



**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
**MINISTRY FOR SPORTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE & YOUTH**  
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Gibraltar

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**MINISTER TO OPEN CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION**

The Minister for Culture, the Hon Steven Linares will be officially opening the 1st of the Little Constellation, Listen to the Sirens exhibition at Montagu Bastion, Line Wall Road, on Friday 23rd May. Listen to the Sirens is a project that has grown out of collaboration between the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Gibraltar, and the Little Constellation Network for Contemporary Art in small states and geo-political micro-areas in Europe, based in the Republic of San Marino.

The first artist invited to work in Listen to the Sirens | Space for Contemporary Art is Miki Tallone.

The experience of this artist, originally from Canton Ticino (Switzerland) was considered essential in developing an experimental project that related the construction of a solo exhibition with a socio-historical research related to the history of Gibraltar.

The project will inaugurate Listen to the Sirens | Space for Contemporary Art.

To create her work, the Swiss artist decided to broach a highly sensitive issue in the history of Gibraltar: the evacuation of civilians from the fortress during World War II. In this respect, in the recent months spent developing the project, the artist wrote:

"Knowing the history of Gibraltar I decided to tackle the delicate issue of evacuation during the World War II. I do not, however, wish to deal with the issue from a strictly historical or political angle, but to recover the traces of a shared visual memory. These traces, for me, are represented by the vision of the "sheets" that all the women and their evacuated families had to leave in their homes.

With these few lines I asked every family that had a connection with the evacuation, which marked the history of Gibraltar and especially the personal history of each family, to take part in an action: to donate one of their sheets

today, a sign of everyday life, in memory of a story that remains in the memory of many of the residents." "In a low voice" is the title of this work.

As well as the presentation of this installation, the exhibition sees the production of another new work, a video, which bears the same title as the exhibition and amplifies and intensifies the temporal aspect.

The exhibition is completed by "Can you give me my position", an artist book produced by Miki Tallone for the exhibition at the National Gallery of Iceland in 2013, which forms the theoretical premise of the current project.

ENDS

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The Project

Listen to the Sirens | Space for Contemporary Art is a project that has grown out of collaboration between the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Gibraltar, and Little Constellation Network for Contemporary Art in small states and geopolitical micro-areas in Europe, based in the Republic of San Marino.

Listen to the Sirens is therefore a cultural dialogue between two territories that share a common path of research and interest in contemporary visual culture: San Marino and Gibraltar.

The project entails the creation, within the historic eighteenth-century bastions that surround Gibraltar, of the first Project Space in the small British territory. In particular, the Government of Gibraltar has made available the prestigious Montagu Bastion, specially renovated for the occasion.

Listen to the Sirens | Space for Contemporary Art is a space for viewing and listening. Attracted by the sound of the sirens, often the visions of our present, the images we continually produce and their contents, are confused, flawed, incapable of embodying key values, such as slowness and complexity within their construction or use.

Listen to the Sirens is a project by Rita Canarezza and Pier Paolo Coro, based on the re-appropriation of this capacity for interpretation, through an exhibition programme based on continuous dialogue between the artists of the Little Constellation Network and artists who live and work in Gibraltar.

The activity of this centre for contemporary art is curated by Rita Canarezza & Pier Paolo Coro, the founding artists of Little Constellation, and Alessandro Castiglioni, curator of Little Constellation.

The logo of Listen to the Sirens | Space for Contemporary Art is by Studio Mousse (Milan). It epitomizes aspects of identity of place: the form evokes a mermaid's tail, but also two strips of land almost touching each other, evoking

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the Strait of Gibraltar or the two mountains that characterize the geographic profiles of Gibraltar and San Marino.

The activity involved in Listen to the Sirens | Space for Contemporary Art begins in May 2014 with an experimental program that sees the alternation of international and Gibraltar artists with the aim of establishing the first research activities and artistic production of space. This activity will have a moment of synthesis in the summer of 2015 with a major exhibition devoted to the Little Constellation artists operating in the small states and geo-political micro-areas of Europe, who will be invited to Gibraltar for the first time.