# Under construction every day

2025 REPORT

Temples of Humankind
DAMANHUR

LA GRANDE OPERA

# A living work

THE TEMPLES OF HUMANKIND

*An "impossible" dream, dug by hand into the heart of a mountain: the Temples of Humankind are an extraordinary work of art, dedicated to humanity and still growing. Sacred spaces for a time of awakening.*

### Where we come from

One August night in 1978, a small group began digging into the hillside with a hammer and a pickax, to give shape to an idea. Since then the Temples have grown every day as a collective work, thanks to people who learned to paint, sculpt, and compose glass and mosaics. And they want visitors to dream: a practical ideal, to be made real in matter.

### Why we continue

We want to add new chapters to the Temples, speaking of the future and of hope. They tell of the world we believe in and toward which we want to invite humanity: respect, knowledge and awareness, a harmonious relationship with ourselves, with others and with the planet. A concrete world, where technology, spirituality and social life grow together and enrich one another. In our vision, human beings are one of the many parts of an ecosystem and of a planet where every form of life is important and precious: together, all contribute to a collective awakening. This is also one of the deeper meanings of the Sacred Woods, where the Temples continue into nature.

### Where we are going

We imagine the Temples as a destination for those who seek inspiration and a spiritual path, whatever their tradition or creed, and for those who believe something new can be created. The Temples tell a universal story, open to everyone. We believe in a path toward a harmonious future, which the Temples will keep telling and portraying through new halls and new works.

### For those who visit

The Temples are made to be visited and visited again: with every experience, a new page turns. Those who enter see history and art taking shape before them and become part of it, because the Temples are dedicated to each of them. That is why we keep creating them and making them accessible today: so that the experience is complete, deep and capable of transforming. For Damanhur, the Temples are also a vessel of knowledge and energy to pour out into the world, dedicated to awakening the divine in every human being: a powerful antenna of contact with spiritual energies, in service to the planet.

# In brief

## THE TEMPLES IN 2025

Every year in the Temples I find something that wasn't there the year before: a 12-meter dragon in the elevator shaft, new mosaic floors in the Apartment, a secret passage that can once again be shown to everyone. Behind each of these things are people: the teams who paint, restore, compose glass and mosaics and keep the structure safe, and the volunteers who learn alongside them. And there are all the people who, with their donations, make all of this possible.

In April 2025, after weeks of relentless rain, water entered most of the halls and badly damaged paintings, plaster and mosaics. We were not left alone: thanks to donations of €40,000, we were able to repair the damage in every hall affected. A special thank-you goes to everyone who responded at that moment.

In these pages we tell the story of 2025 and of how we used what was entrusted to us. Thank you to everyone who helps us every day keep alive this hymn to human creativity and spirituality.

*Antonio Manfrin – Lodolaio Melone*
*President of La Grande Opera*

*The portrait of Lodolaio Melone, painted in the Hall of the Earth.*

**17**
employees: artists, maintenance and welcome staff

**9**
volunteers alongside the teams

**47**
years since the first swing of the pickax

**2,500+**
visitors to the Temples

**60+ m²**
of new paintings: dragon, entrance area, Abaton

**66 m²**
of mosaic floors, including over 6 m² of artistic mosaic

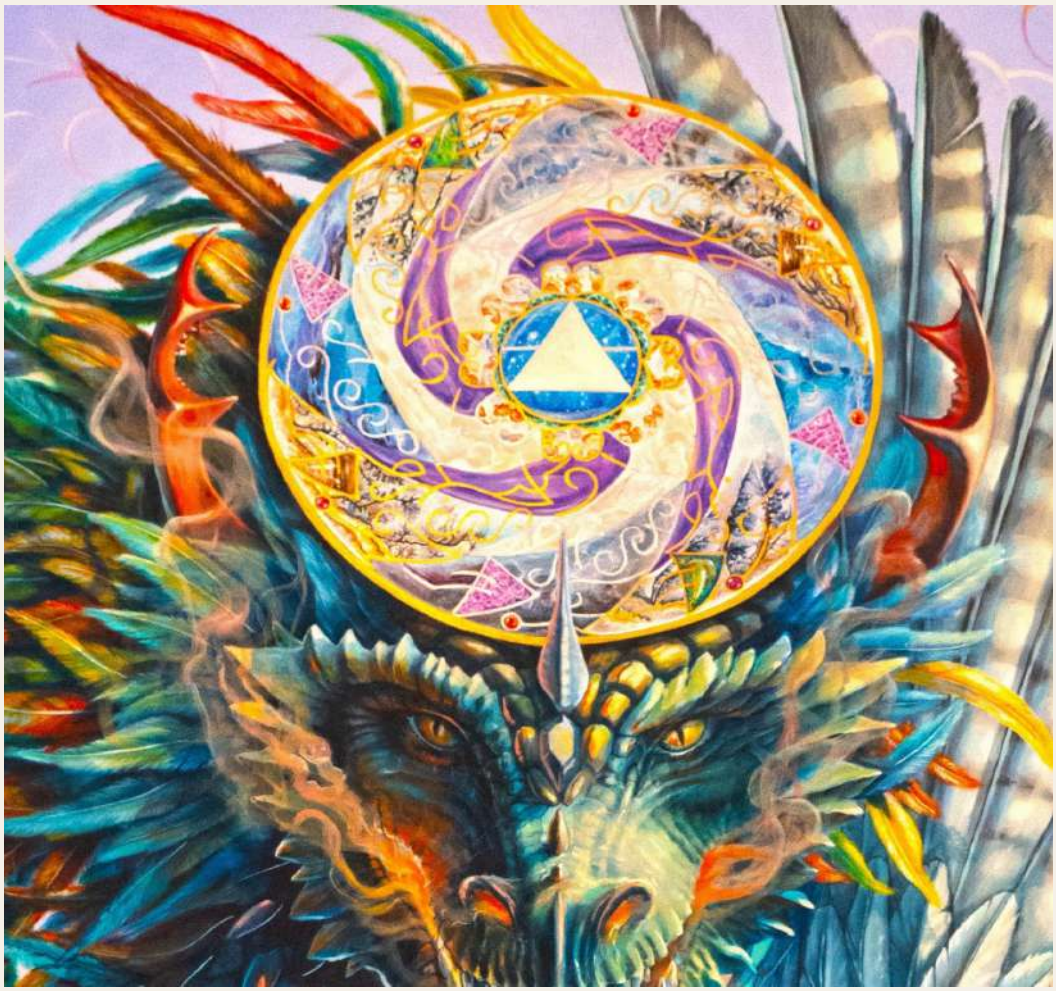
**80+**
new painted subjects: people, animals, flowers, historic buildings

# A newborn

PAINTING

In the elevator shaft that links the levels of the Temples, visible through the glass wall, a new chimera, 12 meters by 1, has been born: as the elevator rises and descends, the dragon scrolls past visitors. It is made of 42 animals and six plants, one of them fossil, with mandalas for the four elements, 48 painted precious stones and signs of the Sacred Language, ideograms that tell each element's story. In the Temples, the dragon symbolizes the union of the elements, knowledge and vital energies. Scrolling by, it prepares visitors for the element of the hall ahead.

*On the left, one of the sketches. Next to it, the finished work.*

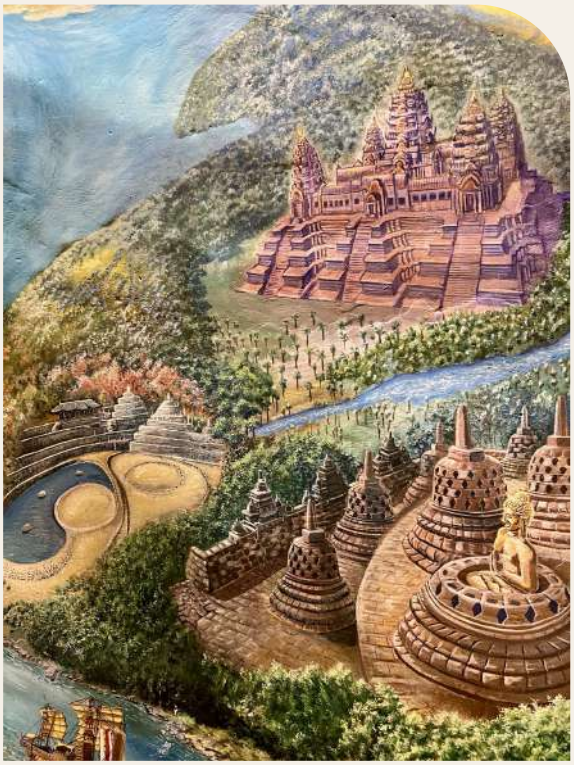


*A detail of the dragon's head.*

# The halls fill with life

PAINTING

*In the Temples, art is alive: every year new figures join those painted over past decades, from the deepest halls to the outer walls. Portraits, animals, plants and ancient architecture tell ever-new ideas and stories.*



*Three of the civilizations depicted in the hall.*

### Hall of the Earth: 22 more civilizations

We painted 22 new civilizations (57 of the 62 chosen so far): they symbolize the flow of human history up to today and broaden our view of its breadth and complexity. In the same hall, the "battle" grows by about 25 figures: an invitation to get involved, with joy, imagination and talent, to grow individually and all together. Designs for further sections, on 168 sketches, are ready to be painted in 2026.

*Some of the new animal species added.*

### New figures in the Hall of Victory

In the deepest hall we painted ten new human figures and about twenty animals. The hall tells of the victory of harmony among forms of life: hundreds of animals and plants, with many more to come, to show the richness of the life we are putting at risk and the harmony we believe is possible.

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volunteers across glass and mosaic

# Light and glass

GLASS

*In the glass workshop, glass is cut, composed and experimented with. From here come the stained-glass windows that light the halls, and many objects that, once sold, help support the work.*

## The Goddess of Flowers enters the Labyrinth

A new stained-glass window dedicated to Xochiquetzal, the Aztec goddess of flowers, joins the more than 600 deities of the Labyrinth, in glass and paint. In this hall we welcome shamans and representatives of native peoples: they help us portray each people as accurately and respectfully as possible, and their suggestions update the works.

## Two new glass trees

For the corridor leading to the Time of Peoples, we are making two arched glass trees, a poplar and a palm. The poplar is finished; the palm is in progress. They join the ten tree-shaped glass arches already there.

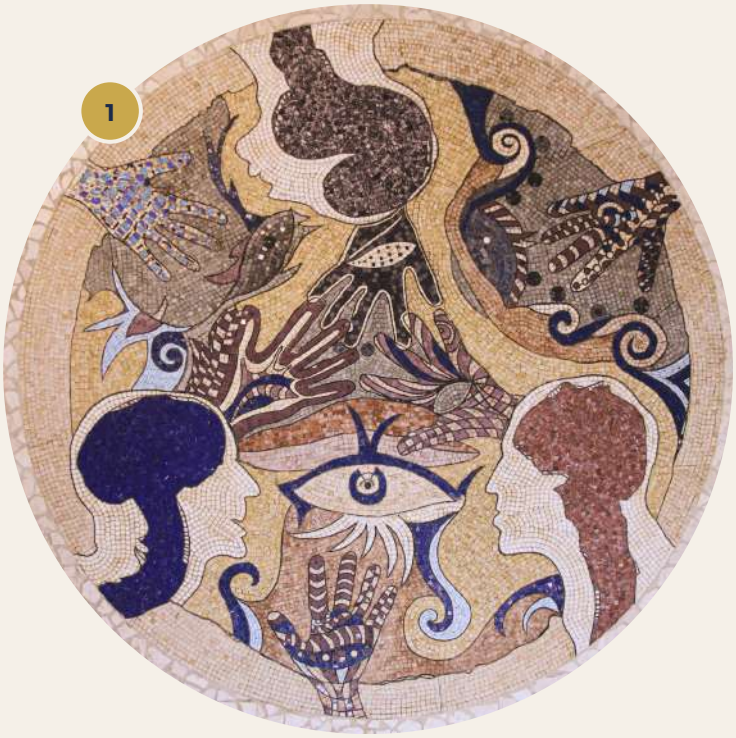
## Objects that support the Temples

Whales, dolphins, roses, dragons, lamps: in 2025 our glass artists made over 130 objects, sold to support the Temples. Each has a meaning: many animals, for example, represent species we are working to build contact with. In 2025, artworks and crafts brought in €28,590.

# Paintings in marble

MOSAIC

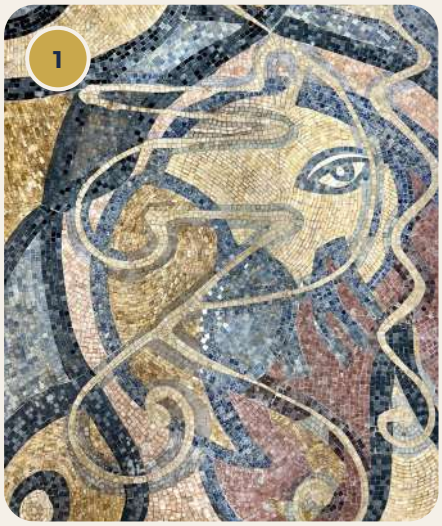
*The Apartment has always been the area of the Temples devoted to study and research. In 2025 the mosaic workshop renewed its floors, tile by tile; they had remained as they were in the 1980s.*




## 01

### The Apartment and its rooms

In recent years the Apartment has been restored, repainted and enriched by more than 80 Selfic paintings donated by Falco (Oberto Airaudi), founder of Damanhur. The new mosaics, a 150 cm round piece, the floors of two rooms and a ring of signs, reinterpret those paintings in marble and glass paste. The next will complete a room still to be finished.



## 02 The hand that opens the path

At the entrance to one of the Apartment's rooms, a mosaic hand marks the starting point of specific paths tied to personal rebalancing, one of the functions of the Temples. They are paths devoted to the harmony of one's own parts and energies, and to well-being.

*Selfica and Selfic painting. Selfica is a discipline born in Damanhur that studies forms, spirals and metals capable of gathering and directing subtle energies. Selfic painting, devised by Falco, brings these principles into paintings.*

# Giving life back to the works

RESTORATION

*The Temples are a work in constant dialogue with rock, water and people. Like a body, they need care: restoration, with precise and quiet work, keeps the works legible, hall after hall. The photos show only a few details of restorations that lasted many months.*

*Photos run from left to right: from the damage to the restored work.*

*The Egyptian god Upuaut, "he who opens the ways," depicted as a wolf and later merged with Anubis.*

## 01 The Labyrinth, cleaned and re-gilded

In the two most recent aisles of the Labyrinth, a few meters lower than the others, the work included cleaning, filling, color retouching and gilding of gaps, and removing salts from the mosaic. The painters retouched the figures damaged by water.

## 02 The Time of Peoples, after the flood

On April 16, 2025, a flood damaged several halls, including parts just completed: the €40,000 donated went to restoring them. In the Time of Peoples and the Hall of the Earth, restorers and painters worked for months: they recovered plaster and retouched 14 damaged painted portals.

## 03 Learning, experimenting, sharing

In a corridor of the Temples, volunteers test minimally invasive techniques to protect paintings and remove salts, such as cleaning with essential oils. Presented by restorers at conferences, such as the Salone del Restauro in Florence with Aurifolia restauri, they have also helped in catacombs and ancient underground sites.

6

people dedicated

# Caring for the structure

MAINTENANCE

*The Temples are a very large structure. The maintenance team keeps it ready and working every day: small and large repairs, systems to check, areas to prepare for the artists' work. Here are the two most visible jobs of 2025.*

## 01 The secret passage of the Blue Temple

In the floor of the Blue Temple opens a historic secret passage, one of the most interesting in the Temples. It links the hall of practical idealism, the courage to make things real, with the Labyrinth, dedicated to the divine and to peoples: for us, the path toward one's deepest self first passes through creating, day after day. A pane of safety glass makes it possible to show it to visitors again.

## 02 Laying the mosaics

Mosaics composed in the workshop arrive in the Temples in sections. In 2025 the team, together with the artists, laid them in a room next to the Hall of Spheres and completed another in the Apartment with its mosaic floor; after laying, the restorers then consolidated the tiles.

# Welcome to the Temples

ENTRANCE AND WELCOME

*Arriving at the Temples, you step into the world of art and meaning, welcomed by nature. The painted walls introduce the Temples and the bond between the underground halls and the Sacred Woods, which continue them on the surface.*

*Next to the entrance is the Abaton, the house that welcomes those who wish to sleep near the Temples: the name recalls the sanctuaries of ancient Greece, where pilgrims slept in search of healing dreams.*

## 01 The entrance area to the Temples

The maintenance team restored the lower part of the walls and the painters renewed stones, mosses and grasses, adding new elements for over 7 m² of painting that welcomes arriving visitors.

## 02 Trees and flowers on the Abaton walls

Between the windows of the Abaton rooms, the painters painted trees and flowers inspired by Falco's paintings: about 24 m² of new painting, and the work continues.

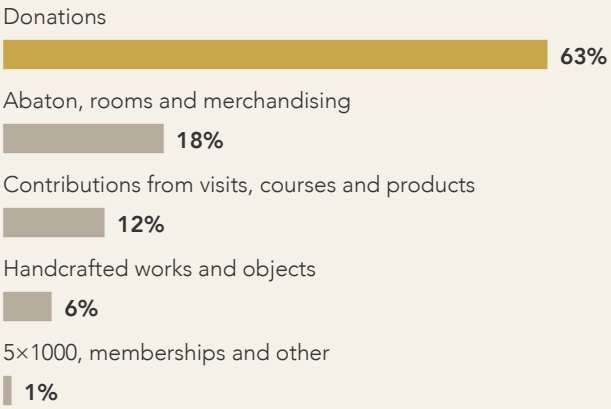
## 03 The Abaton, connected to the Temples

Each Abaton room is linked to a hall of the Temples, with artistic and energetic elements: for us it is like sleeping in the hall itself, a place suited to meditation and dream work. In 2025 the Abaton welcomed groups from across Europe and the world and brought in €94,615, which supports the work in the Temples.

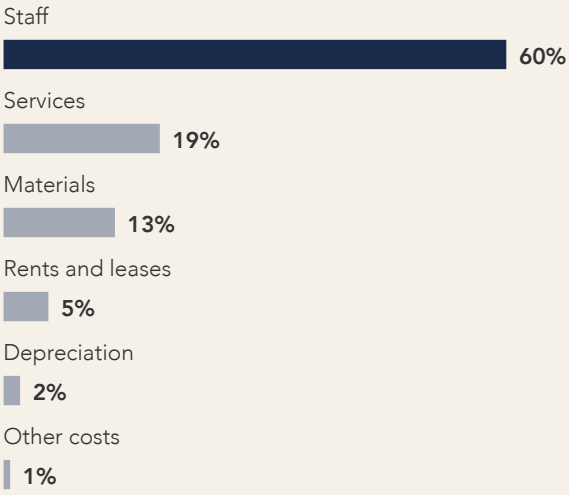
# Financial report

## THE ACCOUNTS OF THE WORK

### INCOME




### EXPENSES




### DONATIONS IN 2025

In 2025, donations totaled €320,877, all from private individuals. It is the support of many people that keeps the Temples alive and leaves them free to carry their message forward with courage. To do more, we need the help of those who believe in this practical dream, dedicated to our collective future.

In 2025, income was €508,767 and costs €494,413. After financial charges, a surplus of €11,440 remains, set aside as a reserve. The financial statements were approved by the members' assembly on June 18, 2026 and are available online (QR code alongside); the supervisory body gave a favorable opinion, with no findings. In a social enterprise, the supervisory body is an independent officer who oversees compliance with the bylaws and the proper administration of the organization.

### BEYOND DONATIONS

More than a third of income comes from activities of the Temples or tied to them: the Abaton, workshop objects, and contributions from visits and courses.

Full financial statements and documents

### WHO RUNS THE TEMPLES

La Grande Opera is a nonprofit social enterprise, registered in the special section for social enterprises and entirely devoted to the care and growth of the Temples. It runs the Temples under a free loan from the Associazione Templi dell'Umanità (Temples of Humankind Association), which owns them.

### COMPENSATION FOR THOSE WHO MANAGE AND OVERSEE

In 2025, compensation to directors: €10,608. To the supervisory body: €2,912.

*Thank you to everyone who, with a gift, a visit or their own work, helps the Temples grow every year.*

SUPPORT THE TEMPLES

# The Temples were born from a shared dream. We keep building them together.

In 2025, donations were nearly two thirds of income: they are what keeps the teams described in these pages at work. Every gift, small or large, becomes painting, glass, mosaic, restoration and care of the structure, and helps the Temples keep existing and growing.

**DONATE ONLINE**

thetemples.org/donate

## OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT THE TEMPLES

### The 5×1000

For Italian taxpayers: on your tax return, sign for La Grande Opera with tax code 12957570018.

### Visits and the Abaton

Every visit to the Temples and every night at the Abaton helps support the teams' work.

### A major gift

For a major gift, or to direct it to a specific project, write to us: we will follow it through together.

Phone: +39 0125 789987 · Email: direttivo@lagrandeopera.org

Temples of Humankind
DAMANHUR

LA GRANDE OPERA

thetemples.org

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