

# Anozero'24 - Bienal de Coimbra

6 April to 30 June 2024



## Anozero returns to Coimbra for its fifth edition

Curated by **Ángel Calvo Ulloa** and **Marta Mestre**, the programme for **Anozero'24 - Bienal de Coimbra** will unfold between **6 April and 30 June 2024** in Coimbra, Portugal. In a celebration of contemporary art, various venues across the city will host the fifth edition of the biennial, including the **Monastery of Santa Clara-a-Nova**, which has taken centre stage in recent editions, as well as the **Botanical Garden** and the **College of Arts of the University of Coimbra (UC)**. With **Câmara Municipal de Coimbra**, the University has partnered with the **Círculo de Artes Plásticas de Coimbra (CAPC)** to organise **Anozero** since its creation in 2015 and the **Sala da Cidade**, the former refectory of the **Monastery of Santa Cruz**, and the **Círculo de Artes Plásticas de Coimbra** are also on the exhibition itinerary.

**Anozero'24 - Bienal de Coimbra**

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**Press preview:** Friday 5 April 2024

**Official opening:** 6 April 2024

**Curators:** Ángel Calvo Ulloa and Marta Mestre

## About the curators



Image: Ángel Calvo Ulloa, co-curator of Anozero'24 - Bienal de Coimbra. Credit: © Ada Cerdá, courtesy of the curator

**Ángel Calvo Ulloa** (1984, Lalín, Spain) is an independent curator and contemporary art researcher. He is co-author of the book *Desde lo curatorial. Conversaciones, experiencias y afectos* (Consonni, 2020) and, as a curator since 2011, he has organised solo and group exhibitions, the most recent projects being “Anidar en el gesto: Unas estanterías de Alberto” (2022) at Fundación Cerezales Antonino y Cinia (León); “Complexo Colosso” (2021) at CIAJG (Guimarães); “adios/volverán” (2022), in co-curatorship with Pedro G. Romero, at Casa de Iberoamérica (Cádiz) or “Antonio Ballester Moreno. Autoconstrucción. Piezas sueltas. Juego y experiencia” (2021) at the Artium museum (Vitoria-Gasteiz). He carried out his academic training in Art History.



Image: Marta Mestre, co-curator of Anozero'24 - Bienal de Coimbra. Credit: © Vasco Célio, courtesy of the curator

**Marta Mestre** (1980, Beja, Portugal) is a curator and researcher in contemporary art. She is currently artistic director of the Centro Internacional José de Guimarães/ CIAJG, Guimarães. She was curator at Instituto Inhotim, in Minas Gerais, and at Museu de Arte Moderna and Escola de Arte Parque Lage, both in Rio de Janeiro. As a curator and art critic since 2005, she has organized solo and group exhibitions in several countries, the most recent projects being: “Desvairar 22” (2022) and “Farsa” (2019) at SESC-São Paulo (São Paulo); “Philippe Van Snick: Dynamic Project” (2022) at S.M.A.K. (Ghent), “Alto Nível Baixo” (2019) at Galeria Zé dos Bois (Lisbon). She carried out her academic training in Art History.

## About Anozero - Bienal de Coimbra

**Anozero** has been recognised as Portugal’s most important contemporary art biennial, with an average of 90,000 visitors to each edition. Initially created to promote a reflection on the classification of the University of Coimbra, Alta and Sofia as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2013, the Biennial proposes a confrontation between contemporary art and cultural heritage, exploring the risks and multiple possibilities associated with the latter.

**Anozero** is, therefore, an action programme for the city that systematically questions the territory in which it is located to contribute to constructing an active and transformative cultural epoch. The Global South's artists, curatorial, and social practices have been brought into this debate by the biennial, amplified by the convergent programme and educational service promoted by **Anozero**.

The name **Anozero** was chosen to represent the idea of the possibility of renewing— every two years—a necessarily updated and dynamic new cycle of reflection.



Image: The interior of the Mosteiro de Santa Clara-a-Nova in Coimbra, Portugal, one of the sites for the Anozero'24 Bienal de Coimbra. Credit: © Jorge das Neves Courtesy of Anozero – Bienal de Coimbra

### **The University of Coimbra**

The University of Coimbra is one of the oldest in Europe, founded in 1290. For nearly 500 years, it was the only Portuguese-speaking university in the world (including Brazil and Portuguese-speaking African countries). As such, it has had enormous influence over a vast territory, an influence recognised by UNESCO when it classified it as a World Heritage Site.

### **Monastery of Santa Clara-a-Nova**

On a hill on the left bank of the river Mondego, this gigantic building was finished in the 17th century to house the Franciscan women's order—the Poor Clares—and to house the remains of Queen Isabel, wife of Denis of Portugal, the founder of the University of Coimbra. After the extinction of the religious orders in Portugal in the 19th century, it was handed over to the Portuguese state and was used for a century as a military barracks.