

29th International Studio Program of the ACC Galerie Weimar and the City of Weimar

OPEN CALL:

Denunciation!

In an open call to artists from around the world the 29th International Studio Program of the ACC Galerie and the City of Weimar are requesting artistic responses to the phenomenon of defamation - in all of its forms. Works could address specific historical episodes or contemporary defamatory behavior. The psychology of the slanderer in relationship to the victim is a topic to be considered as well as defamation techniques and language use; the role of (mass-)media and social networks; and the role that anonymity plays in all of it.

Political strategy is not the only cause of 'common' slander, rather, hidden private motives like envy, resentment, bitterness, feelings of revenge and jealousy play an important role. If one cannot exert influence in any other way, a person might try to get rid of a competitor or to exercise power over a superior by making a false (anonymous) statement. The feeling of having power over others is - for some - so appealing that moral considerations are superseded. At the same time, different social environments lead to different patterns of defamatory behavior, ranging from personal favoritism all the way up to state domination - and combinations of both. It is possible that the tendency to practice defamation is particularly high in times of diffuse political insecurity. Its effectiveness also depends on prevailing norms and social conditions. Defining an ethic of dealing with our personal data and its consequences is unavoidable. Publicizing the behavior of others can be ethically justifiable and necessary in certain cases. However, disclosure of information can be devastating to an individual: it is common knowledge that victims of 'weaponized' denunciation often suffer from a severe inability to trust - and often end up paying with their lives.

Denunciation, in the sense of defamation, is an instrument of social control with unpredictable consequences. As a communication strategy, it often serves to exclude certain individuals, to destabilize both society and the individual. Denunciation sometimes shows the traits of unbridled passion. Yet it appears to be an anthropological given, closely linked to curiosity, rumor, gossip, and betrayal. So, we are all at risk because a particular criminal energy is not necessarily required for slanderous denunciation: in our era of global, digital networking it is tempting and easy for just about anybody to engage in it. The transition from the inconspicuous, ordinary citizen to the slanderer is fluid. We are apparently seduced into denunciation by a heightened need for control and an acute desire for power, in short, manifesting a potential block-warden-mentality that lies dormant in all of us.

ABOUT ACC, IAP, AND THE APPLICATION PROCESS

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 had his first residence in Weimar. 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 2022 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.

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), "Retreat" (2021), "The forest for the trees" (2022, ongoing). The 85 participants of the program come from Argentina, Egypt, 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.

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.

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 time periods. 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 wood printing, for which it provides basic tools. The studio (30 square meters/323 square feet) does not offer any other special equipment, such as photography, video, digital, etc.

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, 2023
June 1 – September 30, 2023
October 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024

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. Artists are 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, if needed f.i. 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. Your proposal should be one PDF (not larger than 14 MB) with font size 12 containing:

- a project title
- your name, address, nationality, phone number, gender, 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, 2023

June 1 – September 30, 2023

October 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024

- 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: 10 files max., each 2 minutes max., file size up to 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. Send your proposal until November 29, 2022 (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, 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 (most likely first week of December 2022) we will inform all applicants by sending a rejection letter or acceptance letter resp. by E-mail.

Please follow the guidelines. The decision of the jury is final; 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. If chosen, you must make sure to get (if needed) a visa for Germany on time. That is most important for the 1st work period, which starts already February 1, 2023.