

# EXCHANGE PROGRAM THESSALONIKI - LEIPZIG 2021

## Call for Artists and Authors from Leipzig Two three-month Residencies in Thessaloniki 2021

In 2021, the forth interdisciplinary exchange program between Leipzig and Thessaloniki will take place. The goal of the partner organizations Goethe-Institut Thessaloniki and HALLE 14 – Centre for Contemporary Art Leipzig—along with the literary magazine Edit and with the support of the city of Leipzig—is to promote exchange between the two partner cities.

Artists and authors living in Leipzig are invited to apply for one of the two three-month residencies in Thessaloniki (Greece). A jury of specialists will choose one artist and one author from the applications received. The two residencies will take place in parallel from September 1 to November 30, 2021 in Thessaloniki.

Awardees will be accommodated in an apartment in the building of the Goethe-Institut Thessaloniki for the duration of their stay. Each resident will receive an allowance of 30 euros daily for the three-month period in Thessaloniki and will be reimbursed for travel expenses up to 500 euros.

The project planned for the residency should relate artistically or literarily to the past, present and/or future of the partner cities. It can also involve various forms of cultural exchange and networking between the partner cities. It should deepen individual aspects or reveal new facets. The accompanying descriptions of Leipzig and Thessaloniki provide a short introduction to the connections and differences between the two cities. Project proposals will be selected on the basis of their promise of high artistic or cultural quality. A completed result at the end of the residency is not expected.

Please send your completed application documents in English by 23:59 CET on **May 09, 2021** to **Aris Kalogiros (Goethe-Institut Thessaloniki), aris.kalogiros@goethe.de**.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Aris Kalogiros by email or phone at +30 2310 889611.

Special information: The project partners are aware of the challenges for artistic exchange and residencies due to the ongoing SARS-CoV-2 / COVID-19 pandemic. All partners have decided to open the exchange program for 2021 knowing that changes may be required by regulations and restrictions aiming to hinder the spread of infection. A realization of the residency program as outlined in this call cannot be guaranteed. Despite this unique historical situation, we hope to enable cultural exchange and to find the best possible solution in cooperation with the awardees.

An exchange project by:



In cooperation with:

**Edit**

Supported by:



**Stadt Leipzig**  
Referat Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit

# Leipzig and Thessaloniki

The city of **Leipzig** has a history steeped in traditions of education, art and culture. At the 600 year-old university, great names in culture have studied and worked, including dramaturge and literary theorist Johann Christoph Gottsched, poet Johann Wolfgang Goethe, linguist Ferdinand de Saussure, literary scholar Hans Mayer and philosophers from Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz to Friedrich Nietzsche to Ernst Bloch. Additionally, Leipzig was home to well-known composers such as Johann Sebastian Bach, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and Clara Schumann as well as painters from Max Klinger to the Leipzig School of Werner Tübke and Wolfgang Mattheuer to artists from the New Leipzig School like Neo Rauch. Since the 1950s it has also had its own tradition of photography from Evelyn Richter and Arno Fischer to Timm Rautert and Ricarda Roggan. The graphic and book arts also have a centuries-long history in Leipzig and gave their name to the local art academy (Academy for Graphic and Book Art Leipzig). With the German Institute for Literature, Leipzig also has one of the few training centers for writers: Ralph Giordano, Sarah Kirsch, Clemens Meyer, Juli Zeh and many others have studied there.



left: Performance by Bank of No on October 15, 2016 in the City of Leipzig, in the background City-Hochhaus and the University of Leipzig, Photo: Bank of No, 2016 / right: White Tower of Thessaloniki, 2007, Photo: I, Origenes (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Leipzig owes this rich cultural tradition to its location on the old trade routes of the *Via Regia* and *Via Imperii*, which in the Middle Ages turned the city into a metropolis for commerce and trade fairs between Western and Eastern Europe. For many centuries, Leipzig was an international center of the fur trade. A very large Jewish community was linked with this trade—until the Shoah. Through trade links with the Ottoman Empire, one of the largest Greek communities settled there as well. Many Greeks studied at the university in early modernity, spreading the enthusiasm for Greek antiquity in the German-speaking countries. At the gates of Leipzig, the forces allied against France brought about the historically decisive defeat of Napoleon and his allies (which includ-

ed the Kingdom of Saxony) during the Battle of the Nations in 1813. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Leipzig became an industrial and publishing city and a metropolis of almost 1 million. Through the two world wars, the Nazi regime and 40 years of GDR socialism, Leipzig lost numerous inhabitants and its importance as a place of economic, cultural and artistic exchange. However, numerous commentators on the political events of 1989/90 see Leipzig's important role in the non-violent protest against the SED dictatorship as part of its cosmopolitan tradition. This resistance played a large role in the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War.

In the past decades, the city has started to rediscover its potential. In 2007 *The Guardian* chose Leipzig as the »hottest place on earth«. *The New York Times* currently recommends the city as »one place to go in 2020« due to its history of transformation from historic industrial center through the shrinking of the 1990s to today's »cool-kid town«. Located on the premises of the *Leipziger Baumwollspinnerei* (Leipzig Cotton Spinning Mill), HALLE 14 is part of this revitalization process. Beyond that, there is a lively art scene in Leipzig with the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum for Contemporary Art, numerous galleries and art associations as well as countless off-spaces and an experimental club culture. Other attractions include the *Gewandhaus* Concert Hall, the German National Library, the zoo and many other museums.

The cultural heritage of Leipzig's partner city **Thessaloniki** is over 1300 years older and richer. The city, founded by the Macedonians in 315 BCE, is mentioned in the New Testament because the apostle Paul stayed there during his missionary trips and founded a congregation. During its long history, the city has been part of the Roman, Byzantine and—as *Selânik*—Ottoman empires and served repeatedly as the residence of emperors.

Today it is the second largest city in Greece and also an important modern university, trade fair, cultural and industrial city. Its international trade port on the Mediterranean makes Thessaloniki Europe's gateway to the Balkans. Located at the intersection of the Balkan trade route and *Via Egnatia*, the city has been a crossroads between cultures since ancient times. Because of the large Jewish community, the city was known for centuries as the »Jerusalem of the Balkans«. Many Jews expelled from the Iberian Peninsula in the 15<sup>th</sup> century found a new home there until almost the entire community was destroyed under the German occupation in World War II. Before the war, it had 53,000 members. The founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, was born in *Selânik*. He was one of the historical figures who re-designed the political geography between Southeast Europe and Asia Minor at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the 1920s, after numerous wars, there was an exchange of population between Greece and

Turkey: A large number of the Greek refugees from Anatolia found a new home in and around Thessaloniki, while the Turks who lived in the city were required to leave it.

The pulsating life of the present is shaped by the tradition and modernity of locals, students, migrants and tourists. The long history of the city can be explored in the Archaeological Museum, the Museum of Byzantine Culture and the Ethnological Museum. The Museum of Modern Art houses the most important collection of the Russian avant-garde outside Russia. The Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art shows a large collection of Greek and international works of art. Important to the cultural scene of Thessaloniki are, among others, the National Theatre of Northern Greece, the »Lazarist Cloister«, the Royal Theater, the »Garden Theater« and the large Megaron Mousikis concert hall directly on the coastal promenade »Paralia«. Furthermore, the »International Film Festival Thessaloniki« takes place every November. In 1997, Thessaloniki was the European Capital of Culture. The Goethe-Institut Thessaloniki was officially opened in October 1955, making it one of the oldest in the world.



Geeske Janßen, Fischerei, 2020, exhibition BACK & FORTH at HALLE 14, 18.10.-22.11.2020, Photo: HALLE 14 | Jekaterina Riabuševa, 2020

In the middle of the city there are also many original buildings to be discovered that testify to the different historical layers of Thessaloniki: for example the Roman forum, the many neoclassical buildings, several early Christian and Byzantine churches and last but not least the »White Tower«, an impressive monument to the medieval fortifications and today's symbol of the city. In the evening, cafés, ouzeri restaurants, taverns, bars, bouzouki pubs and wine bars in the port city invite you to outings and to enjoy Greek specialties.

The importance of both cities is revealed by their historical and cultural diversity. In 1984 Thessaloniki and Leipzig signed a partner city agreement, which was renewed in 2008. After the catastrophes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the benefits of transcultural exchange, which brought about European unification, new digital media and globalization, became almost

self-evident. At the same time, economic injustices and economic crises increase social tensions, which put cosmopolitanism, democracy and transcultural exchange in question. The past and present of the two partner cities offer numerous, partly still undiscovered connecting lines that can be explored literarily and artistically and that could be activated for cultural exchange. This current exchange program between Thessaloniki and Leipzig aims to have a long-term effect and to offer creative people opportunities for their discovery and new connections.



Elma Petridou, TESTINGOURCOMMUNICATION, exhibition at HALLE 14, 7.-22.9.2019, Photo: HALLE 14 | Walther Le Kon, 2019

## Previous awardees:

### 2020:

Marios Chatziprokopiou (anthropologist & author)  
Aikaterini Gegisian (artist)  
Alisa Kossak (artist)  
Klara Charlotte Zeitz (author)

### 2019:

Lucia Graf (artist & author)  
Geeske Janßen (artist)  
Elma Petridou (artist)  
Evita Tsokanta (author & curator)

### 2018:

Peter Hermans (artist)  
Christine Koschmieder (author & literary agent)

# Information on the Residency in Thessaloniki



Photo: Goethe-Institut Thessaloniki

## GOETHE-INSTITUT THESSALONIKI

Founded in 1955, the Goethe-Institut Thessaloniki is part of the global network of Goethe-Instituts. The aim of its work is promoting German-Greek cultural dialogue, promoting the German language and communicating information about Germany. The cultural program offered by the Goethe-Institut Thessaloniki reflects a broad spectrum of topics from scholarly and aesthetic discourses in various fields including literature, philosophy and cultural studies, film and media, visual arts, architecture, design, music, dance and theater with a focus on current trends.

The Goethe-Institut Thessaloniki is located about three kilometers east of the city center. It is located in the immediate vicinity of the waterfront promenade in the building of the former German School in Thessaloniki.



Kitchen of the Goethe apartment, Photo: Goethe-Institut Thessaloniki

## THE APARTMENT

The apartment has three rooms (two with two beds), a bathroom and a living room with terrace. There is a fully-equipped kitchen with a washing machine and internet access. The apartment is located on the grounds of the Goethe-Institut and has a separate entrance. If necessary, an additional work space can be made available. There are numerous shops for everyday needs in the immediate vicinity of the institute.

Further information on the apartment can be found at: [www.goethe.de/ins/gr/de/sta/the/ueb/residenz.html](http://www.goethe.de/ins/gr/de/sta/the/ueb/residenz.html)