

chaire artistique internationale

arts, sociétés et mutations contemporaines

International residency in visual arts

Context

The Nantes Institute for Advanced Study, is establishing a fellowship in "Arts, Societies and Contemporary Mutations." In this context, the IEA in collaboration with local partners, Lieu Unique, the Nantes Saint-Nazaire School of Fine Arts and Nantes Métropole, is offering an international artistic and research residency to artists from the global south.

This residency is supported by Nantes Métropole – Culture Department.

Themes

The chair supports the development of research in art that dialogues with the humanities and social sciences in order to question the contemporary mutations of our societies. By considering artistic practices in terms of research, the residency participates in the emergence of new research territories (practices and forms, working methods, production regimes, etc.) exploring, through the crossing of disciplines, societal and environmental changes. It engages methodological questions and reflections on the nature of the knowledge incorporated, produced, and transmitted by these practices.

Applicants

This residency is open to professional artists living and working in the Global South. More precisely, we are targeting artists whose nationality and residency are situated in the southern hemisphere excepting Australia, New-Zealand, Japan, South Korea and Guyane. Applicants are expected to have at least five years of professional experience at the time of the start of their residency, which should be supported through their active participation in public life, the dissemination of their work in an appropriate format such as exhibitions, publications, performances, etc.

Conditions of the residency

The selected fellow will be hosted at the Nantes IAS, a space of intellectual exchange between residents from various disciplinary and geographical backgrounds. The IAS will provide accommodation, a working space (office), and access to library services. The IAS also provides an atmosphere where regular group meetings and activities with the residents are organized. In such a context, the visiting artist is required to present her/his work in the weekly seminar organized by the IAS and to participate in the weekly seminars and other activities organized by the IAS.

In the same vein, the School of Fine Arts will host times of intervention of the artist according to the following modalities:

- 12 days maximum of workshop for students (pedagogical proposal to be defined with the artist)
- A public conference to present the artist's work upon his arrival in Nantes

The production budget must be justified (ceiling of 2000 €) and the residency does not have the capacity to hold and produce large format pieces.

The artist is requested to bring her/his own material. S/he will have access to the software, equipments and shared workshops of the Nantes St Nazaire School of Fine Arts (access schedule to be defined according to the artist's research project).

An "informal meeting" with the artist-in-residence is expected to take place in one of Le lieu unique's spaces, known as "le salon".

The "salon" contains books that can be consulted on site, and is also the venue for workshops (reading, drawing, etc.) with the public. The space is quite intimate, and can accommodate a maximum of 40 people.

Duration and period

6 months from 14th September 2026 to 14th March 2027.

During the residency, the artist may make occasional business trips, which will be at his/her own expense.

Language Requirements

The artist must be able to express her/himself in English or in French.

Presentation of the venues

The IAS-Nantes is situated in a unique building, located on the banks of the river Loire and specifically designed for its needs. There can be found about individual offices fully equipped, a resource center (the Julien Gracq library), a lounge/restaurant with a loggia, a patio with garden, an amphitheater and various meeting rooms.

Moreover, the IAS has fully-equipped apartments (from a studio to a three-bedroom apartment) that can be attributed to Fellows, taking into account the size of their family. Located in a building adjacent to the IAS', these apartments allow the Fellows to come and go at any time of the day or the night.

<https://www.iea-nantes.fr/en/apply/residency/>

Selection criteria

The selection of the resident artist will be based on the following criteria:

- Artistic and scientific quality of the research project, its originality, relevance to contemporary issues.
- Attention will be paid to projects that explicitly highlight links between the artistic project and the Humanities and Social sciences.
- Potential of the project to engage with the research projects of the host institutions, such as the residents of the IAS
- Relevance of the mobility linked to the artistic and research project
- The candidate's ability to present her/his work and to enter into dialogue with colleagues, students and the general public in Nantes.
- Ability to lead a workshop with students of higher artistic education
- Particular attention will be paid to inter-disciplinary approaches and practices using different methods and materials.

Grant

The artist will receive a remuneration and benefits package that includes

- A monthly stipend that includes time spent in the workshops with the students (2000 € per month).
- 13 working days of authorized absence (10% of the total duration of the fellowship)
- Free accommodation
- Free use of office space and access to library services
- Insurance (75€ per month)
- Production costs (up to €2000)
- Visa and return ticket from the domicile

Selection

The artist will be selected by a scientific and artistic committee made up of artists, researchers, professionals in the field of visual arts, as well as representatives of the partner institutions, IEA, le Lieu Unique, the Nantes Saint-Nazaire School of Fine Arts and Nantes Metropole.

Application

All information to apply may be found here :

<https://www.iea-nantes.fr/en/residences/calls-applications/call-applications-chair-arts-societies-and-contemporary-change>

A form must be downloaded, completed, and submitted on the platform by January 4, 2026, at the latest

To add your application on the platform, you will have first to create an account

<https://www.demarches-simplifiees.fr/commencer/chaire-artistique-internationale-a-nantes-internat>

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Application file (pdf documents / maximum size 10Mb)

- application form (civil status, title of the project, working methods, description of the eventual production, articulation of the artistic project with the Human and Social Sciences, practical informations...)
- CV
- Portfolio including captioned images (10 pages max)
- Two letters of recommendation and/or mentions of two previous partners

Admission process

- 4/01/2026 deadline application
- 5/02/2026 : interviews of the pre-selected
- 2/03/2026 : Decision of the selection committee and announcement of the results
- 14/09/2026: Start of the residency

Informations :

Estelle Cheon – Ecole des Beaux Arts de Nantes Saint Nazaire

tél : +33 (0)2 55 58 65 15 / +33 (0)6 31 24 69 50

estelle.cheon@beauxartsnantes.fr

Description of the three partner institutions:

The Nantes Institute for Advanced Study

The Nantes Institute for Advanced Study (a state-approved public utility foundation) has been hosting researchers from all over the world for a three- to nine-month research residency each academic year since 2008. Inspired by the Princeton (1930) and Berlin (1980) models, the Nantes IEA has a unique scientific policy, offering a framework conducive to fostering healthy intellectual competition. Its desire to "think the world differently" translates into a freedom to think and to confront diversity: to establish dialogue between the cultures of the North and South, between disciplines and between professional circles. At a time when we are going through an unprecedented planetary crisis linked to the Covid pandemic, the ecological emergency and a rapidly-changing society, the contribution of the human and social sciences is fundamental and the IAS represents an invaluable resource in this respect.

Nantes Saint Nazaire school of arts

Founded in 1904, **the Nantes School of Art** by the quality of its training, its development and its reputation enjoys an exceptional national and international influence.

The arrival in 2017 in the former Alstom halls on the île de Nantes, rehabilitated by the architect Franklin Azzi, reinforces its attractiveness and its place among the top ranks of French art schools.

Located in the heart of a new urban center alongside institutions of higher education in the arts and culture (architecture, cinema, design, communication, digital cultures, dance, music, etc.), which will bring together 5,000 students and researchers by 2022, the Beaux-Arts de Nantes will develop, with these new partners, bridge courses, joint professionalizing projects and a dynamic student life.

In the spring of 2018, the Saint-Nazaire School of Art became part of the Public Establishment for Cultural Cooperation (EPCC) renamed Beaux-Arts Nantes Saint-Nazaire. It will move in 2022, in the heart of the city, alongside the Theater, opposite the multidisciplinary venue Le LiFE.

Today, the cities of Nantes and Saint-Nazaire constitute an increasingly rich environment, as evidenced by the various projects in favor of the visual and plastic arts.

Le Lieu unique

Located in the heart of Nantes on the banks of the Canal Saint-Felix, the former LU biscuit factory has had a new lease of life since January 1st 2000 as an atypical and multidisciplinary arts center: le lieu unique. A national center for contemporary arts and music venue in Nantes, le lieu unique is a space of artistic exploration, cultural vibrancy and conviviality that mixes genres, cultures and audiences. Its credo: the spirit of discovery in different fields of art (visual arts, theater, dance, circus, music, literature, humanities, architecture, comics, etc..). The lieu unique encourages the opening up of minds, the exploration of interstitial and marginal spaces.

Every year, le lieu unique offers:

- over a hundred theatre, dance, and circus performances, as well as concerts, philosophical debates, etc.
- over 200 days of exhibitions and residences for visual artists, - major events (festivals, cultural trails, debates, etc.) as well as conferences.

With nearly 600 000 visitors (including over 150 000 spectators for the artistic activities) le lieu unique is an experience not to be missed for anyone who wants to keep their finger on the pulse of "la vie nantaise".