9 and 18, 2025
- 6 – Start of festival: Thursday, June 19, 2025
- 7 – End of festival: Saturday August 30, 2025

It is possible that an event will be organised to present the prize following the outcome of the public vote. The winner's presence will then be requested.

## TRANSFER OF OPERATING AND COMMUNICATION RIGHTS

By participating in the competition, the selected candidates agree to transfer to the City of Metz the rights to represent and distribute their work for promotional and publicity purposes on the internet, on television, and on all existing or future means, in all forms and/or all media known or unknown to date, excluding any commercial exploitation.

As a consequence, the selected artist undertakes to include the wording "Constellations de Metz 2025" on communications relating to the work.

The selected projects will be included in the *Constellations de Metz 2025* programme, and will be given visibility on all the publicity tools for the event.

In this regard, the City of Metz undertakes to include the names of the winning artists or collectives in its communication media.

Moreover, the organisers undertake in no way to infringe the integrity of the visuals submitted as part of the competition. Nevertheless, the City of Metz cannot be held responsible for the uncredited distribution and/or reproduction by a third party, particularly on telecommunications networks such as the internet.

## APPLICANT COMMITMENT

The candidate certifies that he or she is the author or co-author of the work he or she presents.

The applicant guarantees to the organisers that his or her work does not violate any intellectual property rights, and that he or she holds the required rights and authorisations, in particular the image rights of persons who might be filmed, and the copyright for the tracks of music that may be played. If the installation includes sound, the applicant declares that his or her creative work is not registered with SACEM. Accordingly, the City of Metz is not responsible for copyright and the payment thereof.

The City of Metz will not be held liable for any content used by the applicant over which he or she has no rights.

## APPENDIX 1 – ARTISTIC NOTE ON THE THEME “ARTIFICIAL METAMORPHOSES”

“Artificial metamorphoses” is a theme that opens up a profound philosophical perspective, challenging the relationships between humans, technology, and the transformation of reality. Here are some key areas to explore to help you brainstorm ideas:

### **The concept of metamorphosis**

Metamorphosis traditionally refers to natural transformations, as we find in mythology or biology (as depicted in Ovid's myths, for example, or the transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly). But the idea of "artificial" here calls to mind transformations that are not the work of nature but of human intervention, often mediated by technology. This raises the question of artificiality: what is authentic or natural? And how are these concepts evolving with the emergence of digital technology?

### **The artificial as the driving force of transformation**

Digital technology in particular is a powerful driver of metamorphoses. It doesn't just transform our environments but also our perceptions and our identities. Artificial intelligence, augmented reality, the metaverse – and even bio-design technology – profoundly alter the boundaries between the physical and the virtual, and between humans and machines. The French philosopher Jean Baudrillard explored the notion of simulacra and simulated realities, the metamorphoses of reality into hyper-reality where the artificial takes the place of the authentic.

### **Transhumanism and physical metamorphoses**

The idea of artificial metamorphosis can be linked to transhumanism, a philosophical movement that champions the use of technology to transcend the limits of human biology. Metamorphosis in this context refers to physical and psychological transformations induced by technology, turning us into "post-human" thinking beings. Such is the case, for example, with Donna Haraway's "Cyborg Manifesto" that delves into the implications of these hybrid transformations where humans merge with machines.

### **Ecology and artificial metamorphoses**

In a wider context, "artificial metamorphoses" can be interpreted from an ecological perspective: technological interventions on the environment (urbanisation, biotechnology and climate change) represent types of metamorphosis. Nature herself becomes artificial, redesigned, recreated – and often with unpredictable results. This raises major ethical concerns about the way we are transforming our world.

### **Art and digital transformation**

As a catalyst for metamorphosis, digital art plays a key role in reinventing our aesthetic and sensory experience. It is an experimental space where the virtual and the real come together to create artificial environments that transform the way we see the world. In philosophical terms, it refers to the idea of art as a process where reality is being constantly reconfigured, where the artificial allows us to move beyond material constraints.

### **Ethics of artificial metamorphoses**

Last but not least, these transformations also raise ethical issues. Who is in control of these metamorphoses? Who decides what forms they will take, and for whom? There is a power struggle around these technologies that transform reality. Philosophers like Michel Foucault, who explored the relationship between power and knowledge, can provide us with helpful perspectives for understanding the dynamics of control associated with these artificial transformations.

### Conclusion

“Artificial metamorphoses” invite us to think about how humans use technology to transform their environment, their bodies and their perception of the world. In examining the ideas of the natural and artificial critically, this theme touches on the shifting boundaries of what is real and virtual, human and post-human, natural and artificial.

You can emphasise the ambiguity and richness of this theme if you incorporate these explorations into your proposal. At the same time, you can engage the public, asking them to question their own relationship to the artificial metamorphoses they experience on a daily basis.



## APPENDIX 2 – HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT OF THE VENUE

**Historical periods:** 13th / 19th / 20th centuries – the cloister of the Trinitarians was built in the 13th century, with work beginning in 1248.

**Listing:** Listed as a Historic Monument

The Trinitaires is an eclectic collection of buildings that includes a chapel and vault as well as the Pierre-Frédéric Klos theatre and cloister.

The cloister consists of four galleries with a garden at the centre. Traditionally, the cloister was a place for walking and meeting in a monastery and convent. The Trinitaires cloister has become an open-air stage where the green spaces have been left untouched. It is now the number-one venue in Metz for live music when the warmer weather arrives.

Trinitaires is located in the historic heart of the city of Metz in an old Carmelite convent, where it resonates to the rhythm of contemporary music. This iconic venue for the wider community is structured around multiple performance spaces, each boasting its own unique atmosphere, intimate corners and places to meet. In short, every concert held here turns into an electrifying event that brings people together. And it's here that the staff from the Cité Musicale-Metz dedicate themselves throughout the year to supporting artists and cultural associations.

The convent was founded in 1248, and with its cloister and inner courtyard shown here, it is one of the oldest Gothic cloisters in the region. Its arches are also used as an exhibition space, and are glazed in part along the inner courtyard.

