

Caravan Residency Program: Thinking with Alexandria

About the residency

The **Caravan Residency Program** is part of **Alexandria: (Re)activating Common Urban Imaginaries**, a project co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union (2020-2023). The project aims to survey the European cities of Athens, Brussels, Marseille, and Nicosia, through the lens of Alexandria and its contested urban imaginaries.

The chimeric port city serves as heuristic device for the Caravan Residency Program. Alexandria has been shaped by the historic tensions and contested narratives of imperial and emancipatory forces. In the 13th century, it emerged as an atypical site of commercial activity and pre-capitalist trade infrastructures set up by European merchants. The New Imperialism of the 19th century then incorporated the Eastern Mediterranean into the circuitry of global economy; at that point, Alexandria was administered by the Ottomans, then bombed and occupied by the British. The city became a playground for the articulation of utopian imaginaries, hosting anarchists, intellectuals, and renegades from the Arabic-speaking region and the world over to experiment with radical modes of assembly and critique and establish popular theatres and universities, independent presses, and fugitive communes.

The opportunity to think with and through Alexandria allows us to exercise worldmaking against erasure and towards futurities. Worldmaking starts from worlds already at hand: the making is a remaking (Nelson Goodman); The Caravan Residency Program is thus an invitation to compose, toy with, and re-figure existing parts and elements structuring our everyday through a peripatetic format in Alexandria and other cities across Europe and the Mediterranean.

The year-long multi-city residency invites artists, cultural practitioners, and activists to articulate and configure new modes of relating to and understanding urban, infrastructural, and social processes and formations. The residency program engages local organizations in partner cities and works toward the 17 Sustainable Development Goals outlined by the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

Sixteen participants will be selected to partake in a field, discursive and practice-based program in conversation with the residency curators, social entrepreneurs

and a range of tutors and presenters working across diverse disciplines and contexts, to be tailored to the group. The residency is outcome based, and participants are expected to develop a final project as part of the program's conclusion which will be then showcased as part of the *Forums: Contemporary Alexandria* in Athens, Biella, Marseille, Alexandria and Aarhus.

The **Caravan Residency** is conceived and realized by **UNIDEE residency programs** at **Cittadellarte - Fondazione Pistoletto** in Italy and is curated together with **Edwin Nasr** and in conversation with **Sarah Rifky**.

Residency format

- 16 participants will be selected
- 3 residency paths will be offered for all participants
- 2 residency stays will be planned in Biella, Italy for all participants
- 1 residency stay will be planned in Alexandria, Egypt for all participants
- 1 residency in one of the following cities – Marseille, Athens, Brussels, Nicosia – will be planned for each of the participants, depending on their individual choice
- 1 final stay will be planned in Biella for the production and presentation of final projects.

Fondazione Pistoletto	Biella, Italy	Oct. 2021	10 days
Institut Francais and local partners in Alexandria	Alexandria, Egypt	Nov. 2021	7 days
MUCEM, National Museum of European & Mediterranean Civilizations	Marseille, France	Feb. 2022	7 days
Onassis Stegi	Athens, Greece	Mar. 2022	7 days
Art	Nicosia, Cyprus	May 2022	7 days
Bozar Palais des Beaux-Arts	Brussels, Belgium	May 2022	7 days
Fondazione Pistoletto	Biella, Italy	July 2022	10 days

This schedule is provisional and contingent on the global development of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Travel and other residency activities are subject to being postponed between January and July 2022.

Application and selection

Eligibility criteria

- Applicants can be emerging to mid-career artists working in diverse media —digital, moving image, painting and printmaking, performance, photography, sculpture, sound, and text— as well as cultural practitioners and activists informed by and concerned with archival research, knowledge production, placemaking, and/or community-based engagement;
- Applicants demonstrating commitment towards generating new insights around urban histories and dynamics, coloniality and power formations, infrastructures and networks, and maritime cultures and poetics will be prioritized;
- Applicants must be fluent in English;
- Applicants must currently reside within:
 - an EU member state, or, the United Kingdom,
 - an EU pre-accession country: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey,
 - an EFTA member state: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland,
 - one of the following countries of the EU Southern Neighborhood: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

**This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244(1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*

Please note that gender and geographical balance will be taken into account as selection criteria.

Application and selection

- Fill out the application **here**
- Application deadline: May 30, 2021
- Selected participants will be informed by end of June
- The final list of participants will be announced on the organizers' and project partners' websites and social media platforms.

Please note that only accepted applicants will be contacted directly.

What is covered by the grant?

The program covers travel, accommodation and meals. Participants will receive €3,000 fee, payable in accordance to international and local laws. Additionally,

each artist will have a budget of up to € 500 to cover the production costs of their final projects.

Selection Committee

The submissions will be reviewed and evaluated by a jury consisting of representatives of the participating partner organizations in collaboration with the curators of the Caravan Residency Program, Sarah Rifky and Edwin Nasr.

Questions?

If you have inquiries, please contact us at unidee@cittadellarte.it.

For more information here is the link to the open call on Cittadellarte's website:
<http://www.cittadellarte.it/unidee/activity.html?id=126>