

Foodtracks

exploring Mediterranean wetlands through Artistic-Culinary Projects

Alessandra Marcon

Iuav University of Venice

amarcon@iuav.it

Jaime Gastalver Lopez-Pazo

University of Sevilla

jgstlvr@hotmail.com



AESOP CONGRESS 2025 - YILDIZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, ISTANBUL

PLANNING AS A TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION IN AN AGE OF PLANETARY CRISIS: JULY 7TH -
JULY 11TH 2025

Mediterranean wetlands are **complex socio-ecological ecosystems** that deliver critical ecosystem services—from carbon sequestration and flood regulation to water purification and food provision (Mitsch, Bernal, & Hernandez, 2013; Barbier et al., 2011).



Though often perceived as natural, wetlands are **shaped by centuries of human activity**, functioning as hybrid landscapes where ecological and cultural values intertwine (Grove & Rackham, 2001).

Wetlands support both **biodiversity** and **local livelihoods**, serving as vital nodes in human and non-human food systems.

Wetlands offers **recreational and educational opportunities**, underlining their role as cultural spaces and areas for human and non-human wellbeing (Folke et al., 2005; Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005).

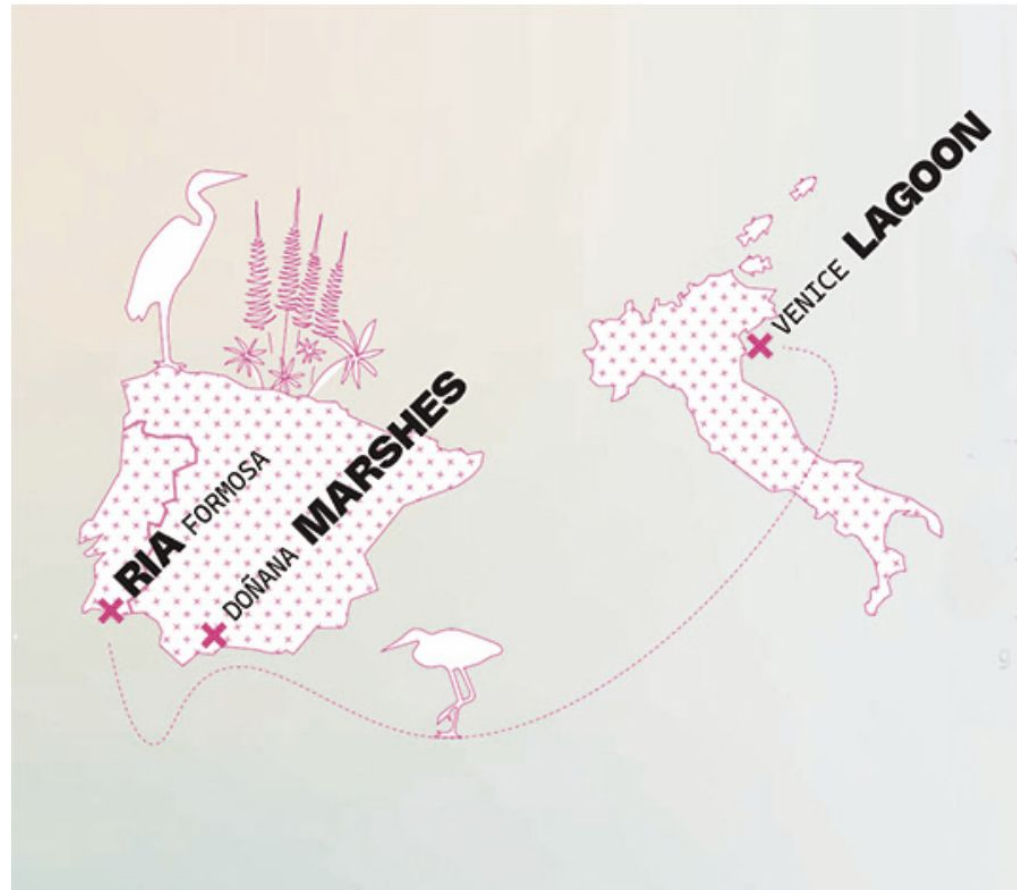


Mediterranean coastal and wetland territories are increasingly under pressure due to high population density, rapid urban expansion, and a sharp rise in seasonal tourism, which collectively intensify land-use conflicts and environmental degradation (Salvati et al., 2015).

These areas are also among the most **climate-vulnerable regions globally**, experiencing **accelerated warming, prolonged droughts, and a marked decline in freshwater availability**, far exceeding global averages (Guiot & Cramer, 2016).



- growing and urgent need to **support the ecological transition of these territories toward more sustainable and resilient models of settlement, local economies, and food systems.**
- re-centering the **ecological value** of these landscapes in planning and governance, and fostering integrated strategies that balance environmental protection with the socio-economic well-being of local communities (Fischer et al., 2007; IPCC, 2022).



Foodtracks, exploring three Mediterranean wetlands through Artistic-Culinary Projects



3 Wetlands L'Art CUSTRES

VENICE Lagoon
IT.

RÍA Formosa
PT.

DOÑANA Marshes
ESP.

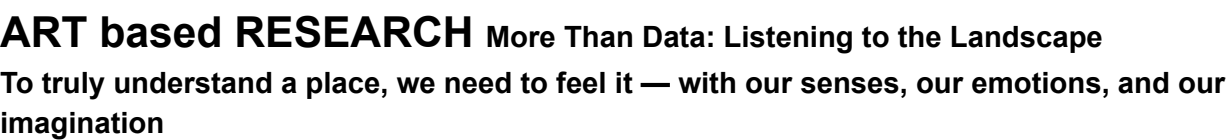
Three Mediterranean landscapes and their food system

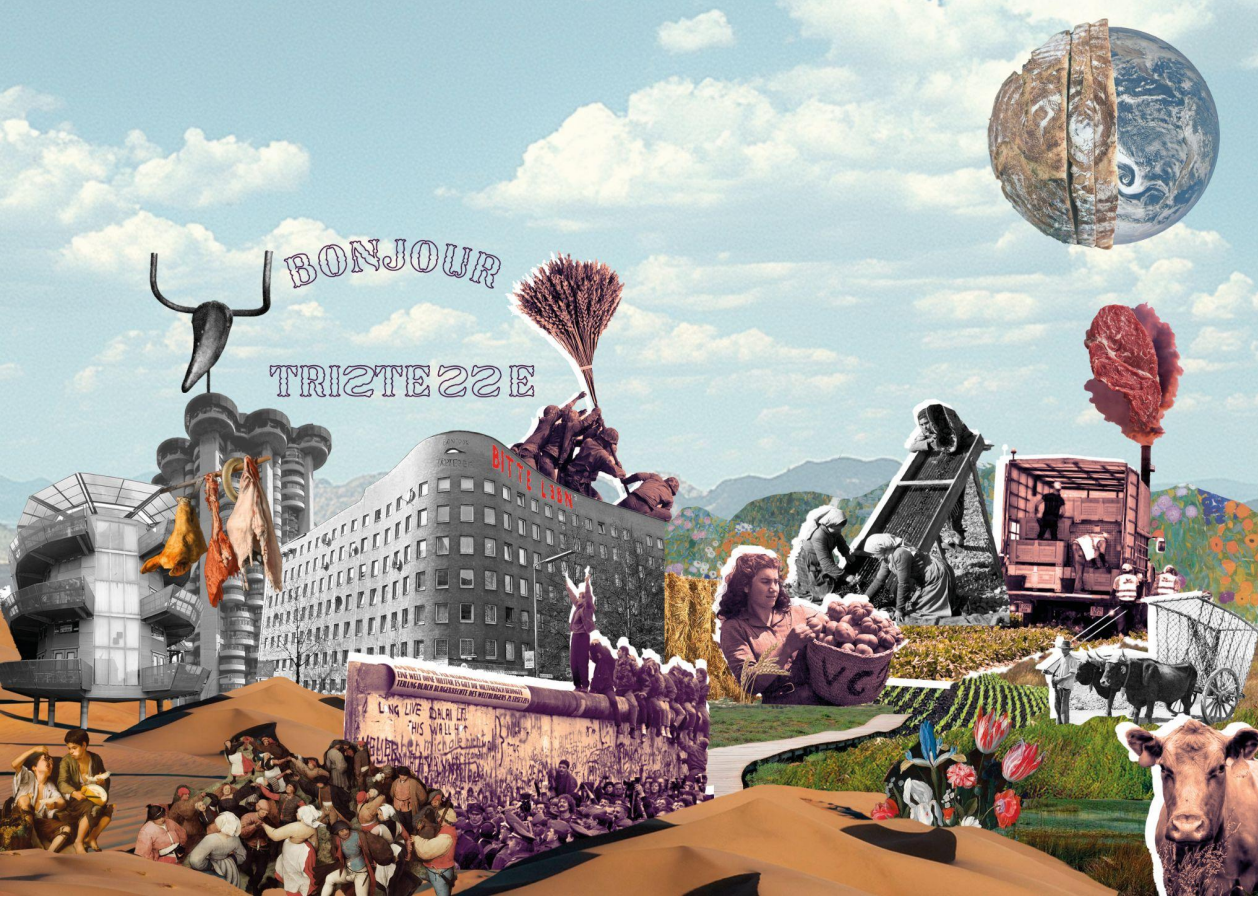
Art, Water and Food: Rethinking Fragile Landscapes /

We work in three lake landscapes: Venice, Ria Formosa & Doñana

Through art and cooking, we explore how people live, eat and care for the land

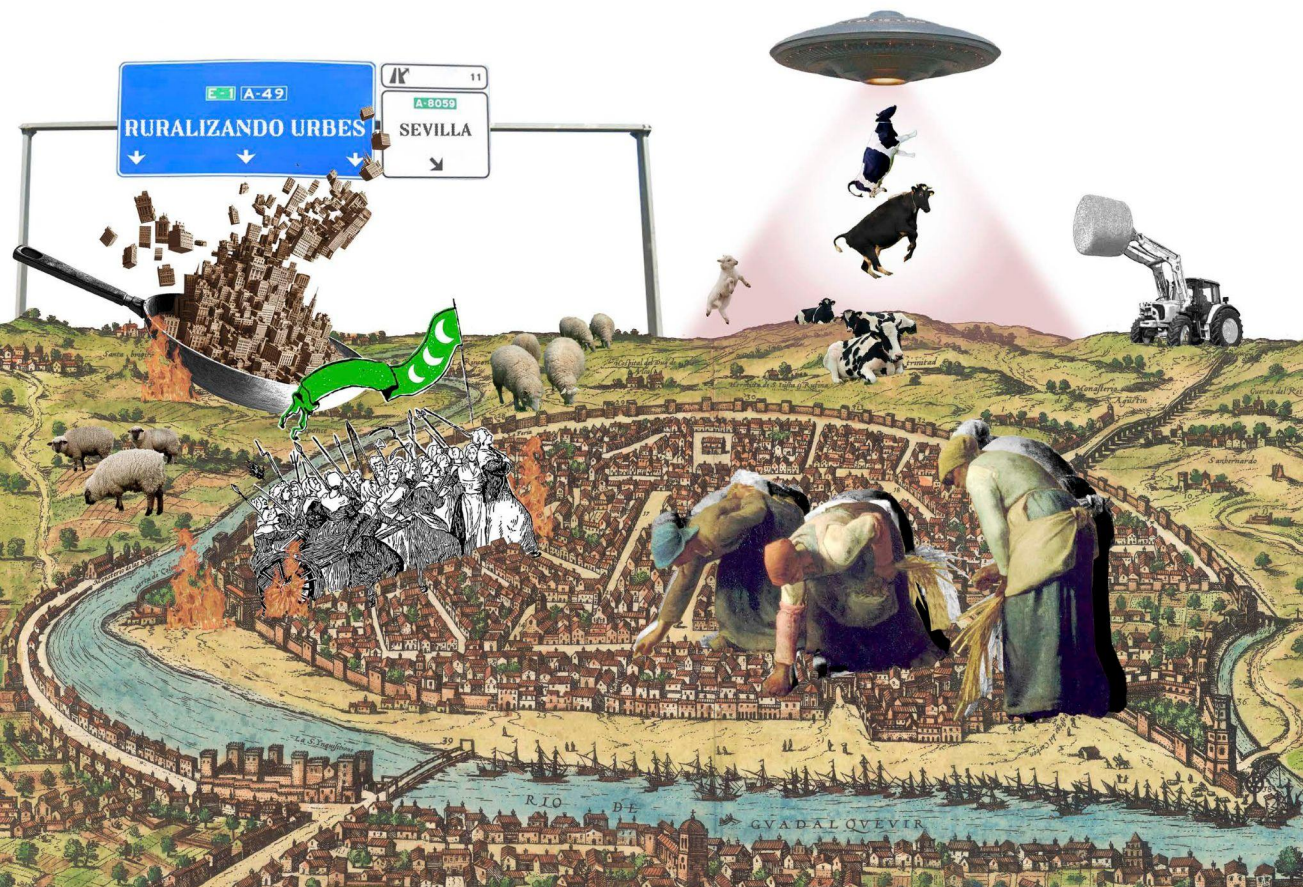






Methodology: Thinking with our feet, thinking with our hands

We walk the land and cook with people to learn through the body, the senses, and shared experience.



Research between urban food planning and art.

Where Food Planning Meets Art. When urban food planning joins with artistic practice, we create new ways to connect people, place, and everyday life — with care, creativity, and meaning.





Description of agents:
the kitchen is located in Tertulia Algarvia. Tocio. LaPlasita



Tools and strategies:
Tertulia Algarvia, Ria Formosa



"TOCIA"

in Venetian means **to dip bread in the sauce**.



**Tools and strategies: Tucia! Cucina e Comunità,
Venice Lagoon**



Tools and strategies: La Plasita, Sevilla,



Venice



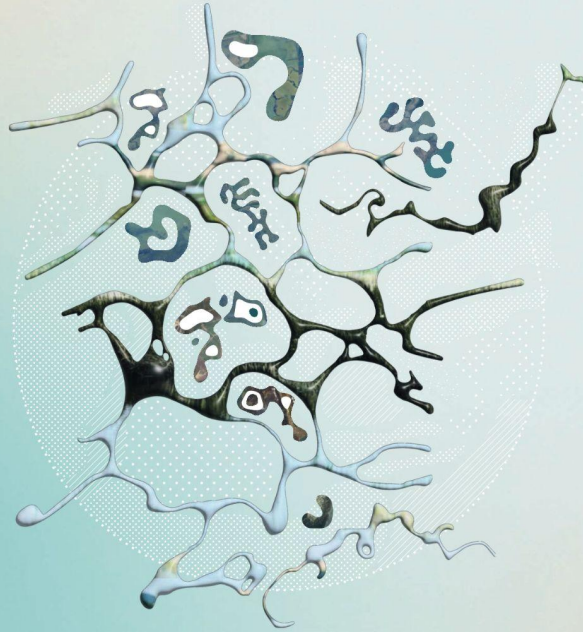
Faro



Sevilla

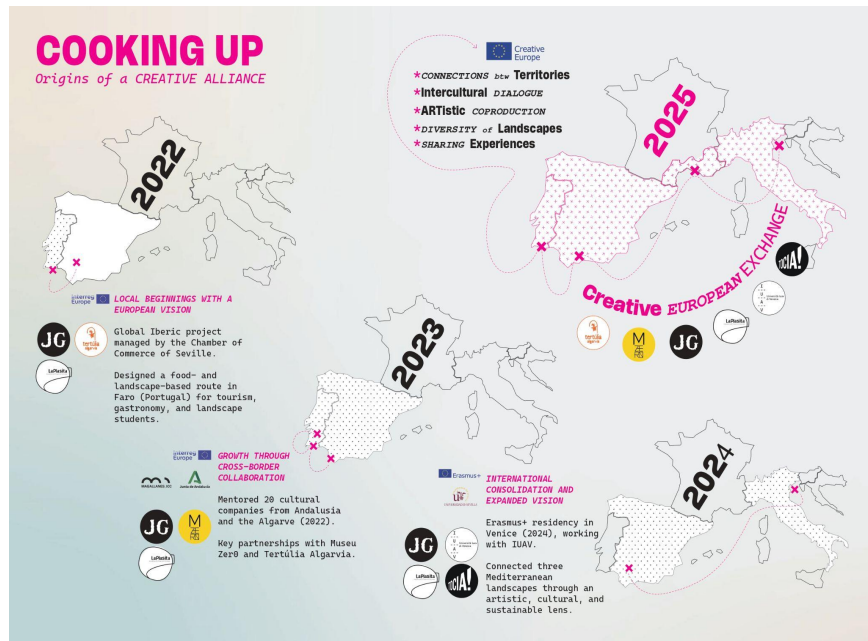
Impact of the projects

L'Art.CUSTRE



*From The Situated Kitchen To Generative Digital Art
Scientific agitation in the wetlands of Southern Europe*

Challenges and opportunities: construction of a EU Network (Creative Europe)



Challenges and opportunities: construction of a EU Network (Creative Europe)



Openings...

... TO BE CONTINUE

Foodtracks

exploring Mediterranean wetlands through Artistic-Culinary Projects

Alessandra Marcon
Iuav University of Venice
amarcon@iuav.it

Jaime Gastalver Pazo
University of Sevilla
jgstlvr@hotmail.com



AESOP CONGRESS 2025 - YILDIZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, ISTANBUL

PLANNING AS A TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION IN AN AGE OF PLANETARY CRISIS: JULY 7TH -
JULY 11TH 2025