

# In-ruins

RESIDENCY 2023



PARCO  
ARCHEOLOGICO  
DI SIBARI



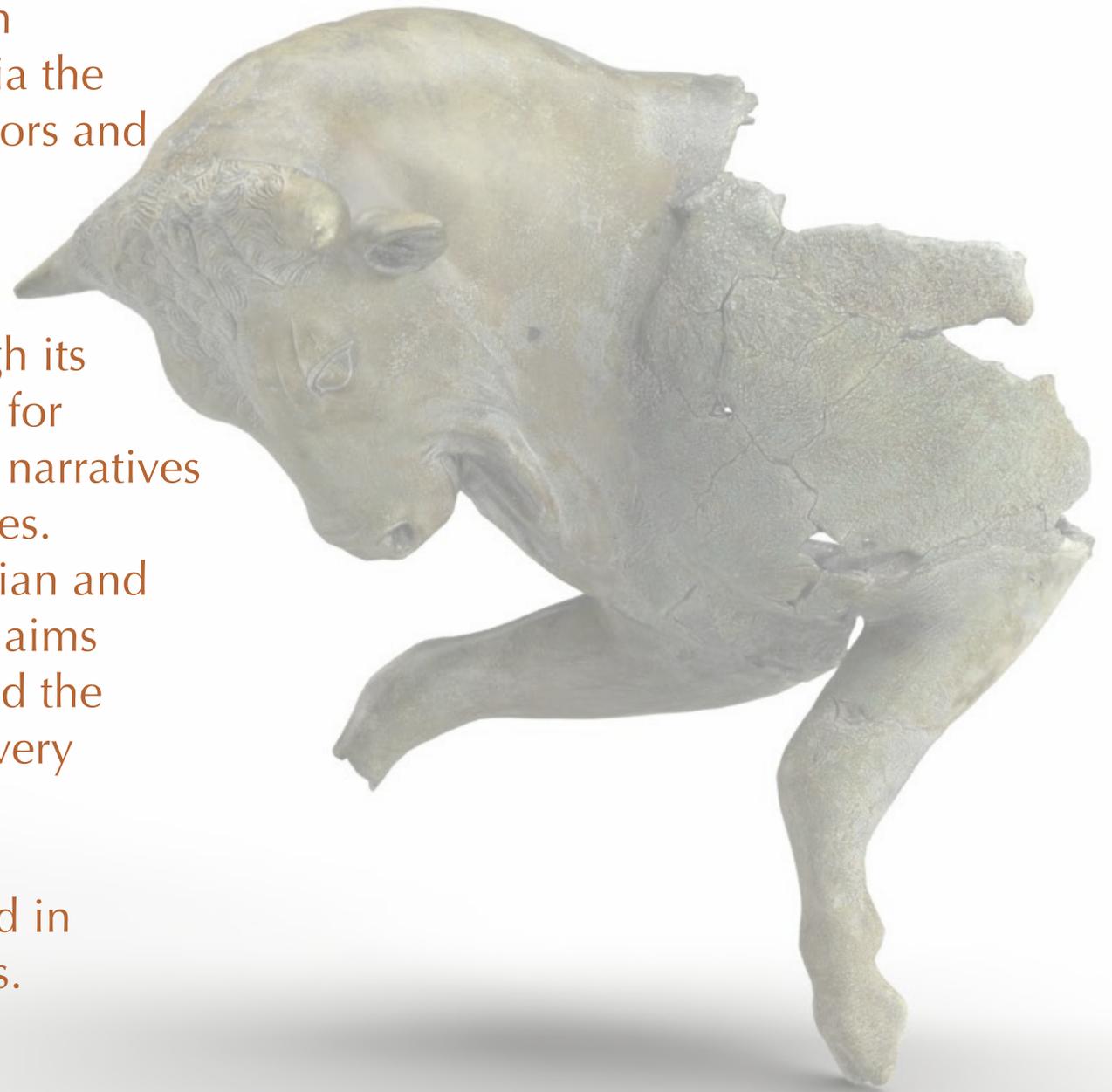
IN COLLABORATION WITH  
**fondazione elpis**

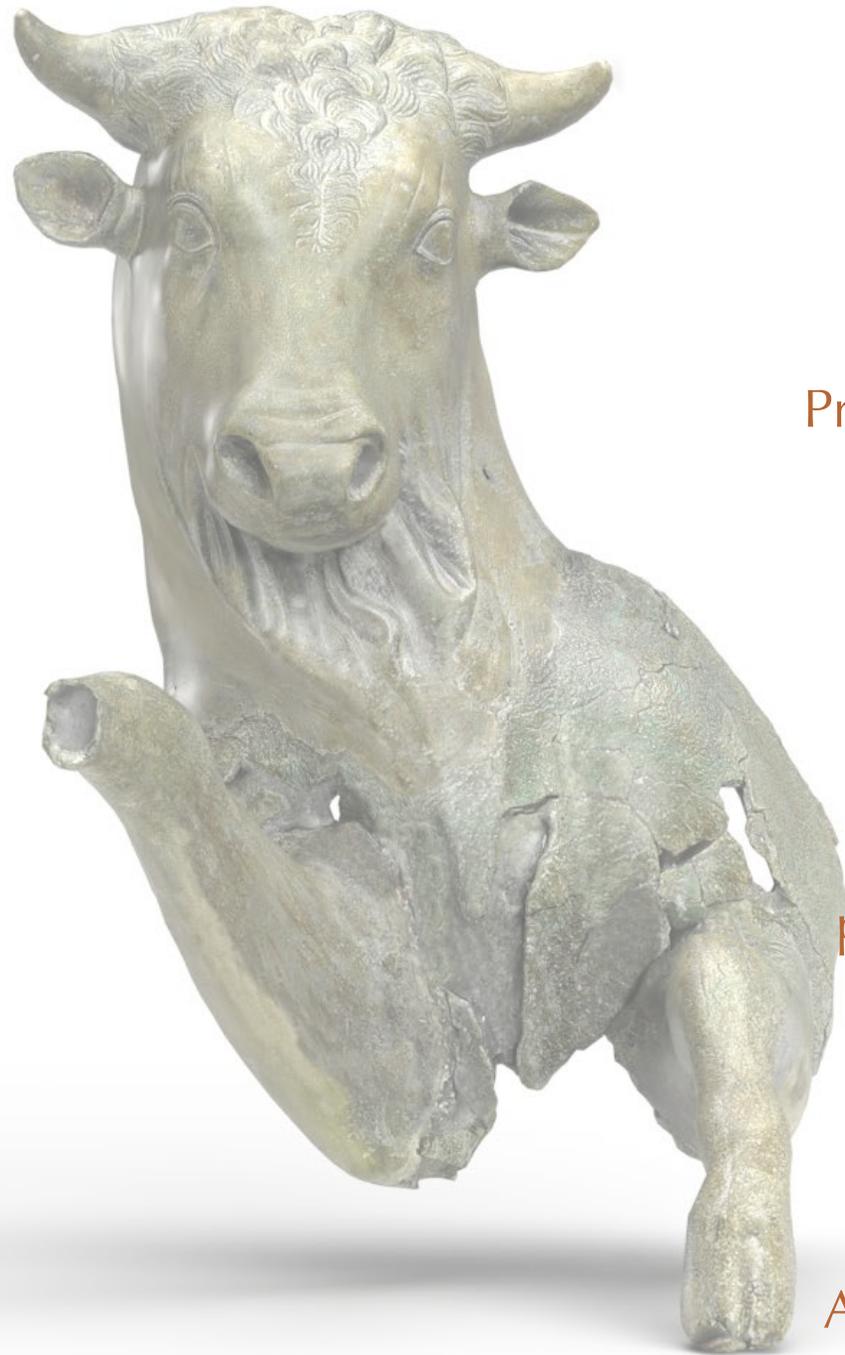


Promoted by Associazione Archeofuturo since 2018, In-ruins is a residency program dedicated to the encounter between contemporary art and archeology via the transitory settlement of artists, curators and researchers in towns neighboring monumental sites in Calabria.

In-ruins rethinks the territory through its past, turns ancient finds into places for encounter and shares urgent global narratives to the borders of peripheral territories. Rooting its activities within a meridian and Mediterranean horizon, the project aims to valorise both cultural heritage and the traditions, myths and stories of the very communities that guard it.

In-ruins residency 2023 is organized in collaboration with Fondazione Elpis.





## Sibari Archaeological Park

2023 LOCATION

This year the project will take place in the Province of Cosenza for the first time, to engage with the history of the Archaeological Park of Sibari. This area of the Calabrian territory, topographically known as Sibaritide, saw the rise, expansion and decline of the great polis of *Sybaris*. Following the destruction of the Greek city, the Classical center of *Thurii* and the Roman city of *Copia* were founded, partially overlapping its ruins. This exceptional stratification makes Sibari one of the largest and most important sites in the Mediterranean up until the Roman Age. The Park includes the Sibaritide National Archaeological Museum, the Horse Park Archaeological Area and the Amendolara National Archaeological Museum.

# Sibari Archaeological Park

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

At the end of the VIII century BC, a group of Achaeans occupied the fertile plain between the rivers Kratos and Sybaris and founded a city named Sybaris, after the river. Here, **the settlers discovered a cosmopolitan environment** hosting the exchanges of multiple Mediterranean populations. They settled peacefully and contributed to the establishment of a commercial network that fostered the city's wealth and expansion. Sybaris prospered, occupied the entire plain and became the center of commercial and cultural routes linking distant places in the Mediterranean and Italy. Strong and stable alliances connected the new colony to twenty-five peoples and four different cities, covering an area touching on both the Ionian and Tyrrhenian coasts via the internal Apennine roads. The two extremes of "the empire of Sibari" were Poseidonia (Paestum) on the Tyrrhenian Sea and Metaponto on the Ionian Sea, both founded by Sibari. **It became one of the richest and most powerful cities of Magna Graecia** and, after having defeated and conquered the rival Siris (Policoro), **counted over 300,000 inhabitants** and perimeter of walls of about 9 kilometers. However, wealth and opulence increased the moral and military weakness of the Sybarites, who got defeated in 510 BC by the Crotonians who, it is said, diverted the banks of the Crati river to submerge the city. In 444 BC the forces of Pericles founded in the same area **the Panhellenic colony of Thurii**. The urban layout of the new center is attributed to Ippodamo di Mileto known as the first architect to have applied planimetric schemes to city planning. Ancient sources claim that even historian Herodotus briefly lived in Thurii in this period. In Roman times, the city was **partly incorporated by the colony of Copiae**, to be abandoned in the VII century AD due to rising groundwater.



# Sibari Archaeological Park

## RESEARCH AXES

Aiming at weaving new connections between the past and present of the site and its ongoing excavations, the In-ruins curatorial team - in concert with the Management of the Archaeological Park of Sibari - proposes to explore the contemporary topicality of the stories it preserves by inviting national and international artists to present projects (research or production-based) inspired by the following research axes:

### 1. CONTACT ZONE

Upon their arrival on the Ionian shores, the Achaean settlers discovered a cosmopolitan environment hosting the exchanges between numerous Mediterranean populations. Sibari tells the story of the Mediterranean Sea as a contact zone, nurturing the intrinsically nomadic and traveling nature of men. The site embodies an idea of culture that does not meet the paradigms of stability and fixed identity on which both nationalist rhetorics and xenophobic theories are based. The Park proves that places are not immune to the transit of people and time, as well as of the movement of ideas and material cultures. **Demonstrating the anthropological constant of the unarrestable transformation of same places through different peoples, Sibari invites you to unearth traces of a cosmopolitan and shared Mediterranean, able to decentralize and erode hegemonic, universalist and univocal narratives.**

### 2. LA DOLCE VITA

At the time of its maximum expansion, Sibari had a perimeter of over 9 km, more than 300,000 inhabitants and was considered the capital of *tryphé*, “sweet life”, and *hybris*, “hubris”. It is reported that the city used to organize “cuisine olympics” to discover new recipes and tastes. However, the extreme wealth and opulence increased its political and military weakness until the defeat at the hands of the Crotonians. It is no coincidence that the link of the ancient city to the luxury and vices leading to its destruction remained imprinted in our vocabulary: *sybaritic*, adj: worthy of a sybarite and, by extension, exaggeratedly refined, soft or lascivious; *sybaritically*, adv: in the manner of the sybarites, with excessive refinement and softness: eg. live sybaritically. Millennia later, “la dolce vita” has become a brand of the Italian lifestyle in the world; while sybaritic can certainly be described the last twenty years of Western global hegemony - roughly spanning the period between the fall of the Berlin Wall and the 2010s - and characterized by an extreme and geo-localized prosperity in the US and Europe accompanied by systematic failures in the fields of foreign policy, international diplomacy and human rights. **Also thinking of the default of cities like Detroit, the unbreathable air of hyper-productive megalopolis like New Delhi, the exorbitant costs of places like Milan and New York, the story of Sibari encourages us to interpret the end of an empire as a creative, moral and political opportunity.**

### 3. TO FREE THE LANDSCAPE

With Pericles’ military intervention the Panhellenic colony of Thurii was erected in the same area where once Sybaris existed. The new city did not overlap perfectly on the remains of the ancient Sybari: the urban layout with orthogonal streets of the new center is in fact attributed to Ippodamo di Mileto, known as the first

architect to have used and theorized regular planimetric schemes in city planning. His approach adapted to the orography of the territory, so as to identify the best natural locations where to erect temples, altars, theaters and markets. **Ippodamo's approach to urban planning seems particularly relevant when considering the present state of the Calabrian landscape, punctured by thousands of uncoordinated and often uncompleted building investments. This opens critical spaces to conceive of the archaeological site as a privileged vantage point from which to document, explore and rethink the surrounding urban and natural landscape.**

#### 4. FAIRY TALES, HUMANS AND ANIMALS

Anecdotes and short stories are attributed to the inhabitants of Sybaris. These tales came to constitute the body of the so-called sybaritic fable, one of the three archaic fable genres - together with the Aesopic and the Lydian-Phrygian - which distinguished itself by the exclusive use of men and not animals as characters. The *logoi sybaritikoï* as reported by ancient historians such as Athenaeus are short literary compositions with a markedly humorous and brilliant vein, which the Sybarites loved to narrate during their opulent banquets and in their frequent moments of rest, also voting for the funniest. The plots of these frivolous and cheeky stories were the Sybarites themselves grappling with eccentric misadventures triggered by the libertine lifestyle of the city. Perhaps exported by the playwright Epicharmos, the genre gained great success in Greece through the work of authors such as Aristophanes. **This narrative specificity of the ancient Sybaris seems particularly fertile for researchers animated by an interest in folk and traditions linked to cynicism and irony; or, on the contrary, exploring posthuman, zoo-centric, zoe-centric approaches.**

#### 5. ECOLOGY OF THE RUIN

In Roman times, Thurii was partially incorporated by the colony of Copiae to then be definitively abandoned in the 7th century AD due to rising groundwater. Still today the Horse Park Archaeological Area is crossed by a drainage system consisting of hundreds of meters of pipes. **Climate change and the rise in sea levels can only further compromise this scenario, shared by still inhabited centers such as Venice and Taranto. Cities of ancient and modern foundation share the present risk of disappearance and evoke mythical tales of disappeared, and now invisible civilizations.**

#### 6. ARCHEOLOGY AS INDIVIDUAL EXPLORATION

The National Archaeological Museum of Amendolara, located about 30 km north-east of the archaeological area of Sibari-Thurii-Copiae, is located in the heart of the homonymous village in the Province of Cosenza. The collection includes the finds donated to the Italian State by Vincenzo Laviola, a doctor of Amendolara, who carried out archaeological research throughout his life. **Engaged in the preservation and custody of the historical and archaeological heritage of his land, Laviola's story leads us to reflect on the interdisciplinary qualities implicit to archaeological research, conceived not only as a process of reconstruction of genealogies and origins, but also as a poetic and individual experience.**

RESEARCH AXES

**Sibari Archaeological Park**

# Sibari Archaeological Park

JURY

**Bruno Barsanti**

DIRECTOR FONDAZIONE ELPIS

**Alessandra Franetovich**

ART HISTORIAN AND CURATOR

**Ellen Pavey &  
Nastassja Simensky**

AHA NETWORK UCL

**Gianmarco Porru**

ARTIST AND 2022 RESIDENT

CALENDAR

**applications open**

5 JUNE

**applications close**

30 JUNE

**jury meets**

1-15 JULY

**selected artists  
announced**

20 JULY

**residency starts**

1 SEPTEMBER

**residency ends**

1 OCTOBER



# Sibari Archaeological Park

## HOSTING CONDITIONS

DATE

1 September - 1 October 2023

2023 Residents will be hosted in Amendolara, a small town situated on a succession of plains overlooking the Ionian Sea, located 30 km away from Sibari Archaeological Park. The town counts less than 3000 inhabitants and is a 10 minutes drive away from the coast. Details and curiosities about the history and myths of the city can be explored [here](#).

### FREE ACCESS TO SIBARI ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK

and connected archives and museums

### FREE ACCOMODATION

for 1 month in Amendolara

Private rooms in shared apartments, with services and wi-fi.

### BOARD

italian breakfast (coffe, juice and croissant) +  
packed lunch(sandwich) + dinner

Room and board are made possible thanks to the generosity of the Local Council of Amendolara. Please be aware that Calabrian restaurants do not always offer vegetarian and vegan options. Allergies and other medical conditions must be promptly communicated upon selection. We strive to find solutions fit for all, but residents are demanded to keep a flexible and understanding approach towards local cuisine and traditions.

### PRODUCTION BUDGET

up to 700 euros per artist

### RESIDENCY CAR

for trips to other towns and monuments

The car is provided for production and research reasons, planned trips and group needs. It is not meant for the discretionary, personal, use of individual residents. Artists keen to drive should inform us upon selection.

### ONGOING CURATORIAL ASSISTANCE

curators live with the artists during the residency  
supporting their research and creative needs.

### MEETINGS WITH LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS

and other local experts depending on  
research and production needs

# Sibari Archaeological Park

## POLICY OF PARTICIPATION AND RESPECT

In case of selection, you will be exploring one of Italy's most remote and authentic regions. Located at the center of the Mediterranean, Calabria is closer to Tunisia than to the main cities of continental Europe. Amendolara is two and a half hours away from Bari and Cosenza airports. You will be surrounded by a stunning natural landscape, with wonderful shores located a 10 minutes drive from the town. Such beauty goes together with slow and limited infrastructures and production facilities.

Residents are asked to join the programme with **an open and adventurous attitude**, and we strongly advise applicants to make sure they have an understanding of the Calabrian context and history in advance of their submission. If you have never visited Italy before, you should be aware that you are starting from the very tail of the *Grand Tour*. Calabria is an untamed and wild territory, where magic, mythology and history intertwine via pagan and religious rituals. The local diet is spicy and often meat-based.

Over the past editions of the residency, proneness to self initiative and a friendly approach towards the hosting communities have proved to open unexpected doors and boost learning and production opportunities. International artists are very special guests for such small towns, and it is responsibility of each resident to show gratitude for the hospitality, and be always respectful of local habits and traditions. In-ruins residency is an experience radicated in the territory, and we strive to valorize the stories and backgrounds of the people we cross our paths with.

Solidarity, mutual respect and trust will make our stay in Calabria an unforgettable experience. In-ruins acknowledges the diverse beliefs, aspirations and backgrounds of each participant, and asks residents to respond to inconveniences and misunderstandings with patience and diplomacy.

In-ruins is a radical experiment grounded on the belief that collective action can be incisive even when temporary, and commits to actively counter all forms of discrimination. The team will not tolerate any form of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia, xenophobia, classism, ableism, ageism nor any other expression of hate, harassment, threats, or violence.

If it is found that a violation of this POLICY OF PARTICIPATION AND RESPECT has occurred, or any form of discrimination is witnessed or experienced, the team will take immediate action. Such action may include, but is not restricted to, the following: informal warning, formal warning, exclusion from the residency. Encouraging interpersonal exchange and the importance to develop dialogic tools to smoothen ideological distances, the team will not accept any toxic behaviours, or other actions negatively affecting the experience of the group.

THANK YOU

for taking the time to read this policy and to commit yourself to complying with its content.

# Sibari Archaeological Park

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted via the following [link](#).

Please send a single PDF file (max 10 mb) containing:

- **CV** (max 3 pages)
- **PORTFOLIO** (min 5 - max 20 images of previous projects or research)
- **RESIDENCY PROJECT PROPOSAL** (500 words max + accompanying images/sketches if needed)

Please note that the project proposal is tentative and can be edited and transformed over the residency.

If you are already aware of materials required for your practice, please do mention these in the application.

The PDF must be titled in capital letters as follows: **SURNAME\_NAME\_INRUINS2023**

If you encounter any issues with the submission of your application do not hesitate to contact us on:

**info@inruins.org**



**Good luck!**