

# THE DIGITAL REPOSITORY OF THE CONSERVATION OF ART IN PUBLIC SPACES (CAPuS) PROJECT



The CAPuS Digital Repository stores, preserves and provides open access to a wide range of information and documentation on the contemporary public artworks that were studied within the CAPuS project.

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## ABOUT CAPuS

The Conservation of Art in Public Spaces project (CAPuS) brought together higher education institutions, research centres, industry, NGOs and public bodies from five European countries – Italy, Croatia, Spain, Germany, Poland – to create guidelines and protocols for the protection and conservation of contemporary public art, and to develop training opportunities for conservation students and professional conservators. The project lasted three and a half years (January 2018 – June 2021), and was funded through the [Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 2: Knowledge Alliances](#).



## FREE ONLINE ACCESS TO ART-HISTORICAL, TECHNICAL AND CONSERVATION DATA AND DOCUMENTATION

A great number of artworks – mostly murals and outdoor sculptures – were studied in the project. Basic information was collected about each piece. When possible, the artwork creators were interviewed. Archival research and the study of publications in which the artworks were featured provided further information on their artistic, historical and socio-cultural contexts. Technical analysis was carried out, and the causes and mechanisms of artwork deterioration were investigated. The condition of the artworks was documented. Conservation works were performed on several pieces, and some artworks received basic maintenance.

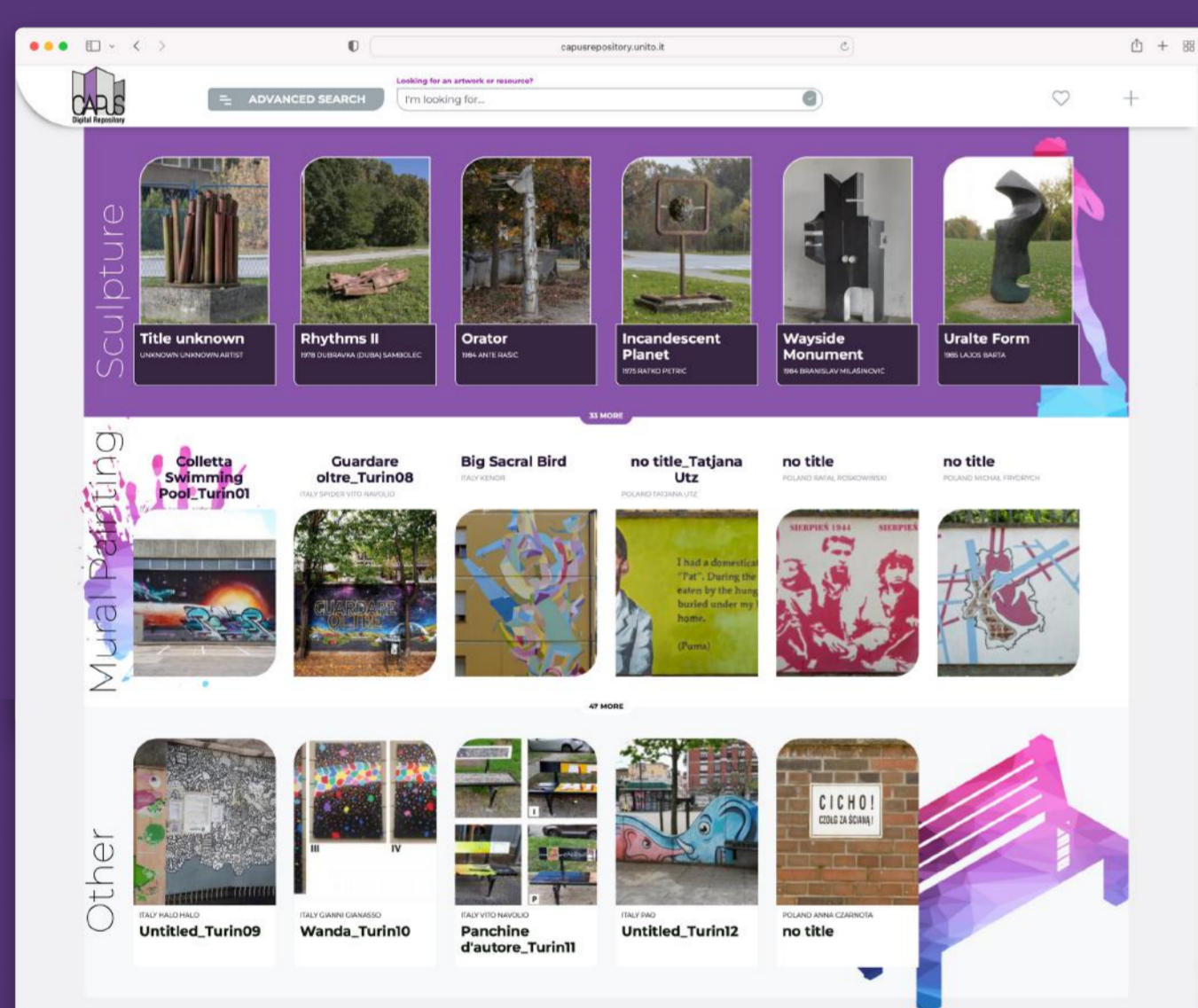
The work of the CAPuS project team resulted in a large amount of art-historical, technical and conservation data concerning and documentation on the studied artworks. The CAPuS Digital Repository was created with the aim of sharing this wealth of information with heritage professionals, students, scholars, and the general public.

The database was conceived by conservator Sagita Mirjam Sunara (University of Split, Arts Academy) and programmed by the IT expert Toni Tabak (Digitize Studio DITZ). Several project members participated in the uploading of the digital content.

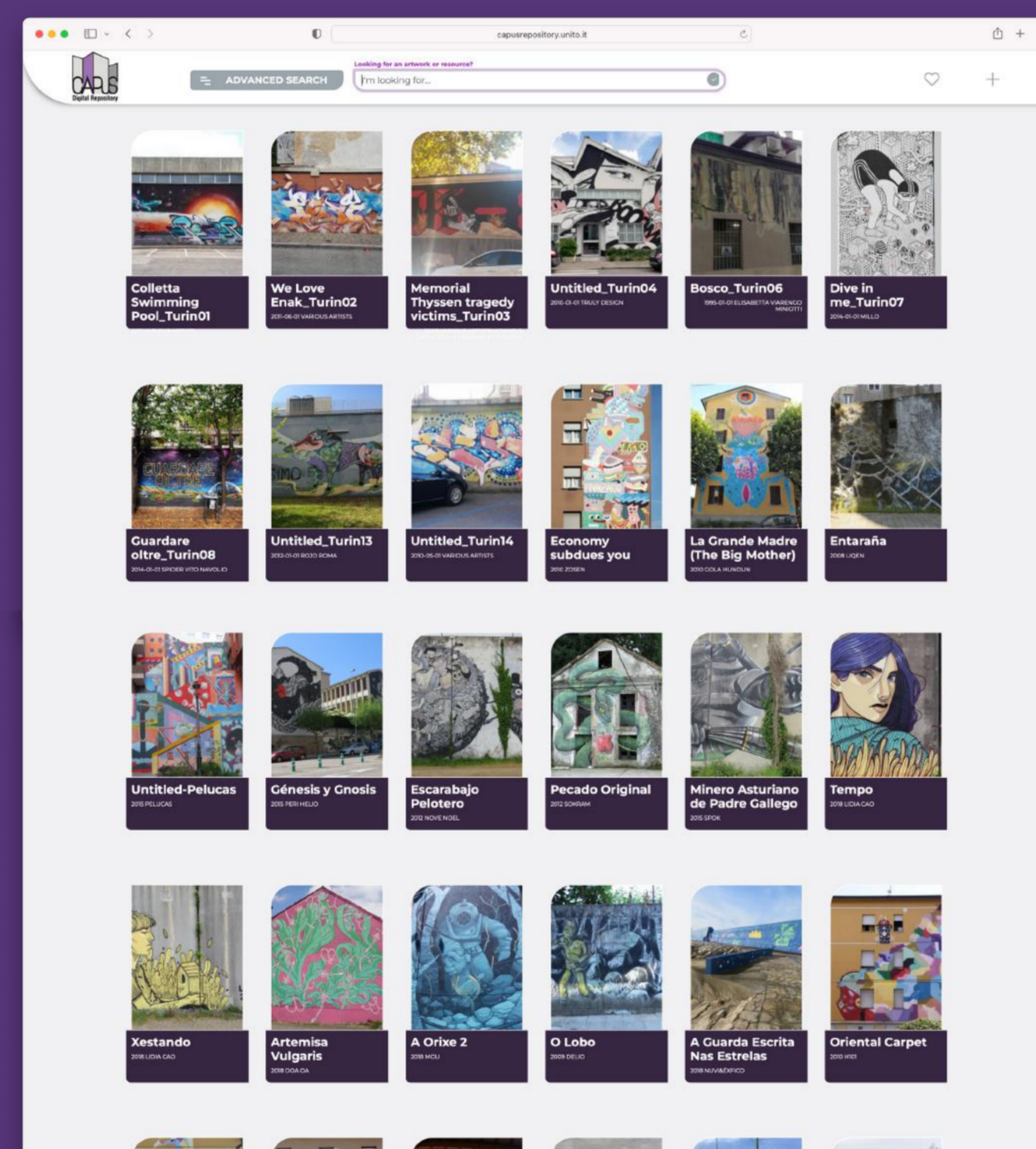
The CAPuS Digital Repository was launched in February 2021. It can be accessed through the CAPuS project website (<https://capusproject.eu>) or directly via this link: <https://www.capusrepository.unito.it/>

## A WALK-THROUGH THE CAPuS DIGITAL REPOSITORY

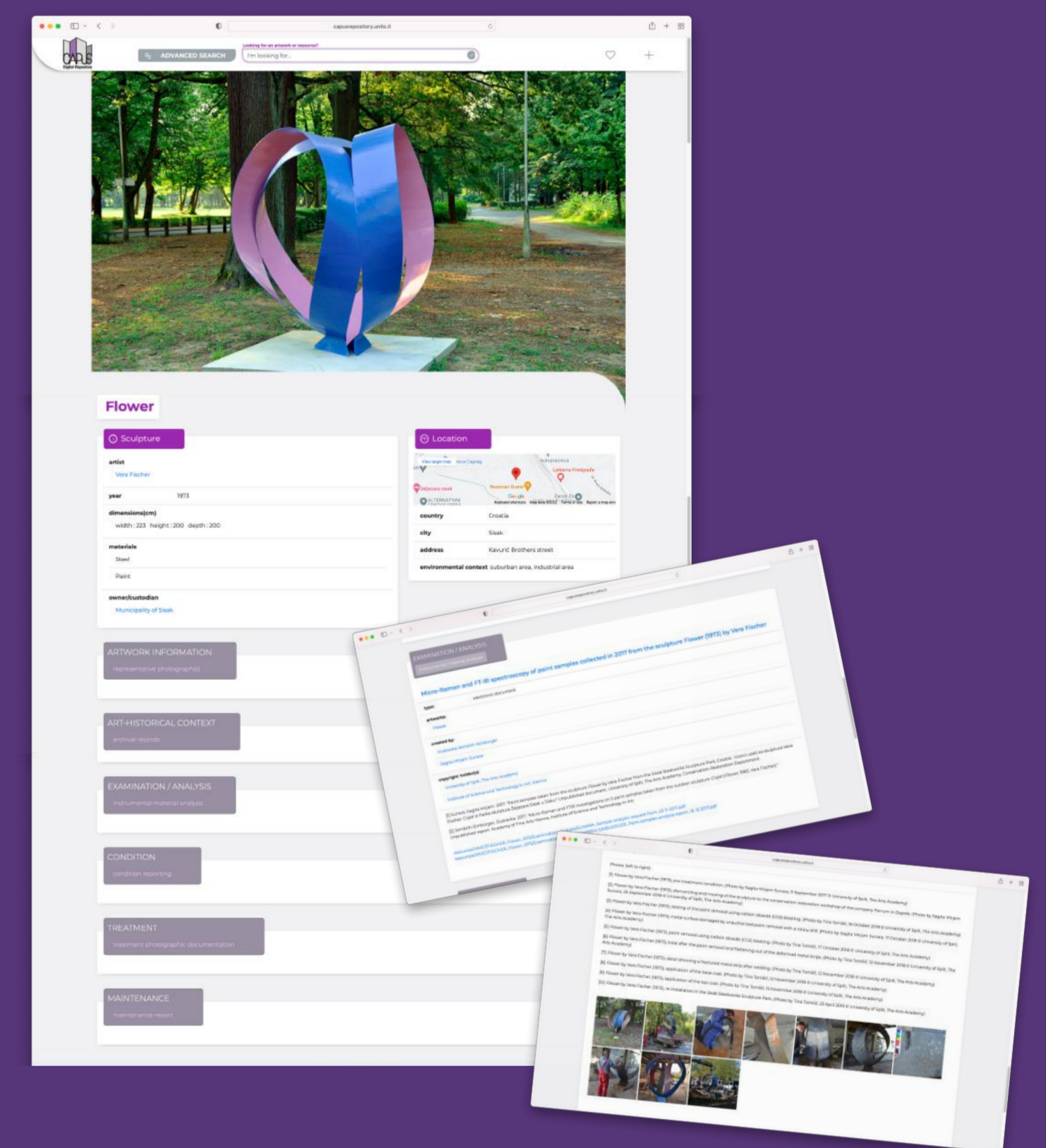
At the present time there are around one hundred artworks in the CAPuS Digital Repository. The home page is visually divided into rows, offering a quick overview of the artworks by type: sculptures, murals, etc. To see all the artworks of a certain type, the user has to click on the 'More' button under each row.



The user will be taken to a page that lists all the artworks of the selected type. The artworks are shown as thumbnail images with information about the title, artist and year of making. Clicking a thumbnail image will take the user to a page that displays the available data and documentation on that specific artwork.



The artwork's "personal page" functions as a sort of dossier. The data and documentation are organised into ten categories. To facilitate ease of navigation, the categories are divided into sub-categories. Depending on the type of information available, some categories/subcategories might not be displayed.



## DATA CATEGORIES

<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>CONDITION</b> Condition report Condition photographic documentation
<b>ARTWORK INFORMATION</b> Representative photo Other relevant information	<b>DOCUMENTATION</b> 2D drawings 3D documentation
<b>ART-HISTORICAL CONTEXT</b> Archival records Comparative works Artist's biography	<b>TREATMENT</b> Treatment report Treatment photographic documentation
<b>ARTIST INTERVIEW</b> Recording Transcription	<b>MAINTENANCE</b> Maintenance report Maintenance photographic documentation
<b>EXAMINATION / ANALYSIS</b> Instrumental material analysis Micro sampling	<b>CAPuS PUBLICATIONS</b>

## DEEPER INSIGHT INTO THE CAPuS DIGITAL REPOSITORY

The structure, functionality and content of the CAPuS Digital Repository have been presented in a three-part series of Zoom events (May 2021). The recordings are available through the CAPuS website: <http://www.capusproject.eu/2021/06/01/capus-digital-repository-zoom-events/>

The repository was also presented at the final conference of the CAPuS project (June 2021). The recording of the talk can be accessed through the CAPuS website: <http://www.capusproject.eu/final-event-recordings/> (select 'Recording of Day 1', 22:46 – 40:57).

## WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

It is important to note that the CAPuS Digital Repository is not based on a commercial off-the-shelf or a free database software. Toni Tabak wrote a special code for the repository, which can be adapted to the needs of other data management projects/platforms. However, that also means that the CAPuS Digital Repository requires constant maintenance, and that improvements require specific IT knowledge.

The repository is currently hosted on the server of the University of Turin (lead partner of the CAPuS project). The IT team of the University of Turin has agreed to provide maintenance until the second half of 2024. Neither the University of Split (Arts Academy) nor the University of Turin have funds for that work in the future.

Although the repository is connected to the CAPuS project and the artworks that were studied within it, it can be expanded through the addition of other contemporary public works of art, not just from Europe but from all over the world. It can serve as a platform for sharing information and documentation. Many public artworks in open (urban) spaces are inherently ephemeral in nature, so the repository offers itself as a tool for their preservation.

We invite persons and institutions interested in collaboration to contact the CAPuS Digital Repository administrators:

[sagita.mirjam.sunara@umas.hr](mailto:sagita.mirjam.sunara@umas.hr)  
[dominique.scalarone@unito.it](mailto:dominique.scalarone@unito.it)



The user interface language of the repository is English. Some text-based files are available only in the language of the country of the artwork's origin.

The repository offers basic and advanced search options. For basic search, keywords are entered in the search bar. Advanced search combines search terms and specific filters, such as artwork type, data (sub)category, data type, artist, country, year made etc.