



LAPA Pan-African artist residency supporting African artists.



Photographed by Anita Sambanje

After two seasons, featuring six artists from across the African continent, LAPA Pan-African artists residency a project of the Goethe-Institut, looked back at previous, present activities, got insight from the alumni and announced the season 3 call for applications.

Artist residencies provide a supportive and nurturing environment that allows artists to explore new ideas, experiment with different mediums, collaborate with other practitioners, and establish meaningful connections with the global artistic community.

On 6 April 2023, LAPA hosted a hybrid press conference brunch to look back at previous seasons, received insight from alumni and announced the season 3 call for applications. Representatives from LAPA and the Goethe-Institut discussed the importance of artist residencies and how the programme plays a key role in fostering artistic talent on the African continent.

The LAPA residency is designed to provide practising artists and art professionals with the opportunity to live and work in Johannesburg for three months with specific focus on growing their practice through research techniques and collaborating with others. Dr Asma Diakit , Goethe-Institut Regional Director of Cultural Programs for Sub-Saharan Africa said, "LAPA is a place to gather, for collaboration, experimentation and developing new trajectories in artistic practice. We understand LAPA as a continuing work in residence. Residencies are critical support structures for artists and art

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professionals which prioritizes processes of thinking and being. The artist residency aims to support Pan-African artistic research and exchange.”

LAPA season one featured Duduetsang Lamola (blk.banaana), Tinofireyi Zhou aka Aero501, season two antidisiplinary artists Darlyne Komukama, Liz Kobusinge and Wyssolela Moreira working in collaboration with fellow artist Anita Sambanje. Blk banaana has since been selected as a fellow at Oyoun, a cultural institution and project space in Berlin, Germany and Liz Kobusinge has been selected to be part of Njabala Foundations annual open call which curates periodic exhibitions as well as organizes a public programme of activities aimed at creating safe spaces for female artists to thrive and blossom.

“The residency has initiated several working relationships and it is wonderful to see this kind of push and linkages we affirm through the work. While it is really important that the resident artists connect with local professionals and communities, it is important that this continues on to the artists home countries and has further momentum” says Tammy Langtry, LAPA Project Manager on behalf of Goethe-Institut.

The programme aims to promote artistic exchange and create opportunities for cross-cultural dialogue and is open to practising artists in Africa to expand on the continental network and establish necessary travel and connection. Each artist spends time at LAPA in a self-managed research process, the resident artists are provided with accommodation, working space, a modest stipend for living, travel and production expenses. They work alongside other artists and professionals to develop on their research.

LAPA space

Housed in the Breezblock building in the suburb of Brixton, Johannesburg, LAPA is a place to gather, for collaboration, experimentation and developing new trajectories in artistic practice. LAPA, a many meaning word, inspires ideas of historical and material memory, and the metaphorical home spaces and their architectures, LAPA makes its connection with community and asks what kind of potential could we encourage when we are housed together. Enacting the term LAPA, the residency becomes a space of communing toward the core principles relating to neighbourliness, conviviality, community, healing, environment and home.

WHAT IS COMING NEXT? SEASON 3

Applications for season 3 of the LAPA residency opens on 6 April 2023 and closes on 31 May 2023.

The residency selects duo's for the 2023 and 2024 programme. The submissions will be reviewed and shortlisted by a panel of jury. The residency is open to artists from all disciplines who are citizens or permanent residents of African countries. LAPA is developed for artists across all disciplines based in Africa and the diaspora seeking to expand their working relationship and continue to develop their artistic languages and research. Artists working together, in tandem and in pairs are welcomed to submit a

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joint application. We encourage applications which are collaborative, communal, public-facing or deal in public space. While priority is given to pairings working on the continent, we welcome those in the diaspora to apply as this provides an important linkage between geographies of work.

Applications are open to all (with or without formal art education) who have been professionally active for at least 5 years. The selection criteria for successful applicants will be based on quality of work, relevance of proposed project to current social, economic, or environmental issues, and potential for cross-cultural exchange.

For more information on the LAPA residency program and application process, visit <https://www.goethe.de/lapa>.

About the Goethe-Institut

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, active worldwide. The Goethe-Institut promote the study of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange. The Goethe-Institut Johannesburg supports local South African projects, as well as regional exchange within Africa, and continues to facilitate engagement with Germany.

[Website](#)

LAPA is hosted at Breezeblock.

Physical address: 29 Chiswick Str, Brixton, Johannesburg.

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