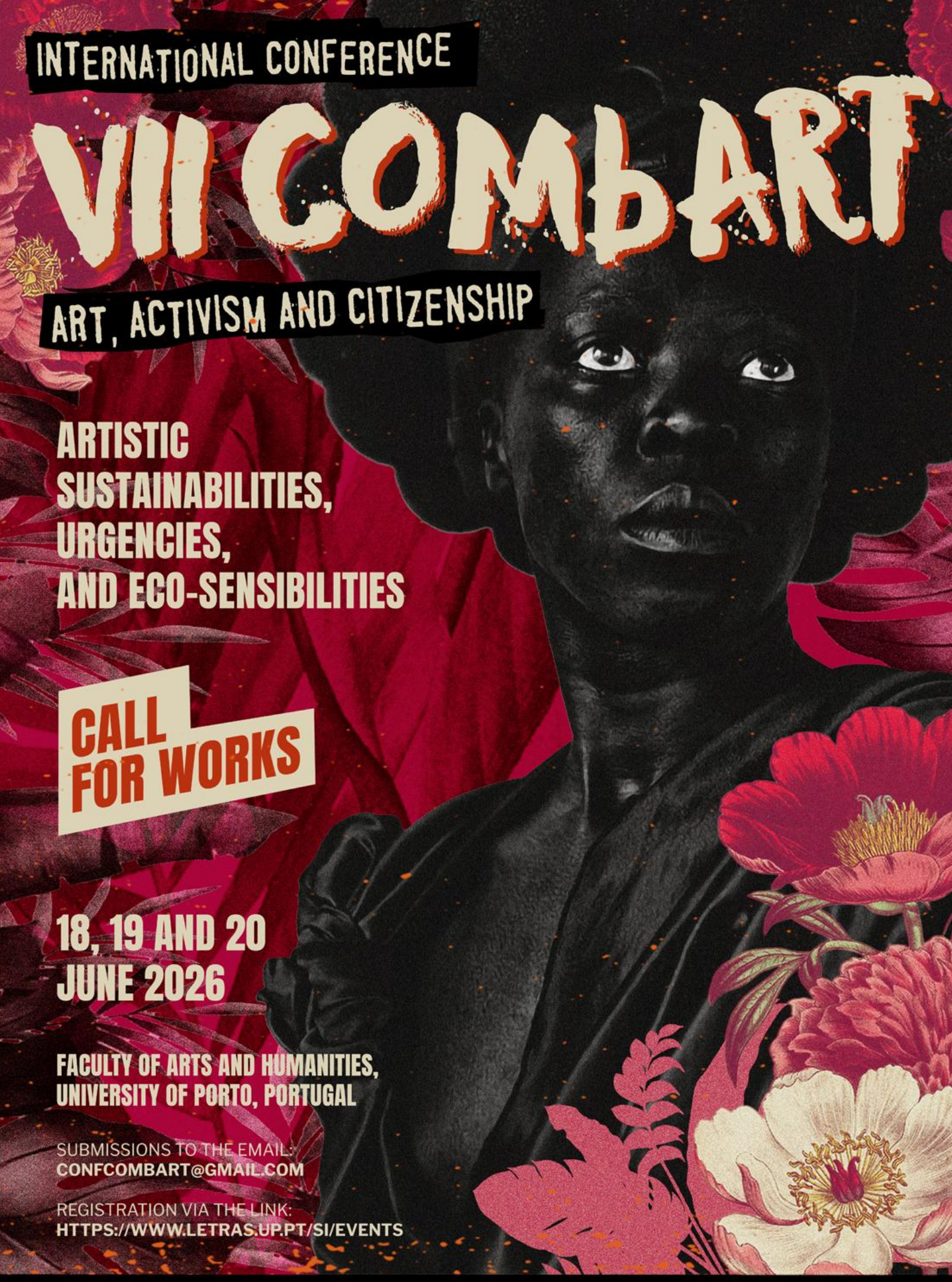
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
VII COMBART
ART, ACTIVISM AND CITIZENSHIP
ARTISTIC SUSTAINABILITIES, URGENCIES, AND ECO-SENSIBILITIES
CALL FOR WORKS
18, 19 AND 20 JUNE 2026
FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES, UNIVERSITY OF PORTO, PORTUGAL
SUBMISSIONS TO THE EMAIL:
CONFCOMBART@GMAIL.COM
REGISTRATION VIA THE LINK:
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VII International Conference
COMbART. Art, Activism and Citizenship

Artistic Sustainabilities, urgencies, and eco-sensibilities

18, 19 and 20th June 2026

CALL FOR PAPERS

The contemporary ecological crisis and the erosion of democracy demand a rethinking of the relationships between humans, non-humans, and the planet through artistic practices understood as spaces of experimentation and resistance. The VII COMbART Conference invites participants to reflect on, analyze, and expand the ways in which the ecologies of art operate as spaces of cohabitation and transformation in the relations between power, knowledge, and nature (read the full call for papers and thematic axes below).

Importante dates:

Submissions: until 16 March 2026

Notification of results: 31 March 2026

Registration: early registration until 30 April (late registration until 31 May) 2026

Final Programme: 8 June 2026

Conference: 18–20 June 2025

Registration fees:

Early: Students – €40 | Professionals – €85

Late: Students – €65 | Professionals – €120

Location:

Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto

Submission to the Email: confcombart@gmail.com

COMbART Art, Activism and Citizenship: Sustainabilities, Urgencies and Eco-Sensibilities – Call for papers

Contemporary challenges—climatic, social, economic, and political—demand new ways of thinking about and acting upon the world. The VII International COMbART Conference seeks to investigate the intersections between art, eco-sensibilities, activism, and socio-natural and political participation, exploring how artistic, cultural, and participatory practices contribute to imagining and constructing more sustainable, just, and inclusive ways of living.

We are living in a moment of unprecedented ecological crisis and democratic erosion, in which environmental, political, and cultural issues are increasingly intertwined. In this context, art—understood as a critical, sensitive, and situated practice—offers a space for experimentation and resistance, capable of reconfiguring the relationships between humans, non-humans, and the planet.

The ecologies of art have become laboratories of political imagination, spaces of cohabitation among humans, species, and territories, in which new forms of democracy are rehearsed—forms grounded in listening, collaboration, and reciprocity. From ecological art to community pedagogy, from environmental performance to social practice, these experiences share a commitment to transforming the relations between power, knowledge, and nature.

This conference seeks to highlight approaches associated with the so-called new materialism, as described by authors such as Golańska and Kronenberg (2020), who argue that matter—more specifically bodies, affects, and non-human agents—participates in the processes of producing ecological knowledge. Accordingly, we aim to emphasize the ways in which artistic practices can generate eco-sensitive forms of knowing, moving beyond a nature/culture dichotomy. At the same time, authors such as Latta (2014) have discussed, in this regard, the concept of insurgent ecologies of citizenship, proposing that nature enters the political sphere alongside human subjects, forming a kind of socio-natural corpus in which agency is distributed among humans, non-humans, and more-than-humans.

On the other hand, Yıldırım (2023) analytically reviews the intersections between the arts, ethnography, and ecologies, thereby contesting historical narratives of domination and demonstrating how human and more-than-human constellations organize themselves under conditions of ecological and colonial devastation.

Thus, in light of these theoretical and conceptual frameworks, the VII COMbART Conference aims to analyze, understand, and expand the ways in which the ecologies of art may be conceived—emphasizing perspectives that range from the notion of political laboratories of imagination to spaces of cohabitation among humans, species, and territories, in which new forms of democracy grounded in listening, collaboration, and reciprocity are experimented with.

The VII International COMbART Conference seeks to bring together researchers, artists, curators, activists, collectives, and communities interested in dissecting the relationships between art, ecology, democracy, and social justice. Proposals that explore experimental methodologies, participatory practices, and interdisciplinary approaches—as well as research that articulates critical thought and aesthetic practice—will be particularly valued.

Over the past several years, the International COMbART Conference has established itself as a forum for discussion on engaged creative and artistic practices. We understand that art, culture, and a broader range of creative practices not always subsumed under these categories may constitute expressive fields that play a significant role in shaping contemporary forms of citizenship.

The VII International COMbART Conference emerges from a collaboration between several institutions, including the Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences at NOVA University Lisbon (CICS.NOVA, NOVA FCSH and CICS.NOVA.IPLeiria); the Institute of Sociology of the University of Porto (IS-UP); the Dinâmia'CET - ISCTE, Portugal; and LabEA – Research Laboratory in Art Education/FBAUP. Also partnering in this event are the International Network All the Arts (TAA) and the Luso-Brazilian Research Network on Arts and Urban Interventions (RAIU).

Submissions are welcome from fields such as sociology, anthropology, history, art history, cultural and creative industries, participatory artistic practices and artistic research, cultural economics, cultural and social geography, urban planning, cultural studies, communication sciences, and related disciplines—including illustration, music, film, visual arts, performance, and the performing arts—as well as intersections with new technologies. Proposals may present research results or reflect on articulations between cultural/artistic practices, activism, and research, taking into consideration the following axes:

I. Political, Artivist, and Aesthetic Practices

- Political ecologies of art: artistic and activist practices in the Anthropocene.
- Decolonizing environmentalism and ecological justice.
- Democracy and participation: collaborative practices, artistic assemblies, critical pedagogies, and cultural citizenship.
- Art and sensitive democracy: aesthetics, politics, and participation as ways of reconfiguring public space.
- Narratives of collapse and care: dystopia, hope, and ecological imagination in cinema, literature, and performance.
- Ecological and cultural economies: modes of production, green transition, and sustainable cultural practices.
- Sustainability and aesthetics: ecocriticism, environmental aesthetics, and new ecological sensibilities in the visual, performing, and sound arts

II. Bodies, Ecological Spatialities, and Co-Creation

- Body, territory, and planet: the body as an ecological site.
- Affective geographies, bioart, territorial art, and site-specific practices.
- Collective creation processes as relational practices that establish forms of coexistence among human communities, species, and territories.
- Communities and co-creation: community art, agroecology, shared gardens, and pedagogies of the commons.

III. Techno-Arts, Infrastructures, and Digital Ecologies

- Critical inquiry into the relationships between artistic practices, technology, and ecologies, problematizing technical infrastructures as active agents in the production of worlds, knowledges, and environmental sensibilities.
- Technology, data, and nature: ecological digital art, green artificial intelligence, and sustainable technological imagination.

IV. Transformative Knowledges and Practices

- Ecofeminist and Indigenous epistemologies: plural knowledges, cosmopolitics, and relational ontologies in artistic and scientific production.
- Education and transformation: artistic and educational practices in the construction of ecological citizenship.
- Environmental archive and memory: practices of documentation, archiving, and mediating ecological and political pasts.

Submissions and their corresponding presentations may be delivered in Portuguese, Spanish, or English. Abstracts must not exceed 500 words and should clearly explain the context of the research or the theoretical and/or methodological reflection to be presented at the conference, indicating the objectives, conceptual assumptions, and methodology, as well as the expected or achieved results. They must also be accompanied by an English version and a short biographical note of the author(s) (max. 150 words), including institutional affiliation and contact information. Each author may submit only one proposal as first author.

Submissions to the Email: confcombart@gmail.com
Registration Link: https://www.letras.up.pt/si/events

Coordination:

Paula Guerra – IS-UP, CITCEM, CEGOT, DINÂMIA'CET-Iscte - University of Porto, Portugal
Patrícia Pereira - CICS.NOVA – Polytechnic Institute of Leiria, Portugal
Ricardo Campos - CICS.NOVA - NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal
Sofia Sousa – Institute of Sociology – University of Porto, Portugal

Organizing Committee

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Paula Guerra – Institute of Sociology, CITCEM, CEGOT, DINÂMIA'CET-Iscte - University of Porto, Portugal
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Rui Saraiva - – Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Porto, Portugal
Sofia Sousa – Institute of Sociology – University of Porto, Portugal
Susana Januário – School of Education, Polytechnic Institute of Porto, IS-UP, Portugal
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Paula Guerra – Institute of Sociology Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brasil, CITCEM, CEGOT, DINÂMIA'CET-Iscte – University of Porto, Portugal
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Organization:

Institute of Sociology, University of Porto
Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences (CICS.NOVA, NOVA FCSH and IPLEIRIA)
DINÂMIA'CET – ISCTE, Lisbon University Institute, Portugal

Support:

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Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Porto
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