

ART-SCIENCE RESIDENCY OFFERED BY THE ARTISTS-IN-LABS PROGRAM IN 2018:

CALL FOR PROJECT SUBMISSIONS FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN
ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY SAAO IN CAPE TOWN AND SUTHERLAND



The artists-in-labs South African-Swiss Residency Exchange 2018 sponsors:

- 1 residency award in 2018 for a three-month period in scientific research at the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO), University of Cape Town (UCT) in Cape Town and Sutherland, South Africa
- The residency mirrors the award of a residency to a South African artist, who will in parallel undertake a residency with the Astronomy Department at the University of Geneva

Applications for this Residency are open for:

- artists with Swiss citizenship living either in Switzerland or abroad
- artists with non-Swiss citizenship living in Switzerland for 2 years or more

RESIDENCY PERIOD: September–November 2018

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 27th of May 2018

PLEASE SEND YOUR APPLICATIONS INKL. PORTFOLIO (MAX. 8 MB) TO: ail.program@zhdk.ch (or via wetransfer.com)

If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact the AIL-Team via ail.program@zhdk.ch.

The *artists-in-labs South African - Swiss Residency Exchange 2018* offers the unique opportunity for artists of all disciplines to exchange and work for 3-months with scientists of the South African Astronomical Observatory on their Campus in Cape Town as well as at the South African Large Telescope (SALT) in Sutherland and to develop an artistic project.

- The residency's unique setting opens up the possibility for a transcultural and transdisciplinary dialogue that is brought about by juxtaposing concepts and procedures, cultural knowledge and backgrounds
- The residency offers significant time and space to reflect upon ideas and to explore a range of scientific topics, methods and technologies in Astronomy
- During the residency the artist will be immersed in the research and working alongside scientists from the SAAO
- There will also be a coordinator of the Institute available to the artist for more general issues

1. Background - The artists-in-labs program

This Residency Exchange is conducted and monitored by the **artists-in-labs program (AIL)** research group at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK). The ZHdK is the leading institution for this project and responsible for its **conception, curation and management**.

- Since 2003, the AIL has been facilitating artistic research by way of long-term residencies for 52 artists in 20 scientific laboratories (as of 2018) and research institutes in Switzerland and worldwide
- It is part of the Institute for Cultural Studies in the Arts (ICS) at the ZHdK and promotes sustainable transdisciplinary and cross-border collaborations as well as the development of new knowledge by providing artists with an opportunity to critically engage with the sciences and their experimental and aesthetic dimensions
- This includes explorations of the site of the laboratory, as well as a range of scientific topics, methods and technologies. Publications and short documentary films record the processes and results of these collaborations and offer reflections on them
- All the collaborations the AIL produces are presented at various national and international exhibitions, symposia and workshops, making it possible to share findings and ideas, and to provide accessible discussions and aesthetic experiences to our students, peers and to the public.

The AIL will coordinate and document the *artists-in-labs South African-Swiss Residency Exchange 2018*. As case studies and part of their own research, the AIL will monitor and evaluate the experiences of the artist and scientists through interviews and will compare procedures, processes and methodologies of the projects. Towards the end of the residency period a video documentary of each residency will be produced including interviews with the artist and the scientists at the laboratories.

www.artistsinlabs.ch/en

2. Collaboration Partners and their Tasks

Conception, Curation, Management:

- artists-in-labs program (AIL), Institute for Cultural Studies in the Arts (ICS), Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), Switzerland

Strategic and Financial Support:

- Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, Johannesburg Office, South Africa

Hosting Science Institution:

- South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO), University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa

3. The Residency - What we offer:

- A workplace in the lab, accommodation and travel expenses as well as a monthly allowance and budget for materials
- An immersive collaboration and exchange with scientists
- Access to state-of-the-art lab technology and the facilities of SAAO, UCT in Cape Town and Sutherland
- A video documentary of the residency
- Different outreach formats and possibilities to engage with a diverse public

4. The Residency - What we expect from the selected Artist:

- The selected artist will work in meaningful relationship with the science lab along the lines outlined in her/his submitted project proposal
- He/She is expected to immerse himself/herself into his/her research and be fully committed to his/her practice
- He/She is expected to conclude the residency with a documentation and prototype/project plan as well as a written report that illustrates the process and/or outcome of the three-month period

5. Application procedure - What we need from you:

Applicants must be reasonably fluent in English.

Artists who are interested to apply for this three-month residency are required to submit a full proposal. Proposals should be related and relevant to the specific field of research conducted at the SAAO, UCT. Information about the research can be found in the enclosed abstract. All documents must be submitted in English. The jury will not review incomplete proposals.

The proposal should include the following documents and should be sent as a PDF (max. 8 MB):

- CV (including education, exhibitions, prizes, publications, residencies, etc.)
- Application Form
- Portfolio (selection of artworks. Filmic material can be sent via www.wetransfer.com. Please note your name in the title of each file)
- Proposal stating your motivation, your field of interest in relation to the laboratory of your choice as well as your intention during the residency
- Copy of passport

6. Application procedure - Documents, Deadline and Contact

Please send your application and portfolio all in one PDF document by email (max. 8 MB) to: ail.program@zhdk.ch or via wetransfer.com

- Deadline for submission of the application: **27th of May 2018**
- If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact the AIL-team: ail.program@zhdk.ch

7. The Jury

- A jury will assess the applications. The selected artist will be notified by e-mail in June 2018
- The international jury does not have to justify its decision. Applicants do not have any legal right to contest the decision or the selection procedure

8. Evaluation Criteria for the Jury

The jury is looking for the following qualities in the proposal:

- Innovative and original conceptual ideas relating and engaging with the research topics
- The interest in intercultural encounters and dialogue with scientists and the local (art) community
- A relevance to the artist's praxis and his/her professional past activities
- The ability to communicate creative ideas, processes and methodologies
- A realistic project scheme relating to the lab and the length of the residency
- The potential to develop the project further in the future and to exhibit or publish the result

9. Liability and Insurance

The Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) is not liable for any damage that the artist might cause during their residency. Therefore it is highly recommended, that the artist will take on a liability insurance for such incidents.

10. Research Negotiations and Communications

The artists-in-labs program is entirely responsible for any changes, negotiations, new liaisons, and shifts in any matter concerning the *artists-in-labs South African-Swiss Residency Exchange 2018*. The artist and the lab are therefore obligated to communicate directly with the head of the project about any problems, changes, disagreements, dissatisfactions, and negotiations, which might arise during the course of the project.