

30th International Studio Program of the ACC Galerie Weimar and the City of Weimar OPEN CALL:

H2O

30 years of the International Studio Program of the ACC Galerie and the City of Weimar are a reason to celebrate. But it is harder than ever for us to remain confident when facing the state of the late Anthropocene. Don't we already harbor – more than quiet – doubts about the relevance of art in a situation in which much can no longer be taken for granted? Have we not long since been living in the eve of a world that is changing faster than ever – so it seems – into a dystopia?

The program title, "H2O," brings to mind that, after thousands of years, oases in the northern Sahara have to be abandoned for lack of water, and that islands in Oceania have to be abandoned because of rising sea levels, and that glaciers and lakes are disappearing in many places. And that climate science is currently reporting almost daily heat records, and that regional armed conflicts over groundwater and river water are feared. This list could easily be continued, but it should not be forgotten that the simple formula H2O refers beyond ecology and economy: to something that is in so many ways image, symbol, and object of research. At the same time, it reminds us of motifs from myth, religion and fairy tales and their semi-conscious or unconscious influences. Therefore, the 'element of life' is in historical-iconographic as well as in 'purely' aesthetic terms truly not an exhausted subject for art.

We ask what can be said and shown artistically about H2O today, whether within a possibly occurring paradigm shift, a climate turn in art – or in opposition to it, so as despite all urgency not to be dominated or even paralyzed by this paradigm. What spaces of possibility can we keep open? Do we manage, in spite of everything, to design new utopias of life?

On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Studio Program, Weimar's urban space is open for artistic interventions depending on the realization possibilities on site.

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 2023 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), "Denunciation!" (2023, ongoing). The 88 participants of the program come from Argentina, Egypt, Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Guatemala, Iran, 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:

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, 2024
June 1 – September 30, 2024
October 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025

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, yet we prefer English.

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, 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, 2024

June 1 – September 30, 2024

October 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025

- a description of your proposed project (max. 500 words)
- work samples: max. 10 images, mentioning work titles, size, technique/materials, and date, to be included in your PDF
- work samples as video/audio-files: 10 files max., each 2 minutes max., 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 30, 2023 (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 (likely in the first week of December 2023) 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. 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, 2024.