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PROJETO ENTRE SERRAS 2023 - 2026
Creative Europe Program
OPEN CALL HUMUS RESIDENCY

OPEN CALL: ARTIST RESIDENCY *HUMUS*

Location: Portugal and France

Time frame: **one month residency**

15 days in June-July 2024 (Estrela, PT) / 15 days in September-October 2024 (Alps, FR)

Open Call Deadline: **February 15th 2024**

Hosts: Estrela UNESCO Global Geopark - AGE (PT) and Cairn foyer d'art contemporain - CDLB (FR)

HUMUS Grant: 8.000,00 €

Fee: 4.000,00 €

Per diem: 1.000€

Transport: 1.000€

Production: 2.000€

About Projeto Entre Serras:

Projeto Entre Serras (PES_CE) is an European project gathering eight institutional partners across Portugal, Spain and France. PES is an open investigation to rurality in mountains, that includes artistic actions with public engagement, scientific and traditional knowledge, meetings and exchanges. It includes various forms of art practices in rural areas, but also in its relationship to the urban environment. Can artists drive local economies, identities and culture itself? This question will be addressed at this PES_CE artistic residency inspired by the unique mountains' environments of Serra da Estrela (Portugal) and the Southern French Alps (France): HUMUS (Associação Geopark Estrela/AGE and Cairn foyer d'art contemporain /CDLB).

About the HUMUS Art Residency (Summary):

Humus is a cross-national artistic residency between the UNESCO Global Geopark of Estrela (PT) and the City of Digne-les-Bains, in the Alps of High Provence (FR), within the frame of Projeto Entre Serras_Creative Europe. It focuses on the topic of *pastoralism* and *transhumance*, promoted on the 5th of December 2023 as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the UNESCO.

Online resources :

<https://www.instagram.com/estrelageopark/>

<https://www.geoparkestrela.pt/>

<http://www.cairncentredart.org/en/home/>

<https://www.instagram.com/cairncentredart/?hl=en>

<https://larouto.eu/en/>

<http://www.pastoralisme.net/les-actions-de-lafp/le-seminaire/colloque-2023/>





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Eligibility:

The residency is open to all contemporary artists regardless of age, gender, origin, sexual and/or political orientation, justifying a professional experience in renowned contemporary art institutions.

Required documents:

In order to apply the artist must send to the following email address: entreserras@gmail.com

- Project proposal
- Motivation letter
- Portfolio + CV

The application must be written **in ENGLISH** under the following way NAME_forename_PES_CE
All applications, which do not follow above mentioned criteria shall be dismissed.

Resource Desk:

Each applicant can look for information about the HUMUS residency at the following link:

<https://projetoentreserras.wordpress.com/humus/>

Selection:

The jury, made up by a representative from each of the PES_CE members with experience on pastoralism and art :

- Associação Geopark Estrela (PT),
- Cairn foyer d'art contemporain (FR),
- École supérieure d'art d'Aix-en-Provence (FR),
- Ayuntamiento Malpartida de Cáceres (SP),
- 1 Shepherd, stock breeder or other professional from the pasture milieu

Results are delivered on the 8th of March 2024. Only one application will be selected for the HUMUS residency program. If there is a tie between two applications, a last resource gender criteria will contribute to gender balance among the PES_CE artists. All candidates will be informed of the jury's decision on the 8th of March 2024.

Criteria:

The selection criteria are:

- Quality and originality of the project proposal in relation to *in situ* context
- Availability to work in Portugal in mentioned periods of the year
- Quality of the body of work in the portfolio
- Professional experience
- Financial feasibility of the project





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Additional information:

The movement of shepherds with their herds across the territory is called transhumance. This word derives from "trans" (other) and "humus" (earth). It seems that the term "human" may also derive from "humus", meaning a creature with its feet on the ground, as opposed to gods in the sky. Shepherds have their feet on the ground because they follow the rhythm of the seasons, an ecological time. Their basic knowledge took millennia to build, and now they just have to read natural clues: they easily know when a field is able to support a flock, and when it is time to move and find a better pasture. Transhumance is of crucial importance in mountain regions, because consistent grazing over millennia gave rise to highly diverse pastures in altitude. Grazing abandonment results in the spread of a few dominant plant species, risks the survival of endemic rare species, creates more monotonous landscapes, and increases the risk of wildfires. In recent times, transhumance has also been associated with local development through tourism. Yet it is an activity in extinction.

In Serra da Estrela, only a few shepherds still practice transhumance. At the start of the Summer, they climb the mountain with their herds, staying at pastures of higher altitude for three months. They repeat a movement that has been going on for thousands of years.

Driven by an investigation of its territory in the Alps, CAIRN has already run two artistic residencies about transhumance since, yet new initiatives are being undertaken on the larger pastoralism issue today : Till Roeskens produced a work enlightening the memory of an ancient shepherd re-creating the path he used in his earlier days to walk and experience history. In 2023, himself and artist Elsa Noyons met and listened to old and younger shepherds along the hiking trail of La Routo (GR69) following the historical tracks of pastors from the Marseille area to Italy, passing by Digne-les-Bains. In this way, individual memory became part of the collective history. It continues to explore the subject with PES_CE.

The HUMUS Residency has a Part 1 in Serra da Estrela (PT) (June/July 2024), where the artist is expected to follow a shepherd taking his sheep and goats to upper pastures (a trip of about 12 km, lasting about 5 hours). Part 2 of the Residence will take place in the Alpes de Haute Provence (FR) (2024, precise dates to be confirmed).

At the end of the Residency, the artist delivers a written summary and images with photographs and videos about his/her work, to be used at the Castelo Branco (PT 2024), and Arles (FR 2024) conferences. Art work to be displayed at the final PES_CE exhibition (Malpartida Vostell Museum, SP 2025) should be delivered by the artist until the 1st December 2024. Also, the artist's work will feature on the PES_CE website and social media, and in the project's final book.

Portugal:

The [Estrela UNESCO Global Geopark](#) comprises nine municipalities, with approximately 150.000 inhabitants distributed over 2,216 km² centered on Serra da Estrela, Portugal. First designated in 2020, this label and entity promotes sustainable development strategies involving the natural heritage, the communities, their traditions, ways of living, history and culture.





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France:

[CAIRN / CDLB](#)

First initiative of its kind and recently labeled 'Centre of art of national interest' by the Culture Ministry of France, Cairn pursues its unconventional program based solely on long-term artists residencies in territory, around the city of Digne-les-Bains.

In the Provençal Southern Alps, artists invited by Cairn find echoes to their own artistic research through the lens of unsuspected stories belonging to a rich, old and contemporary rural heritage. This includes interdisciplinary facets such as sports, science, agriculture, tourism, archeology and many more. Cairn therefore opens debates participating in a broader reflection on the futures and the development model alternatives for sustainable countryside areas.

Cairn receives internationally renowned artists such as Andy Goldsworthy, Lara Almarcegui, Hicham Berrada. Part of its program supports emerging artists as well as experimental practices.

Creative Europe:

The Creative Europe program supports transnational cooperation projects involving organizations in the cultural and creative sectors from different countries taking part in the program. It covers the EU and beyond.

Through this funding, Creative Europe aims to improve access to European cultural and creative works and to promote innovation and creativity.

