

Research residency at CAIRN Art Center

CALL FOR APPLICATION 2019



The CAIRN art center

The CAIRN art centre was founded in 2000 on the initiative of the Musée Gassendi in Digne-les-Bains. It is a place of artistic experimentation which supports and presents contemporary creative works in a rural environment. It hosts several artists by invitation, for producing artworks and exhibitions, and by application, for a research residency. In this context, a rich program of arts events and outreach activities are proposed for different types of audience.

In addition, the CAIRN art centre has commissioned a collection of works in the Haute-Provence Géopark. Scattered along mountain paths, they invite visitors to discover the landscapes in an alternative way.

The CAIRN art centre is part of the BOTOX(S) network of contemporary art in the French Alps and Riviera, the d.c.a network (French association for the development of art centres), and the ELAN network (European Land-Art Network).

The context: UNESCO Haute-Provence Géopark

As a part of the Haute-Provence Geopark, the place is known for its significant geological sites, as well for its changing and rugged landscapes, resulting from the geological uprising of the Alps. These lands are sparsely populated and reveal marks of an agricultural and pastoral life, strongly vivid in the past. The region's history has been influenced by the surrounding mountains and the geological heritage is one of the notable in Europe.

The changing character of this land in between the plain and the mountain could represent a fruitful field of enquiry and artistic researches. The close collaboration with Gassendi Museum, hosting a surprising collection of natural history, ethnology and art, will offer a great opportunity to go deep in the research through a specific interdisciplinary approach.

Digne-les Bains museums

The city of Digne-les-Bains enhances its assets in cultural field through the work of the museums service, made up of the CAIRN art centre and two other departments:

Arts & sciences - Gassendi museum

Originally founded in 1889 in a historic building in the town centre, the Musée Gassendi has obtained certification as a «Musée de France». Like a cabinet of curiosities, the jointly-presented fine art and science collections are enhanced by the commission of lasting contemporary art works in situ, both within the rooms and in a vast area.

Asian arts & literature - Maison Alexandra David-Neel

This property was acquired by this Orientalist writer in 1928 after fourteen years of travel in Asia. One of the pioneers of Tibetan Buddhism studies and close to the anarchist movement, she wrote all her books and publication in this house. The property, called *Samten Dzong* (meaning "residence of reflection" in Tibetan), was bequeathed to the town of Digne-les-Bains after her death. It has been entirely renovated in 2019 to return the house and its garden to their original state. At the same time, a museum presents Alexandra David-Neel's biography, as well as her thinking and her commitments, by means of manuscripts and items preserved in its archives.

The residency

Financed by the DRAC (Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles) of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, the residency program is directed towards professional artists who desire to develop an approach in resonance with the multiple aspects of the area around Digne-les-Bains; its geological and natural heritage as well as its history and current situation.

It will be the time and place for an outdoor exploration but also to work in resonance with the art and science collection of the Gassendi Museum and the archive of the Alexandra David Neel's house.

There is no obligation of producing artworks but the artist is requested to present in public his/her research during or at the end of the residency (conference, performance, lecture) and a workshop with school or students from the Digne-les-Bains art academy.

Reception conditions

- **Accommodation and studio**

During the period of residency, the artist will have a house located in Saint Benoit's park. Surrounded by a wood not far from the town, the location of the house allows the artistes to start walking and discovering all the natural sites around. This is the right space for reflection and experimentation. An E-bike is available for local displacement.

The artist in residence is supported by the art center team and will have the possibility to meet scientists and specialists of many fields to increase their research.

If required by the project, the art center team could make the link with local associations, schools and the inhabitants.

- **Schedule**

The residency will take place between October 2019 and February 2020, for a period of 6 weeks, which could be split in two or more sessions, depending on the availability of the house.

Financial terms

The selected artist will receive a grant of 5000 euros including the fees, travel costs, per diem, and the cost of research. The apartment is available for free during all residency period.

The organization of events, workshops and the communication charges will be assumed by the art center.

Conditions to apply

This program is open to French and foreigner professional artists, that wish to develop their research and experimentation in the framework offered by the residency. There are no limits of age and nationality. All practices and art fields are accepted. Good communications skills in French or English are requested.

Selection

Artist selection will be based on these criteria :

- Artistic quality and originality of the project in relation to contemporary art practices
- Site specific structure: coherence between the project's purpose and the territorial context
- Originality and innovation of artistic approach
- Clear and structured work methodology
- Future prospect and development of the project

The selection committee will be made up of contemporary art professionals and it will include the participation of an artist in residence in CAIRN art centre.

Application deadline : 16th of June 2019

The outcome will be announced around the 20th of July 2019.

How to apply

Please include in your application the following elements (in English or French):

- Curriculum and short biography
- A presentation of your artistic approach/process (max 3000 characters)
- A portfolio showing a selection of previous work (max 10 images, 3 texts, 3 audiofiles of 10 minutes length maximum, 3 videos via we transfer)
- A note explaining your intentions (max 3000 characters)

All material must be labelled with surname (family) name, followed by an underscore in the file name, as Smith_(title of image).jpg

All the elements could be included in a only one pdf doc.

All applications will be sent to the following email address:

giulia.pagnetti_cairn@musee-gassendi.org

For more informations :

www.cairncentredart.org

Email: giulia.pagnetti_cairn@musee-gassendi.org

Tél: 04 92 31 45 29