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European project «The Spur» selects fourteen new artists to develop creative residencies in different cities in Europe

Visual artists from France, Italy, Spain, Estonia, Austria, Poland, Germany and Hungary will be offered a grant to carry out research work in residency

The European project «The Spur» has selected fourteen visual artists to carry out research work in residency with particular emphasis on creative working processes. This is the second and last open call presented by the European project in this scope (the first residency period took place during February and March 2017). In the current selection process two artists for each participating centre in «The Spur» have been selected, one for the second residency period, which will be developed during October and November 2017, and another one for the third period, which is scheduled for February and March 2018. A total of 397 artists, distributed between the two open calls, have presented their candidatures in order to participate in one of the residency periods of the European project.

As in the first period of residencies, the international artists will be accompanied by professional mentors, and will spend two months working with the support of one of the centres linked to «The Spur». Selected artists are Federico Campanale (France), Andrés Siri (Spain), Irene Pittatore (Italy), Lévana Schutz (France), Federica Di Carlo (Italy), Miriam Hamann (Austria), Nicolas Daubanes (France), Justyna Saborska (Poland), Cristina Ferrández (Spain), Charlotte Mumm (Germany) and two artistic duos: Varvara & Mar (Estonia and Spain) and Katharina Roters and Szolnoki József (Germany and Hungary).

225 artists from 26 different countries have presented their candidatures to this second open call. According to the received applications, the most common origin amongst the artists is France, and regarding to the genre, more than the half of the applications have been presented by women. The most requested centre as a first destination has been Fondazione per l'arte – Onlus, located in Rome, followed by Es Baluard Foundation. Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Palma, in Mallorca, and Sputnik Oz, from Bratislava. As a second preference place, candidates have mostly opted for Es





Baluard and Bòlit. Contemporary Art Centre of Girona, being this last one the most requested centre as a third election.

At the end of each residency period the artists will meet with their counterparts in seminars organized by «The Spur». Next seminar is scheduled to be held in Bratislava at late November, and the third in Albi at late March 2018. Previously, the first artists in residence had met each other in Girona, during the seminar entitled «Contemporary art, a spur for the recuperation of creative spaces in cities» and celebrated the last 1st April.

Selected artists

Federico Campanale focuses his work on two main directions, which often get mingled in the resulting pieces. On one hand, he explores the concept of time and how it affects us, psychologically and socially. On the other hand, Campanale is interested in the notion of identity and how it gets influenced by the social, politic and economic context.

Andrés Siri has a research project which revolves around the unveiling, through the revelation and confrontation of the image with its contents, and also recording the overlay of time and making visible elements of the city that are imperceptible in their day to day existence.

Irene Pittatore is an Italian artist and cultural activist. Her project is based on develop deals with the impact of mass tourism on what may be considered holiday cities. During the residence, she shall carry out research on «Laboratori del Turismo», a video project aimed at defining a device able to observe and record the consequences global tourism has on work, leisure and cultural schedules in the tourism industry of holiday cities.

Lévana Schutz has a work very influenced by cinema and documentary films. Her proposal is to share with the public the keys of her work method, maybe suggesting a virtual edition bringing together all kinds of documents collected, written and made during her residency period.

Federica Di Carlo is interest in examining the concept of border (starting from natural boundaries such as light, sea, sky, mountains) as a limit, and relating it to the modalities that the human being uses to relate through his own perception. During her residency period Federica Di Carlo will develop a series of meetings where the intent will be to deepen, together with the public, some issues normally used in her researches, like a border, light, nature, perception, action and art.





Miriam Hamann usually focuses her work on installations which deal with space. During her residency period she will establish different collaborations with local industry and companies in order to create new ideas and works.

Nicolas Daubanes proposes a research work based on fundamental questions related to the human condition, such as life and death. He is an artist who usually works from prison buildings, either mentioning the architectural construction or the symbols of these sites.

Justyna Saborska's project concerns the development of hypothetical ideas about the human body and its possible future modifications. Her intention would be the creation of prosthesis in order to make non-existing parts of the human body that have their origins in religious ceremonies and habits. Saborka's experience will include a dialogue between the contemporary human and its future version, as well as between religion and its hypothetical consequences.

Cristina Ferrández believes that natural cycles relate to fundamental issues concerning human consciousness and societies. Her work brings out the common factor pulsating between natural and anthropized territories, the environment and the arts. Through artistic intervention she intends to restore the value in wild areas and specific landscapes, and spotlight the privilege of scenery in the contemporary age addressing questions such as ecofeminism, natural resources, country borders and time.

Charlotte Mumm's work is dealing with paradoxes as well as with aspects of the sensual perception and the definition of space and surface. For this project she wants to combine these topics with her interests in patterns. On the one hand, individual elements form an interwoven pattern and in that way making the stable and visible. On the other hand, the single element is no longer in focus and thereby it almost optically dissolves. Stability vs. dissolution and singularity vs. conformity. This will be the starting point of Charlotte Mumm's artistic processes.

Katharina Roters and **Szolnoki József** have proposed a project to develop in Bratislava in which they will survey traces of representations of communist ideology in public spaces that have been left untouched, altered or concealed. In the course of the research project they will take the most varied possible samples from the fabric of the town. Using the photos, videos, interview and micro-histories, we will map the relationship between ideology and memory.

Varvara & Mar is an artistic formed by Varvara Guljajeva and Mar Canet in 2009. This duo located itself in the field of art and technology and is concerned about the new forms of art, innovation, and also the application of knitting in the field of digital fabrication. They use and challenge technology in order to explore novel concepts in art and design.





«The Spur»

The Spur is a project aimed at creating a European cooperation network made up of seven cultural organisations that function on a local and international scale as cultural operators. Lead by Bòlit. Contemporary Art Centre of Girona, the project includes as well Le Lait Contemporary Art Centre of Albi (France), the Bureau des Arts et Territoires of Montpellier (France), Es Baluard Foundation. Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Palma (Mallorca), Sputnik Oz of Bratislava (Slovakia), Fondazione per l'Arte – Onlus of Rome (Italy) and the Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranean.

The project is set to be developed in two years (2016-2018) and is aimed at creating a European cooperation network focused fundamentally on the field of visual arts. Its two key objectives are developing innovative projects that increase the professional capacities and the transnational mobility of creators, as well as implementing transnational co-management processes.

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More information

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