

Research residency at CAIRN Art Center Call for applications 2020



THE CAIRN ART CENTER

Created in 2000 on the initiative of the Gassendi Museum, the CAIRN art center is an artistic laboratory that supports and promotes contemporary creative works in a rural environment.

If the word «CAIRN» refers to these pyramids of stones raised by walkers as a reference point or mark of their passage, it is also to be considered according to its founding acronym: Informal Art Center for Nature Research. The CAIRN art center is defined as a space of experimentation around an extremely complex notion, today at the heart of debates, concerns and mobilizations: nature. For 20 years, CAIRN has favoured inviting artists who are familiar with this concept and who propose a plural and renewed approach.

In parallel, the art center has developed a collection of permanent works on the territory of UNESCO Haute-Provence Geopark. Scattered along mountain paths, they invite visitors to discover the landscapes in an alternative way.

The CAIRN art center welcomes artists by invitation, for producing artwork and exhibitions, and by call for applications, for a research residency. In this context, a rich program of arts and outreach activities are proposed for different types of audience.

THE CONTEXT : UNESCO HAUTE-PROVENCE GEOPARK

As part of the Haute-Provence Geopark, the territory is characterised by sites of major geological interest, tormented and changing landscapes, resulting from the over-rection of the Alps. These lands, with a low population density, reveal the marks of a once intense agricultural and pastoral life.

The proximity of the mountains has influenced the history of this region, fragmented into valleys, and has generated a strong attachment of the population to their environment. The history and geography of the site, the changing character of this land 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 center and two other departments:

ARTS & SCIENCES - GASSENDI MUSEUM

Originally founded in 1889 in a historic building in the town centre, the Gassendi Museum 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 - MUSEUM & HOUSE ALEXANDRA DAVID-NEEL

Orientalist writer, close to the anarchist movement, Alexandra David-Neel acquired this property in 1924, after 14 years of travelling through the mountains of Asia, where she explored the path of a deep spiritual quest. Named *Samten Dzong* (residence of the Reflection in Tibetan), the house was bequeathed to the city of Digne-les-Bains after his death (1969). 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.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE RESIDENCE

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.

Accompanied by the art center team, the resident artist will have the opportunity to open his or her approach to scientists and specialists from several disciplines. If the project requires it, the team of the art center also undertakes to relay the message to schools, residents and the local community.

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/or a workshop with schoolchildren or students from the Digne-les-Bains art academy).

DURATION

The residency will take place between April and December 2020 over a period of 6 weeks, which could be split in two or more sessions, depending on the availability of the house (the organization and schedule will be agreed upon at the beginning of its implementation).

RECEPTION CONDITIONS

- The artist in residence at CAIRN is welcomed in a **40 m2 apartment** with two bedrooms, a living room and a balcony. It is **located in the Saint-Benoît park, in the heart of the Haute-Provence Geopark**.
- The residence is located near the art center (5 minutes by foot) and 3 kilometers away from the city center of Digne-les-Bains (35 minutes by foot, about 15 minutes by bike). From Digne, it takes 1h30 to reach Aix-en-Provence and 2 hours to get to Marseille.
- The accommodation overlooks the valley of the Bléone and offers a view of the surrounding mountains. It allows to discover the surrounding sites by offering an immersion in the landscape as well as a space for reflection, incubation and experimentation.
- **To facilitate travel between the city center and the residence, an electric bicycle is made available to the resident artist for the duration of his or her stay. However, a vehicle is strongly recommended in order to travel over the vast territory of the Geopark.**
- The residency requires a minimum of autonomy on the part of the artists, because the art center team doesn't work on the residency site. The art center team will not be able to provide the resident's daily shuttles.

FINANCIAL TERMS

The selected artist will receive **a residency grant of 5000 euros** including fees, travel costs to Digne and travel costs on the territory (car rental or other), per diem, and expenses related to the research. The apartment is available for free during all residency period.

COMMUNICATION

The organization of the public restitution (conference, performance, lecture and/or a workshop with schoolchildren or students from the Digne-les-Bains art academy) and the communication charges will be assumed by the art center.

AGREEMENT

An agreement will be drawn up between the CAIRN art center and the winning artist.

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 REQUIREMENTS

Artist selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Artistic quality and originality of the project in relation to contemporary art practices
- 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 make up by contemporary art professionals including the participation of artists, curators, art historians.

Artists are selected on the basis of their applications and projects. No theme or medium is imposed.

Artists are invited to formulate their project by motivating the interest of a residency in its realization. Projects involving work in relation to the territory (in the broadest sense) will be encouraged.

CALENDAR

Application deadline : January 27th, 2020 (included)

No applications received after this date will be considered.

The outcome will be announced by email at the end of March 2020.

Due to the large number of applications received each year, it is unfortunately impossible for us to provide everyone with details about the refusal of their application.

APPLICATION FORM

To be admissible, the application file must include **a single document in pdf format** presenting:

- a Curriculum Vitae (with social security number or international VAT number)
- a short biography (max 10 lines)
- a note explaining your intentions for this residency (max 1 page)
- a portfolio including a presentation of the artistic approach (max 1 page) and showing a selection of previous work (maximum 20 visuals accompanied by captions or short texts). The audio and video files will be included in the pdf file and can be viewed via interactive online links.
- texts and press articles (max 3 pages).

Applications should be sent by email with the subject line :

«CANDIDATURE RESIDENCE CAIRN 2020».

Please name the document as follows: surname_first_name_application_cairn_2020

It is possible to send your file via we transfer.

The application form should **only be sent by email** to **julie.michel@dignelesbains.fr**

Applications sent by post will not be reviewed or returned.

For more information on the CAIRN art centre, visit our website:

www.cairncentredart.org

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

The CAIRN art center receives financial support from the Ministry of Culture/ DRAC Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and the city of Digne-les-Bains.