

Artist Residency at the Ethnological Museum and Museum of Asian Art at the Humboldt Forum Berlin

The Ethnologisches Museum (Ethnological Museum) as well as the Museum für Asiatische Kunst (Asian Art Museum) invite visual artists and designers to engage with the exhibition “Discovering the West” in the galleries on North Africa, West and Central Asia. With the opening of the final exhibition spaces at the Humboldt Forum Berlin, the museums aim to continue and strengthen their collaborative approach. The inclusion of artistic thinking and research is fundamental to this, and the promotion of collaboration and a mutually productive space for artists, researchers and curators is central.

The starting point for the artistic research is the exhibition “Discovery of the West”. It deals with the reception, appropriation and reinterpretation of ideas associated with the ‘West’ in the Ottoman and Persian Empires at the end of the 19th century. Reports from the world exhibitions in Vienna and Paris were received with interest, but also critically in Tehran, Istanbul, Damascus or Cairo. Using the examples of urban redevelopment, fashion and furniture design, the exhibition focuses on how the new impressions took shape in the material and visual cultures of these cosmopolitan urban centres and how they led to concrete and far-reaching political steps. Changes in gender roles and social change are also manifest in the objects. As part of the residency, artists are invited to engage with the themes and objects of the exhibition and explore their meanings for the 21st century. In doing so, the creative and material aspects of the works could be considered as well as their inherent transcultural or political underpinnings. The manifold connections in the fields of art and politics, the views of the ‘West’, but also the new political alliances emerging with the independence movements could be further starting points.

Artists of all media are invited. Due to the thematic orientation, but also the spatial conditions (high showcase back walls and an open space with daylight and a view of the cityscape), painting/graphics, video or installation works, including design works, are particularly welcome.

The residence. Activities and outcome

- The art residency is awarded for a period of three months during the first half of 2023.
- During this time, the artist will further develop the submitted project and create a work that will be exhibited at the museum in 2023. A purchase is conceivable.
- Creation of a documentation of the work process including sketches, photographs and small texts to be used in a small publication (booklet).
- The working language is English.
- Participation in a public event in a format of the artist's choice at the museum.
-

The residency includes

- Stipend: 8.500 € (including taxes and health insurance)
- Travel expenses all-inclusive to/from and in Berlin (including visa fees and possible corona tests: 1.500 €).
- Production budget depending on the project and possible purchase.
- A small working space, access to the museum's object and photo collection, archive and library, sound studio.
- Curatorial supervision and technical and administrative support.

The application should contain

- CV and short artistic statement (max. 2 A4 pages)
- Concept incl. work plan in relation to the thematic focus (max. 3 A4 pages)
- 300-character summary of the concept/work plan
- Contact details
- Maximum size of attachments 5 MB

Applications can be submitted in English or German.

A selection committee will choose among the applicants.

Please send your application via email to contemporaryart@smb.spk-berlin.de no later than January 6th, 2023.

Inquiries can also be sent to this address.