

CALL FOR PROJECT SUBMISSIONS 2016

artists-in-labs (ail) / Zurich University of the Arts
KAUST-SWISS RESIDENCY EXCHANGE 2016
Art-Science Residencies in:

RED SEA ECOLOGY
in Saudi Arabia

and

ALPINE WATER ECOLOGY
in Switzerland

Period: September–December 2016

Application deadline: 2nd May 2016

Outline for applicants for the artists-in-labs KAUST-Swiss Residency Exchange 2016.

1. General information

The artists-in-labs KAUST-Swiss Residency Exchange is a collaboration between the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), Institute for Cultural Studies in the Arts (ICS), the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Thuwal, the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology Eawag and the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia Zurich and Pro Helvetia, Cairo Office.

The artists-in-labs KAUST-Swiss Residency Exchange will sponsor **four** residency awards in 2016:

- 2 residencies for a three-month period in scientific research groups at KAUST in Saudi Arabia, and
- 2 residencies for a three-month period in scientific research groups at Eawag in Zurich, Switzerland.

Applications are open for artists with Swiss citizenship and/or resident in Switzerland and for artists with Saudi-Arabian citizenship and/or resident in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Each artist can apply for **one residency only** either in Switzerland **or** Saudi Arabia. In Switzerland there will be two laboratories and in KAUST four laboratories to choose from. In the application form the artist must state a first and second laboratory of their choice.

The artist-in-labs KAUST-Swiss 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.

Our international art-science residencies in scientific laboratories provide artists with the opportunity to engage with scientists in environmental research for several months on a global scale.

The residencies' 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 residencies offer significant time and space to reflect upon ideas and to explore a range of scientific topics, methods and technologies in renown scientific laboratories worldwide.

Proposals should be related and relevant to one of the laboratory's specific field of research. Information about the individual laboratories can be found in the enclosed abstracts.

During the residency the artist will be appointed a scientific researcher from the laboratory who will introduce the various fields, methods and techniques of research and who will support and accompany the artist throughout his/her process and developments. There will also be a coordinator of the Institute available to the artist for

more general issues.

The artist is expected to immerse himself/herself into his/her research and be fully committed to his/her practice.

The artist will 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. He/She is free to choose the format of the documentation. The format however will be discussed with the ail-team

2. Application

Artists who are interested to apply for a three-month residency, are required to submit a full proposal. 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

All documents must be submitted in English. The jury will not review incomplete proposals.

3. The artists-in-labs KAUST-Swiss Residency

The residency includes:

- A workplace in the chosen lab, accommodation and travel expenses as well as a monthly allowance and budget for materials.
- An extensive collaboration and exchange with scientists.
- Full access to state-of-the-art lab technology and the facilities of KAUST and Eawag.
- Access to the facilities and programmes of the ZHdK across a broad range of disciplines.
- A video documentary of the residency.

4. Conditions and Expectations

- Applicants who live and work in Switzerland or Saudi Arabia are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be fluent in English.
- The selected artists are required to work in the Swiss or KAUST science lab of their choice based on her/his original project proposal
- At the end of the residency the selected artists will provide a documentation and prototype/project plan as well as a written report that illustrates the process and/or outcome of the three-month period.
- The selected artists are expected to give a public lecture to the researchers from KAUST and Eawag at the

beginning and end of his/her residency about their artwork, their field of research, the process and developments that resulted during their residencies. Additionally, the selected artists will be expected to give a talk about their work to the (art) students of the Zurich University of the Arts and the AI-Hedkma University.

- The selected artists will present prototypes, models, concepts and processes of their work.
- The selected artists will be expected to sign a contract, between them, the Swiss ail research group and the science institutions

5. Application procedure

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](https://www.wetransfer.com)

- Deadline for submission of the application: **2nd May 2016**
- If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact Irène Hediger, artists-in-labs program:
irene.hediger@zhdk.ch.

6. The Jury

A jury will assess the applications. The selected artists will be notified by e-mail in the first week of June 2016. The jury is made up of a board of experts. The jury does not have to justify its decision. Applicants do not have any legal right to fight the decision or the selection procedure.

7. Evaluation criteria for the Jury

The jury is looking for the following qualities in each 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.

8. Liability and insurance

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

9. What is the role of the „Swiss ail Research Group” during the residency?

The Swiss ail research group will coordinate and document the artists-in-labs KAUST-Swiss Residency Exchange. As case studies and part of their own research, the ail research group will monitor and evaluate the experiences of the artists 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 artists and the scientists at the laboratories.

10. Research Negotiations and Communications

The ail research group is entirely responsible for any changes, negotiations, new liaisons, and shifts in any matter concerning the artists-in-labs KAUST-Swiss Residency Exchange. All artists and all labs 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.