

A I R

EPFL CDH  
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE  
PROGRAM LAUSANNE

# ENTER THE HYPER- SCIENTIFIC

CALL FOR  
APPLICATIONS**24/25****DEADLINE  
16. OCTOBER  
2023**

## EPFL CDH ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM SWISS FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY LAUSANNE SWITZERLAND

Located in Switzerland, the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne/Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL) is a leading university and one of Europe's most vibrant and cosmopolitan science and technology institutions. EPFL hosts more than 350 labs at its international campus in the Lausanne area.

Initiated by the EPFL College of Humanities (CDH), amplified by EPFL Pavilions, and in partnership with the City of Lausanne, the EPFL-CDH Artist-in-Residence (AiR) Program "Enter the Hyper-Scientific" reflects the CDH mission of fostering transdisciplinary encounters and collaborations between artists and EPFL's scientific community. The program invites professional Swiss and international creative practitioners, both emerging and established, for three-month residencies to realize innovative and visionary projects at the intersection of art, science, and advanced technologies.

## EPFL CDH AIR PROGRAM ENTER THE HYPER-SCIENTIFIC CALL 2024

CDH is now welcoming proposals for the 2024–25 edition of the Enter the Hyper-Scientific program. The full application deadline is **October 16, 2023** (23:59 CEST).

The EPFL-CDH AiR Program promotes artistic research and experimentation that connects art, humanities, science, and technology by supporting up to four artists for three-month residencies at the EPFL.

The program is open to emerging and established Swiss and international artists interested in the area where arts, science, media, and technology intersect. It enables selected artists to develop interdisciplinary projects and carry out their research in conjunction with scientists and researchers at EPFL. It also offers an opportunity to access the cutting-edge engineering, infrastructure, materials, and science developed or made available at EPFL, thus fostering intense experimentation in new forms of expression. At the end of each residency, the resulting project will be presented in a public exhibition or event held at EPFL Pavilions, Amplifier for Art Science and Society.

## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- Professional Swiss and international artists, emerging and established, with proven career paths or clear potential, who are interested in harnessing science and technological interventions in their artistic endeavors. Applicants should outline the specific contribution they believe the residency would make to their artistic practice.
- We welcome projects in diverse fields: visual and media arts; film, digital, mixed media, and imaging; sound and experimental forms of music; experimental design; literary, critical, and speculative writing.

## WHAT DO WE OFFER?

- Travel costs and accommodation in Lausanne. Preferably, applicants will reside in the city during their residency. Offered by the City of Lausanne, accommodation is located in the housing cooperative La Meute, where various cultural practitioners and artists reside. It includes access to a shared studio space, allowing an exchange with Lausanne's rich cultural scene and local community.
- A monthly flat fee for living expenses (of CHF 1500).
- A production budget (of maximum CHF 15000).
- Curatorial mentoring and supervision for the duration, including the final presentation of the project in an exhibition at EPFL Pavilions.

## ENTER THE HYPER-SCIENTIFIC CALL 2024

The goal of the EPFL-CDH AiR Program is to further interpretative and aesthetic avenues around the multifaceted scientific landscape of the EPFL through artistic productions. Forging encounters between artists and scientists in various disciplines, the program aims to establish a dynamic, critical, and inspiring platform for propelling new approaches and aesthetic investigations within the exponentially developing scene at the intersection of art, science, technology, and the humanities. The program functions as a facilitator and promoter of investigations in multiple directions, many of which will be discovered through the submitted projects themselves.

For its third edition, the program offers three paths and a special track:

- OPEN TRANSDISCIPLINARY welcomes international artists and practitioners from all disciplines and media to propose projects which reflect the main intention of the program, namely to investigate the fluid intersection between art, humanities, science, and technology.
- SCIENTIFIC IMAGING in collaboration with the EPFL Center for Imaging, prioritizes artists familiar with imaging technologies, CGI, digital practices, and visual arts more broadly.
- ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSFORMATION in collaboration with CLIMACT, the Center for Climate Impact and Action, invites visual artists and designers to engage in a creative manner with topical themes related to climate transformation.
- SPECIAL TRACK: EXPLORATIONS IN GEOMETRY, COMPUTATION, AND MATTER in conjunction with EPFL Geometric Computing Laboratory (GCM), invites artists, designers, and makers to engage in an intense collaboration with researchers and fabrication experts at GCM.

### TRANSVERSAL INTEREST IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

This year's edition of the program aims to support and encourage an interdisciplinary interest in artificial intelligence. Applicants are invited to consider the role of AI in their proposed projects, in terms of possible applications and the aesthetic and conceptual potential of co-creation with AI.

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## OPEN TRANSDISCIPLINARY

This path is open to artists and designers who aim to explore techno-scientific possibilities using diverse approaches, with no restrictions in terms of media. Previous resident artists' projects included: working on AI and museology as a form of techno-heritage and as decolonial practice; using robotics to restate and question notions of empathy in synthetic intelligence; undertaking material research in the field of exoplanets; and exploring nanooptics and light, the visual potential of AI, unnamed colors that exist beyond visible frequencies, kinesthetic and visual relays between body and environment, and non-linear time. This call thus leaves applicants free to suggest their path of investigation, strongly encouraging them to identify specific laboratories they would like to work with. It aims to span digital practices, artificial intelligence, material explorations, and scientific topics with no restrictions.

We welcome projects in various fields: visual arts; media arts; film, digital, mixed media, and imaging (VR/AR/MR); experimental forms of music; performing arts; design; critical and speculative writing; and fashion. Projects should preferably involve one or more EPFL laboratories or entities, embracing an interdisciplinary approach. Applicants are invited to indicate the scientific directions and the EPFL entities they would like to collaborate with. If such specifications are not made, the curator of the program will assess the potential scientific collaborations that can be established within the framework of the submitted project.

➔ EPFL: [www.epfl.ch/en/](http://www.epfl.ch/en/)

Previous partner labs and facilities include, among others: EPFL Laboratory for Experimental Museology (eM+), Reconfigurable Robotics Lab (RRL), Biorobotics Laboratory (BioRob), Optics Laboratory, Crystal Growth Facility, Laboratory of Applied Photonics Devices (LAPD), Laboratory of Integrated Performance in Design (LIPID), Center for Imaging, Brain Mind Institute, Laboratory of Quantum Physics, Advanced Quantum Architecture Lab, Earth and Planetary Sciences Lab, and Laboratory of Intelligent Systems (LIS)

➔ Previous selected and funded projects:  
<https://www.epfl.ch/schools/cdh/art-culture-society/artist-in-residence-at-cdh/>

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## SCIENTIFIC IMAGING

### WITH THE EPFL CENTER FOR IMAGING

Imaging is fundamental to the digital humanities. It is also a key strategic axis for EPFL, which created the EPFL Center for Imaging in 2021 to strengthen its position as a world-leading institution in imaging science. Interdisciplinary at its core, imaging requires the convergence of numerous skills and types of expertise, with huge potential for new developments that draw on all aspects of science and engineering. Over ninety groups perform world-class research in imaging at EPFL, ranging in scale from the atomic to the cosmological, and spanning a broad range of applications. The mission of the Center for Imaging is to capitalize on this diversity of academic strengths by encouraging interdisciplinary collaborations between imaging labs with complementary fields of expertise.

We invite artists whose practice already manifests an interest in emerging imaging technologies, CGI, digital practices, and visual arts more broadly to submit a project proposal to be developed in collaboration with the EPFL Center for Imaging. We encourage projects that aim to explore this unique repository of transdisciplinary and cross-scale scope, and to investigate its scientific aspects as well as its aesthetic and visual potential. Resident artists may access some of the technical equipment and facilities linked to the center.

➔ EPFL Center for Imaging: <https://imaging.epfl.ch/>

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# ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSFORMATION WITH CLIMACT

CLIMACT (the Center for Climate Action and Impact) is a joint undertaking by EPFL and University of Lausanne (UNIL) designed to promote interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research and implement initiatives that address the social, scientific, and technological challenges of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The climate crisis has and will continue to have an impact on all aspects of society, including cultures, economies, and ways of living. At the same time, the shifts caused by the significant environmental changes currently unfolding on a global scale offer an opportunity for new actionable thinking about sustainable, ecological, and inclusive societies. Through collaboration with CLIMACT's social and natural science community, this call invites artists and designers to propose alternative societal visions and ecological futures. They are invited to imagine purposeful perspectives for societies of tomorrow that can compete with visions of a dystopian future.

We will gladly consider projects that address the urgency of environmental research and seek to offer alternative models, looking constructively at sustainable futures in reaction to climate change and how societies can rise to the challenge. Projects that imagine a world where climate and social injustice, biodiversity loss, and disparities between the Global North and Global South are replaced by inclusivity, experimental interspecies, Indigenous, and post-colonial approaches to climate change are especially welcome.

➔ CLIMACT: <https://climact.ch/>

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# SPECIAL TRACK: EXPLORATIONS IN GEOMETRY, COMPUTATION, AND MATTER IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EPFL GEOMETRIC COMPUTING LABORATORY

Hosted by EPFL's Geometric Computing Laboratory (GCM), this track invites artists, designers, and makers to engage in an intense collaboration with researchers and fabrication experts at GCM. We welcome project proposals that leverage the scientific research at GCM to explore new geometric and material expressions, aiming to create a sculptural artwork, kinetic installation, or functional application prototype. The resident will have access to GCM's latest research technology, and the computational design tools, as well as a fully equipped fab lab including machines for laser cutting, CNC milling, and 3D printing, standard hand tools, and various custom-built machines. In collaborating with GCM's team, the resident will receive hands-on support on in-house design software and digital fabrication technology.

Fully supported by the Geometric Computing Laboratory as part of its academic agenda, this residency must take place in Spring (March – June) 2024 or Spring (March – June) 2025.

➔ For more information on GCM's research activities and past projects in art and design, please refer to: <https://www.epfl.ch/labs/gcm/>

# HOW TO APPLY

Proposals should be written in English and submitted by **October 16, 2023** (23:59 CEST) using the online application form at the following link:

[https://go.epfl.ch/ETHS\\_2024\\_applications](https://go.epfl.ch/ETHS_2024_applications)

The following elements should be considered: the residency should extend over a maximum duration of three months and the project should be realized within a maximum budget of CHF 15000.

## TIMELINE 2024-25

- Residencies will take place between March 2024 and June 2025.
- Preferred slots for first three tracks (Open Transdisciplinary, Scientific Imaging, and Environmental Transformation):
  - September–November 2024
  - January–March 2025
  - April–June 2025
- Slots for Special Track (Computational Geometry):
  - Spring 2024 or Spring 2025

Despite a preference for a continuous stay in Lausanne, the program offers flexibility according to artists' schedules.

## DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

### PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Contact information: name, surname, address, email, phone, and (if applicable) website.
- A short pitch of the project (maximum 300 words).
- The path
- The preferred timing of the artist's stay.

### PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING PDF DOCUMENTS:

- A motivation letter, including a statement on how the project investigates the intersection of arts, humanities, science, and technology, and the relevance of conducting the project at the EPFL at this specific phase of the artist's career (maximum 700 words).
- A detailed description of the project, the stages of its development, and the final production imagined as the outcome of the residency (maximum 8 pages). This should include:
  - The envisioned benefit of the exchange for the EPFL labs and other EPFL entities involved.
  - A draft production budget of maximum CHF 15000.
- A short biography, CV, and portfolio.
- Reference letter.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION:  
OCTOBER 16, 2023 (23:59 CEST)**

# EVALUATION AND SELECTION

A selection committee including senior members of CDH and EPFL Pavilions plus external jurors from the cultural, artistic, and art/science sector will assess each proposal on the basis of the following criteria:

- The project's innovative, visionary, and timely nature and its relevance to the applicant's career.
- A clear interconnection between art, humanities, science, and technology throughout the entire development of the project.
- The importance of conducting the project within the EPFL context, the exposure of the EPFL community to the creative process, and the anticipated benefit the research and public engagement activities will bring to the EPFL labs and entities involved.
- The project's feasibility, and the coherence between the requested budget and the proposal.

THE COMMITTEE WILL NOTIFY APPLICANTS OF ITS DECISIONS  
BY THE END OF JANUARY 2024.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

[info.CDH-AiR@epfl.ch](mailto:info.CDH-AiR@epfl.ch)

EPFL CDH

[www.epfl.ch/schools/cdh/](http://www.epfl.ch/schools/cdh/)

EPFL Pavilions

[www.epfl-pavilions.ch/](http://www.epfl-pavilions.ch/)

EPFL

<https://www.epfl.ch/en/>

ENTER THE HYPER-SCIENTIFIC

<https://go.epfl.ch/AiRenterthehyperscientific>

**EPFL**

■ **College of Humanities**

**EPFL** Amplifier for Art,  
Science and Society  
**Pavilions** Lausanne



Ville de Lausanne