

Call for submissions

New Forms of Togetherness

Digital Residency for Artists – November 2020 – December 2021

‘Artificial Intelligence’ often refers to science fiction for many people but AI is actually already part of our everyday life – ranging from digital picture recognition and virtual assistants to autonomous cars. Yet the discourse surrounding AI is still mainly taking place in the technical sector.

The new cultural collaboration between the *Goethe-Institut Glasgow* and the *Alliance Française Glasgow* (together with the *Institut Français d’Ecosse*) aims at uniting technology and art, thus creating a new approach to an increasingly central topic.

In response to the impact felt by the cultural sector as a result of the Covid-19 global health crisis, we have reframed our initial residency project and transformed it into a purely digital one. The French and German cultural centres based in Scotland are inviting **three contemporary artists based in France, Scotland and Germany** to apply for this digital residency programme taking place **between November 2020 and December 2021**.

The programme consists of online residencies which will contribute to the interdisciplinary discourse between artists and partners around the topic of Artificial Intelligence. The remote residency will allow the artists to continue to work from their own space with the digital support of our partners: the *National Library of Scotland*, the *Social Brain in Action Lab* and the *NEoN Festival of Digital Arts*. A dialogue will be created around artificial intelligence, between the artists, the partners and an online audience.

In December 2020, the three selected artists will introduce themselves and their methods to a wider audience on *NEoN Festival of Digital Arts’* digital platform. They will then develop further ideas while taking part in remotely held input sessions and workshops from our partners and from experts in the field of Artificial Intelligence. Finally, artists will present the outcome of their work on a digital platform or -if possible- in a physical way with the support of *NEoN Festival of Digital Arts* and the *Centre for Contemporary Arts* in Glasgow.

The residency is directed at contemporary emerging artists whose practice revolves around Artificial Intelligence. The particular interest of the practitioners should be centred on the following:

- AI applications and their impact on our historical and cultural memories that are held in physical archives and libraries.
- AI technology and its impact on our future social relations and behaviour, in regards

to developments in robotic engineering.

The aim of the project is to contribute to the discussion around the use of Artificial Intelligence from an interdisciplinary perspective and to make the discourse around AI technology accessible to a wider public. Artists will be working collaboratively and they are asked to deliver their final outcome within the year 2021.

During the residency, artists are expected to:

- Carry out their research and develop their project from their own working space and be in charge of their own technical equipment and internet access.
- Ensure their availability throughout the year for events that will take place online, such as artist talks, tutorials, workshops, work in progress presentations, etc.
- Share the outcome of their work with the audience online and share their progress to be discussed with partners.
- Contribute and develop work throughout the residency period (equivalent to 20 – 25 days in total which includes contact time, workshops, tutorials, mentorship, group discussions etc.).

Whilst daily participation and committing exclusively to this project are not required, artists will need to be involved in the residency for the duration of the entire project and up until the end of 2021.

Fees and support

To financially support their residency, each artist will receive **1.000,00€ for production costs**, as well as a **2.000,00€ fee**. The funding of technical equipment may also be included, depending on the artist's individual work and endeavour. Fees and costs will be paid in instalments throughout the year, in discussion with the artist.

Given the general context of uncertainty caused by the current pandemic, we reserve the right to adjust this project to the benefit of the artists. Financial or thematic changes might be made throughout the year, in agreement with the artists.

Input from our partners

The artists will receive support and mentorship from institutional partners to encourage collaboration across different artistic fields:

The National Library of Scotland is a research library with world-class collections, making it an ideal partner for a residency that looks critically and creatively at the engagement with the documents that are held within their archives. This residency will be to explore collection(s) on the Data Foundry (<https://data.nls.uk/>).

How does AI technology open up new ways of how to interact with library and archival collections and what are the challenges and dangers of using this technology in archival research?

Libraries and archives hold vast collections, including digitised material and data. AI solutions are increasingly used in libraries and archives for sensitivity reviews and provenance research. At the same time, national libraries hold a vast amount of data, such as on the National Library of Scotland's Data Foundry, which can feed artificially intelligent systems to acquire more knowledge about our world.

Research in the **SoBA Lab (Social Brain in Action Lab)** investigates the neuroscientific and behavioural underpinnings of our social encounters with artificial agents.

How is the increasing presence of robots in our social lives impacting our social behaviour?

The social and relational nature of the research undertaken at the *Social Brain in Action Lab* is particularly suited to fields of art where social relations and our reactions and behaviour are under scrutiny.

In order to give artists visibility in Scotland, the NEoN Festival provides artists with a platform for showing their processes, and organise various events throughout the year:

NEoN (North East of North) Festival aims to advance the understanding and accessibility of digital and technology-driven art forms and to encourage high quality within the production of this medium. NEoN has organised exhibitions, workshops, talks, conferences, live performances and public discussions and established itself as a platform to showcase national and international artworks. This festival will be an ideal context to show the outcomes of the residencies.

The CCA offers to build a network of artists and curators to support practitioners during the residency.

The Centre for Contemporary Arts is Glasgow's hub for the arts. Their year-round programme includes cutting-edge exhibitions, film, music, literature, spoken word,

festivals, Gaelic and performance. At the heart of all activities is the desire to work with artists, commission new projects and present them to the widest possible audience. Their broad and experimental programme encourages a diverse audience to experience the arts.

Overall, the purpose of the project will be to create a network between the German, French and Scottish artistic scenes involving various art institutions, organisations and festivals.

How to apply:

To apply, applicants must electronically submit **one PDF file (max. 5MB)** to applications@goethe.de by **9th November 2020 (23:59 pm, UTC+01:00)**.

Please use the e-mail subject: **“AI Residency Application - Name”**

The PDF file needs to include the following information:

1. **An up-to-date artist CV with contact details** including name, postal address, telephone, email and mobile number.
2. **Expression of Interest:** A statement which details how the residency opportunity connects to your interests and develops your practice. How does AI feature in your artistic practice and/or critical thinking? What project do you propose to work on for the residency? How will your artistic practice benefit from working within a community of researchers? **(max. 500 words)**
3. **Supporting material:** Please include an **artist statement** and **documentation** of your previous artistic work (max. up to 10 clearly titled images). If appropriate to your practice add up to three clearly labelled hyperlinks to moving image or sound listed within the PDF document.

If you would like to submit your application in an alternative format, please email applications@goethe.de to discuss.

Artists who have applied in the previous round will have their existing applications assessed. Therefore, please contact us via e-mail applications@goethe.de in order to confirm that you want your application to be assessed. It is possible to adapt or to submit a new application.

Applicants should make it clear in the submissions if the residency work and artistic production would depend on technical or other provisions.

General criteria:

- Creative practitioners will be selected based on the strength of their proposal, the originality of the AI applications suggested, and the proposal's contribution to their creative field, research, methods and/or tools.
- Only artists based in France, Scotland and Germany are eligible to apply.
- English will be the working language of this project.
- We welcome applications from artists at any stage of their career and aim to ensure our residence programmes are open, inclusive and welcoming to all.

The overall selection aims to find a balance in gender, age, artistic content, contemporary discourse and media. The selection panel will include representatives from the *Goethe-Institut Glasgow*, the *Alliance Française Glasgow*, the *Institut Français d'Écosse*, the *National Library of Scotland*, the *University of Glasgow* and Trustees and external Visual Arts Advisors from Glasgow's *Centre for Contemporary Arts* and the *NEoN Digital Arts Festival*.

Applicants will be informed about the **outcome of their submission by the end of November.**