

PRESS RELEASE

Open Call for applications until 31st January 2014

OPEN CALL FOR LOCAL ARTISTS OF THE CreArt NETWORK TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME HOSTED BY ARTKOMAS IN KAUNAS, LITHUANIA BETWEEN MAY 10 –JULY 10 IN 2014

The CreArt Network has opened the Open Call to participate in the Artist in Residence programme organised within the framework of the EU funded project CreArt (Network of Cities for Artistic Creation).

Kaunas Artist-in-Residence programme is a new initiative of CreArt, to be launched in 2014. AiR Kaunas, Lithuania invites 4 artists from the CreArt Network to work for two months in Kaunas AiR in the period of May 10 – July 10, 2014.

One of the most important goals of the CreArt project is to focus on training, innovation and experimentation programmes for the promotion of creativity. Through these Artist-in-Residence programmes that will be hosted soon in other CreArt cities, we aim to establish a permanent system of mobility, exchange and joint work experiences among artists from different cultural traditions across Europe.

CreArt Kaunas partners, PE “Artkomas”, have a large experience of organizing visual arts projects, and short-term residencies in their city as well as other cities and towns of Lithuania. With their own focus on painting, “Artkomas” co-operates, however, with experts of other visual arts’ fields (like Kaunas Photo Festival, Kaunas Vytautas Magnus University New Media Studies Department, etc.). Therefore we are able to offer necessary conditions for creation to painters, photographers, and new media artists, who would like to participate in this part of CreArt project.

The online application form to participate in this AiR programme is available in the following link:

<http://creart-eu.org/application/short-term-artist-in-residence-by-artkomas-in-kaunas>

and must be submitted before the 31st January 2014. The decision will be announced on 15th February 2014.

ABOUT KAUNAS Kaunas is the second largest city of Lithuania, with active cultural life. Situated in the valley of the confluence of the two longest rivers of Lithuania, the Nemunas and the Neris, the town itself became an example of a confluence of people and cultures, an attractive blend of architecture and nature. Although Kaunas is called the city of students and rich in cultural, sport, students’ events, it is an important industrial and cultural city with a population of over 320.000.

ARTISTS ACCEPTED

4 visual artists (we can offer acceptable conditions for a painter, a photographer and a new media artist).

CONDITIONS AND STIPEND

The organisation will reimburse to artists travel expenses to Kaunas (up to 600 €). Studio and accommodation is free. The artists will receive 500 € per month.

ACCOMODATION

In fully equipped flats

STUDIO

The painters will work at the painting studios of Kaunas Art School, at the heart of Kaunas Old Town. The photo and video artists will be able to use the IT lab of Vytautas Magnus University, Faculty of Arts.

KAUNAS AiR PROGRAMME

- * Kaunas will provide an assistant to help with settling in in the city (info about cultural institutions, events, useful places);
- * Kaunas will provide a curator interacting with the artists about their work, the project KAUNAS AiR and its presentation;
- * Kaunas will organise introduction to the local artists' community (in the form of meetings, etc., where the artist has to make a presentation of his/her work and art);
- * Kaunas will organise a meeting with local cultural operators and art experts (representatives of museums, galleries, art schools, art academy);
- * The artists will have to have open days for visitors;
- * Kaunas will make a final public presentation of the artworks created during the residency (a group exhibition of the 4 artists). The exhibition will be displayed in Kaunas and 3 more Lithuanian cities, in co-operation with a local continuous art project. Kaunas will organize the exhibition opening ceremony, media, publicity;
- * 1 artwork must remain for Kaunas city.

WHO CAN APPLY

Local artists – born or resident – in any of the cities taking part in “CreArt. Network of Cities for Artistic Creation”. Preference is given to works with a wide variety and diversity. There is no age limitation, yet it is necessary to have a degree in a field of art (university level). If the applicant does not have a university degree, proof of equivalent ability must be provided through his or her artistic career. In a period of two months you will work towards a final public presentation.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

The Online Application form is available here:

<http://creart-eu.org/application/artist-in-residence-by-artkomas-in-kaunas>

The following attached documentation is required:

- ID or passport (scanned copy);
- A short version of your resume/CV;
- Documentation material recent and related to the project (not more than 5 pictures);
- A short written project proposal (not more than one A4).

Only applications with complete information will be accepted. It must be submitted before January 31, 2014. Kaunas AiR is going to consider your application and will inform you February 15, 2014.

- CreArt is a collaboration between the 13 European cities: Arad/Romania, Kaunas/Lithuania, Genoa/Italy, Delft/Netherlands, Harghita County/Romania, Valladolid/Spain, Aveiro/Portugal, Linz/Austria, Kristiansand/Norway, Lecce/Italy, Pardubice/Czech Republic, Zagreb/Croatia and Vilnius/Lithuania.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CreArt PROJECT

Placing art and creativity at the centre of its activities, CreArt seeks to:

1. Foster creativity through the exchange of experiences, good practices and joint work among artists, artist groups and associations, cultural operators, researchers, industry and civil society bodies, educational institutions and the general public, from different countries and cultural traditions, including intergenerational exchanges.
2. Promote cultural exploration amongst target groups, encouraging the development of Europe's cultural heritage.
3. Develop common training methodologies for specific groups (children, youth and adults) promoting creativity as a skill for personal development.
4. Establish a permanent and professional system of mobility, exchange and joint work experiences among artists and cultural managers.
5. Identify a methodology of professional management that generates sustainable cultural organizations in medium-sized cities, fostering public-private partnerships and civil society participation.
6. Support creativity networking among medium-sized cities.
7. Develop and better exploit technological tools and for the exchange of creativity and cultural resource management.
8. Create and standardize systems of analysis and research within the framework of local cultural policies, in order to maximize the sustainability of the project and its financial resources in the future.

In order to achieve these objectives, CreArt will establish a permanent and professional system of mobility, exchange and joint work experiences, in visual arts, among artists, groups and associations, cultural operators, educational institutions and the general public, focusing in 4 main actions:

- a) Analysis of management models to support visual arts & creativity in Europe
- b) Training, innovation and experimentation programme for the promotion of creativity.
- c) CreArt European Travelling Exhibitions.
- d) Dissemination and transfer of activities and results.

CreArt CITIES

Aveiro, "The Portuguese Venice", is one of the cities with the highest economic level in Portugal. Aveiro is notable for the variety of its rich museums. The Aveiro University is one of the most important research and teaching centres in Portugal.

Delft, one of the main cities in the Netherlands, located between Rotterdam and the Hague, famous for being the birthplace of the painter Vermeer and by their blue color pottery. The Foundation id11 in Delft organizes and offers residences for artists and accessible presentation and working places for artists, where experimentation can flourish.

Linz was European Capital of Culture in 2009. Crossed by the river Danube, is the capital of Upper Austria. Its strong industrial development contrasts with its vibrant and intense cultural life. The renovated Atelierhaus Salzamt under the authority of the Linz City Council develops an Artist in Residence Programme (Urban Interventions) with bilateral exchanges, a platform for interaction first at a local level combined in a second step with an interregional artistic exchange.

Vilnius, capital of Lithuania, was also along with Linz, European Capital of Culture in 2009. The historical centre of Vilnius, - the northern Jerusalem - is Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO since 1994.

Pardubice, is one of the most beautiful cities in the region of Bohemia. Located 100 km from the capital city of Prague, and on the Elbe river, Pardubice has a major university and a prominent industrial centre.

Kaunas the city of museums, is the second largest city in Lithuania, and one of the great cultural centres and economic of Lithuania. Artkomas is a public institution established in 2006. Each year 40 exhibitions of visual arts are organised, besides musical projects and others related to scenic arts. Artkomas stands out as well in International cooperation programmes.

Lecce, twinned city of Valladolid, is known as the "Florence of the South" or "Capital of the Baroque" due to its magnificent architecture was one of the cities more artistically alive between the 17th and 18th centuries.

Kristiansand, Capital of the county of Vest-agder in southern Norway, was founded in the year 1641 by king Christian IV. It is the sixth largest city in Norway and one of the best cultural cities in the country.

Arad is located in the famous region of Transylvania near the border with Hungary. It is beautiful magic city filled with beautiful buildings.

Harghita. In the eastern part of Transylvania, Harghita county lies in a depression surrounded by the Eastern Carpathians. As the result of its geographical structure the county can be divided into three distinct regions, Odorhei, Ciuc and Gheorgheni, giving the county a colourful image..Miercurea Ciuc/ Csikszereda is the seat of the county since July 1968, and since 1971 it also includes Csiba, Jigodin, and Băile Harghita.

The city lies in the middle of the Ciuc valley. The main body of the city formed on the left side of the river Olt. According to statistical data from 1st July 2009 Harghita county's population is 324,222 and the density is 49.2 persons/km². The ethnic structure of the population is the following: 84.61% Hungarians, 14.06% Romanians, and 1.18% Roma.

Genoa is one of Europe's largest cities on theMediterranean Sea and the largest seaport in Italy. Part of the old town of Genoa was inscribed on the World Heritage List (UNESCO) in 2006. The city's rich art, music,gastronomy, architecture and history, allowed it to become the 2004's European Capital of Culture.

Valladolid, located in north-central Spain, it is the capital of the autonomous community of Castille and Leon. Valladolid is a welcoming city, socially cohesive and well integrated. The Municipal Foundation for Culture was created by the Valladolid City Council in 1982, and has been in charge of the organization of the cultural and recreational activities of the city since then

MORE INFORMATION IN OUR WEBSITE: www.creat-eu.org