

Checklist

We have made a checklist for artists who are searching, applying and preparing for an international artist-in-residence program. This checklist will help you to match your wishes and expectations with those of the program you want to apply for, in order to save yourself unnecessary trouble and to avoid disappointment.

Motivations

To think about your motivation seems superfluous, but it is an absolute necessity. Many residential art centers have strong reasons for running their program. Therefore you have to think about the reasons why you want to stay and work somewhere else.

Of course there are many different reasons, usually there is a mix of reasons. Each reason is just as legitimate as the other one. But be sure to match your own reasons with those of the artist-in-residence program.

Just ask yourself the following questions:

Going for education:

- learning specific technical skills or crafts?
- getting individual feed-back from experienced artists, curators, scholars?

Going for production:

- realizing a fixed, individual project you have in mind already?
- using specific technical tools, facilities and resources for your own purpose?
- making art works for exhibiting?
- orientation for future production in the region?

Going for isolation:

- being away from daily worries?
- being away from demanding pressures of the artist's profession?
- taking in a different environment and culture?
- anticipating new insights and inspiration?
- concentrating on work you have in mind already?

Going for working together:

- meeting local artists?
- meeting other international residency artists?
- working together with other artists for realizing a project?
- giving lectures, workshops?

Going for your professional career:

- exploring the arts in another country and culture?
- contacting artists' initiatives, galleries, museums, music distributors, publishing houses?

Searching & Choosing

Making a choice out of more than 1400 professional opportunities to search for in the transartists.org database, can be quite a job. The following hints will help you to find your way.

Which region & which discipline?

The most direct way of limiting your choice is to stick to a certain region in combination with a specific discipline, but:

Don't be too specific while searching on region: if you can't find what you search for in Paris, there might be an opportunity just nearby.

Don't be too specific while searching on discipline: there are a lot of multidisciplinary residency programs.

Why going as far away as possible: think about international opportunities nearby too!

Which residency model?

Surfing freely over the transartists.org database isn't as much as a commitment as it might seem. Actually just roaming about might be very useful: it gives you an idea about the diversity of residency models from which you can choose.

Check out which residency profile suits you.

Do you like to be left alone or do you like to socialize?

Which obligations and rules you have to comply with?

Check out which freedom you have as a guest artist.

Which art facilities?

Make a list of facilities you need for your art practice.

Do the offered facilities match with the ones you need for your art practice?

Which tools do you need, which tools are offered?

What materials do you need, are they present, can you use them?

Where's the nearest art supply store?
What kind of studio do you need?
Are you sure you'll get the studio you want?
Do you want to live and work in the same space or in separate spaces?
You know already where to go? Lucky you! But...

Imagine you just want to go for this specific residential art center. Because the photos on the website are so wonderful, because you think it's marvelous, because you think no other center can offer the same facilities or program, or because a friend has been there and told you how great it is. But still you can think it over: Check if the program you think is so marvelous, indeed matches with your wishes and expectations. Check if there might be opportunities around that offer comparable facilities that might suite you too, or even much better.
You are invited? Nice! But...

You might be flattered, it's a generous offer! But is it what you want? Would you yourself ever have chosen this program? Check and ask why they want you for their program.

Practicalities

Success or failure of your stay can depend on many different, basic practicalities that might have nothing to do with art. When searching you could think about the following:

Can you bring your partner, children, pets?
Can you bring your own food, cook your own dinner?
What kind of transportation is provided for?
Do you need a driving license, is there public transport, do you need to take a car or bike with you?
Does the voltage for electricity match with your laptop?
Do you need special medical care?

Application procedures differ enormously.

Most programs on the Trans Artists website are open to artists from all nations, with or without deadlines. Usually artists are requested to send in documentation, a curriculum vitae, a motivation and if necessary a project proposal. Each institute has its own policy of adjudication. Participation is planned a long time in advance, usually six months, sometimes years ahead.

When do you want to go?

Is it possible for you to change dates?
Do you have enough time for preparations?
Be sure for which period you apply!
Always check the deadline directly with the personnel in charge!
Be sure which documentation you have to send in.
Be sure about the criteria.
Check if you have to pay for applying.
Check if you can get your documentation back or not.
Check if, by signing the application documents, you already formally agree with certain obligations.
Is it yes or no, or can you be placed on a 'waiting list'?
If you are selected: get a signed or at least a written document of agreements.

Funding

Of course a residency costs money. Some residency programs cover all costs, some residency programs don't cover any costs at all.
In general, residential art centers will partly cover the costs, which always makes it necessary for artists to find additional funding. Be sure about the budget before you go!

Useful websites:

<http://www.transartists.org/>

<http://www.resartis.org/en/>

<http://www.artistcommunities.org/>