

27th International Studio Program of the ACC Galerie Weimar and the City of Weimar

OPEN CALL 2020:

Retreat

In the current political, social and economic crisis and in times of change for less good - or perhaps even for the bad - it is hardly surprising that we feel an urge to retreat - away from the outside world and the public, away from uninhabitable or seemingly unlivable conditions and into the private sphere: into inner worlds, perhaps into a kind of inner emigration.

It may be a retreat owing to unfulfilled hopes on account of post-revolutionary disappointments; a retreat because of a personal helplessness that no longer considers other ways of being reasonable, leading to passivity and the idealization of tranquility. It may be the fear of looming diseases or a reaction to currently imposed distancing requirements. It may be self-isolation from weariness in response to the excesses of media society or the flight from overwork under pressure to perform. Perhaps it is a consequence of self-imposed confinement in view of the environmental destruction caused by mass tourism and excessive consume.

Or are we just reacting as was once encouraged (and allowed) of intellectuals and artists, those “great minds” who - as Aristotle once wrote - are “enough for themselves” and who attach little value to the banal and tumultuous outside world, or who even simply despise it? And last but not least, one should remember the words of Glenn Gould: “... the only advantage that every artist has... is this distance from the world” - a distance that through isolation and solitude draws attention to the small and the individual, reducing external distraction and thus allowing the outer and inner worlds to appear in a different light.

The conscious retreat into one’s own four walls (“My home is my castle”) - be it out of disenchantment with politics, lost faith or a feeling of being “left behind”; or be it the mindset of “looking out for number one”, an attitude towards life expressed in: “I’m doing my own thing”. Or is it a wilful expression of self-determination? All of these reasons are common social phenomena that have been identified in this country, especially in recent times.

On the other hand, the regulated retreat as a military tactic - i.e. the orderly withdrawal of troop movement and the combat-like detachment from the opponent under constant enemy action - is often described as the most difficult military manoeuvre of all. It is possible that the best defence is not attack, as the Prussian Major General Carl von Clausewitz once claimed, but retreat as practiced by Russian Field Marshal Michail Kutusow in 1812 with his apparent retreat used as a ruse against Napoleon.

Six years previous to this, the city of Weimar had for centuries been a place of retreat and intellectual activity, not only for numerous poets and thinkers. It was at the same time the epicenter of bourgeois narrow-mindedness (from which some cultural producers retreated). In 1806 Weimar was plundered by Napoleon’s troops. Goethe met Napoleon just once. The poet prince’s refuge - and Arcadia at the same time - was his Garden House in the Weimar Ilmpark, opposite the Roman House used by his ruler, patron and companion Duke Carl August von Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach as a retreat. Weimar, previously known as the home of museums, civil servants and retirees (once called “Pensionopolis”) is today a family-friendly, verdant place of work and study, a resting place, hiding place and safe haven. Unlike other East German cities it is characterized by population influx and growth.

With a view of this diverse and contradictory spectrum of forms and motifs of retreat, the 27th International Studio Program of the ACC Galerie and the City of Weimar calls on artists to apply with their project proposals. May Weimar become a place of refuge and retreat where international artists can temporarily let go of the familiar in order to withdraw from everyday life into a solitude that is free from external influences and pressures.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT ACC, IAP, AND THE APPLICATION PROCESS

ABOUT ACC GALERIE WEIMAR:

The non-profit organization ACC (Autonomous Cultural Center) originated in 1987, before the fall of the Berlin wall, when students occupied a derelict Renaissance building in the center of the town where Goethe (inevitably) had had his first residence in Weimar (1776/77). Shortly before the re-unification, ACC protagonists were able to secure the house with the aid of private sponsors. The institution now consists of a gallery and a café and offers a cultural program that includes theater, literature and lecture series. Between spring 1989 and 2020 the ACC organized and curated more than 250 exhibitions (roughly five per year) of international contemporary art, through which the gallery has become a center for international cooperation and exchange. Simultaneously, the ACC focuses on the achievement of local artists and inaugurated an international artist-in-residence program. The current space is comprised of two connected buildings with 400 square meters of space consisting of 20 rooms in five former apartments.

ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDIO PROGRAM:

The "International Studio Program of the ACC Galerie and the City of Weimar" was founded in 1994. Annual themes of the program have been: "Allegories" (1995), "Fascis – Fascism and Fascination" (1996), "Kopf an Kopf – Head to Head – Tête à Tête" (1997), "Community – Society" (1998), "Close to the Skin" (1999), "Heart's Blood – Hand-Written Script" (2000), "The Measure of Things" (2001), "über MENSCHEN – The Future of the Human" (2002), "Origin – No Man's Land" (2003), "Irony is dead. Long live Irony!" (2004), "The Culture of Fear" (2005), "The Subversion of Standstill" (2006), "ON THE OUTSIDE" (2007), "On Indefiniteness" (2008), "Failed Art – The Art of Failure" (2009), "Beyond Desire" (2010), "On Dilettantism" (2011), "What Happened to God?" (2012), "With Criminal Energy" (2013), "The Politics and Pleasures of Food" (2014), "Does Humor Belong in Art?" (2015), "The Art of Simulation" (2016), "A Romance with Revolution" (2017), "Solidarity - Now More Than Ever" (2018), "100 Years of Bauhaus - on words and images and word-image art" (2019), "Homeland" (2020). The 78 participants of the program have come from Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Guatemala, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Macedonia, Mexico, Nepal, The Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uruguay, the United States, and Zimbabwe.

ABOUT WEIMAR:

The city of Weimar has seen both the very best and the very worst of German history. On the one hand, Weimar has been home to renaissance art (Cranach), German classical literature and music (Goethe, Schiller, Bach, Liszt), Art Nouveau and Modernism (Henry van de Velde), the Weimar Bauhaus (Gropius, Kandinsky, Klee, Feininger, Moholy-Nagy, etc.) and other important intellectual figures including Herder and Nietzsche. On the other hand, Weimar was also a favored retreat of Hitler, and the former concentration camp of Buchenwald located nearby reminds residents and visitors alike of the darker side of human nature. Although Weimar lives largely in the shadow of this weighty past, the city is now looking towards the future. In 1999 Weimar became the European Capital of Culture.

CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION / PARTICIPATION

SUPPORT BY THE CITY OF WEIMAR:

The City of Weimar pursues the following aims in its role as an initiator and partner of the International Studio Program: to combine financial support for artists with the presentation of contemporary art in the urban realm, to serve as a forum for artists and as a catalyst for encounter between them and to gain international recognition for the resulting activities. By these means, international cultural exchange is to be promoted and prejudices eliminated. The support provided includes the provision of a combination artist's studio/apartment in the Municipal Studio Building. Newly restored, the Studio Building is one of the oldest buildings of its kind in Germany. It contains 11 studios rented to different artists for limited timeperiods. The International Studio Program is supported by the State Chancellery of Thuringia.

STUDIO:

Located on the ground floor of the historical Municipal Studio Building, the studio is about a ten minute walk from the ACC Galerie Weimar in the town center. In addition to the visiting international artist, the well-lit studio building accommodates ten other Weimar artists. In its cellar, the Municipal Studio Building has a small printmaking workshop for etching, lino, and woodprinting, for which it provides basic tools. However, the studio (30 square meters/323 square feet) does not offer any other special equipment, such as photography, video, digital, etc. Images at www.acc-weimar.de/atelier/atelierhaus.html

ROOM AND BOARD:

Rent-free, furnished apartment on the ground floor of the Municipal Studio Building (30 square meters/323 square feet) with internet. Meals are available at ACC Café-Restaurant at a 30% discount.

PARTICIPATION:

Artists who would like to produce works of art in accordance with the outlined theme can apply. The jury will select three artists, each of whom will spend four months living and working in Weimar. Students' applications cannot be accepted.

EXHIBITION:

A selection of works produced during the residency period may be presented in a group exhibition in the following year. The ACC Galerie Weimar makes the final decision about the participation of the artists in the exhibition. A possible concept for the exhibition will be developed together with the artists. Where appropriate, works of art will be displayed in public spaces in Weimar to be agreed upon with the artists. It is intended that the artists are present during the preparation and for the opening of the exhibition.

WORK PERIODS:

February 1 – May 31, 2021
June 1 – September 30, 2021
October 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022

The artist chosen first by our jury will get his/her preferred work period for sure. Artists in second and third place usually need to negotiate, in case their preferred work period is already taken.

STIPEND:

The selected artists will receive a monthly stipend of 1000€. In order to receive the stipend the artists must live in Weimar during the work period. The artists are also expected to hold a lecture/talk at the ACC Galerie Weimar at the end of his/her stay in Weimar. In addition we offer free entry to public municipal institutions, such as the City History Museum, and to the museums of the Weimar Classic Foundation, such as the Weimar Art Collection, the Goethe National Museum, the Bauhaus Museum, and the Duchess Anna Amalia Library. Participants are responsible for their own telephone bills and have to arrange for their own medical insurance. (One suggestion is to arrange insurance through www.mawista.com)

LANGUAGES:

English and German are the official languages of the International Studio Program. Participants should have a solid grasp of either English or German. The language of the jury meeting is English. Your submission can be in English or German.

TRAVEL COSTS:

The participants must cover their own travel costs, although the program attempts to find additional funding in cooperation with the artists.

WHO CAN APPLY? HOW TO APPLY?

Individual artists from all over the world. There is no age restriction. Artist duos or collectives can apply too but the stipend will still be 1000€ per month for all participants and the studio can host max. 2 people. For applications, we used submittable.com in the past, but we simplified the application process. Your proposal should now be one PDF (not larger than 14 MB) with font size 12 containing:

- a project title
- your name, address, nationality, phone number
- your gender and your date of birth
- a short outline of your proposed project (max. 50 words)
- your preferred work period and one alternative work period, options are:

February 1 – May 31, 2021

June 1 – September 30, 2021 or

October 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022

- a detailed description of your proposed project (max. 500 words)
- work samples: max. 10 images, mentioning work titles, size, technique/materials, and date, all to be included in your PDF
- work samples as video/audio-files (mp3 or mp4): max. 10 files, each not longer than 2 minutes, file size not more than 250 MB in total. Please use Dropbox, Google Drive, Mega, etc. and include links to such files in your E-mail
- your CV (max. two pages)

By sending us a project proposal you accept the terms of application, as outlined in our Open Call. Send your proposal until November 15, 2020 (end of day, Central European Time, UTC+01:00) by E-mail to: studioprogram@acc-weimar.de

If your application-file is too large, you may send us an E-mail with a link to your PDF on Dropbox, Google Drive, Mega, etc. You will not receive a confirmation from us. In case we have questions about your application, we will contact you. After the jury meeting (in late November) we will inform all applicants by sending a rejection letter or acceptance letter resp. by E-mail.

Please read very carefully:

Please follow the guidelines and only send the required proposal/material. Please note that your proposal should relate in some way to this years' theme/subject "Retreat", otherwise your chances of getting chosen by the jury will most likely be very small. The decision of the jury is final and explanations will not be given. Concerning Covid-19: we cannot predict if or under which circumstances chosen artists will be able/allowed traveling to Weimar. Alternatives (i.e. work periods in absence) will, if necessary, be discussed with the chosen artists.

In case you have any questions, feel free to e-mail our program's manager Knut Birkholz at studioprogram@acc-weimar.de