

Open Call for Artists

Horizontes Criativos: Artistic Residency Between Nature and Public Space

About DeUna

DeUna was born with the mission of protecting the expressiveness and authenticity of art, curating the artist's image, and offering the opportunity to join a community ready to advise, support, and listen.

We deeply care about the message conveyed by the artwork and the creative process behind it. For this reason, we place the artwork at the center of all our projects. We aspire to create a new way of seeing and talking about art, which is why we are committed to organizing exhibitions, events, workshops, and conventions creating a safe and inclusive space that strengthens the personal connection between the artwork and the audience, as well as between the audience and the artist

About Cooperativa D'Alegria

Cooperativa D'Alegria was established as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) based in Castelo de Vide, Portugal.

The cooperative's mission is to meet personal and social needs by promoting integration and local social development through the creation or support of individual or collective initiatives for social inclusion and equal opportunities. It aims to foster social inclusion and solidarity by providing and promoting support and assistance services for vulnerable groups, particularly children and unemployed youth, people with dementia, and elderly individuals as well as immigrants and at-risk groups. The organization utilizes art and culture as tools to achieve its goals and objectives

The Project

DeUna and Cooperativa D'Alegria invite artists active in the fields of visual arts and painting, music, theater, circus, dance, performance, installation, site-specific work, and multidisciplinary languages to participate in **"Horizontes Criativos"**, a unique residency dedicated to exploring the intersections between nature, public space, and community. This program provides a setting for artistic experimentation focused on creating inclusive experiences that engage children, the elderly, and people with dementia in a context deeply connected to nature.

Inspire, encourage, support, and enhance: these are the guiding principles of a project that aims to foster shared and interactive dynamics between the community and the selected artists, exploring new forms of connection and expanding the possibilities for audience engagement

Three spots are available for independent artists, along with two spots reserved for artists from the two organizations, totaling five spots.

The residency is supported by Cooperativa d'Alegria and Descalça Cooperativa Integral through the European Solidarity Corps program. For more information, please consult the following links

[Facebook Descalças Cooperativa Cultural](#)

[Bosque Escola Avelãs](#)

[Instagram D'Alegria Cooperativa](#)

About the Residency

Location: Marvão and Castelo de Vide - Portugal

When: One week, from the 31st of March to 6th of April 2025. (Arrival on the 31th and departure on the 6th)

Application deadline: the 2nd of March 2025, at 11:59 pm (GMT+1)

Announcement of results: the 5th of March 2025

Online meetings: In March, 3 online meetings will be organized in preparation for the residency

Supported fields: Visual arts, performance, multimedia, installations and other interdisciplinary practices.

Marvão is located in the least populated district of Portugal, Portalegre. The area boasts a natural park (Parque Natural da Serra de São Mamede) with impressive and varied wildlife and pristine landscapes. As an inland region, it takes about three hours by car to reach Portugal's major coastal cities, Lisbon and Porto, while its proximity to Spain (10 km) and the arrival of people from various countries has helped foster an open and inclusive community. The local population is predominantly elderly.

The project is designed to support artistic research, offer a space for experimentation in close contact with nature, and promote interdisciplinary and intercultural dialogue between artists and local communities in a dynamic context. The goal is to create a journey, both professional and emotional, that helps individuals discover beauty in the simplest daily actions, embracing a slow-paced life. For this reason, artistic proposals that involve children, the elderly, and people with dementia will be positively evaluated, as they represent the core of the activities offered by Cooperativa D'Alegria in the area.

The artist's journey begins with an idea or an initial stimulus and, through a creative and realization process, leads to the final work. This, in turn, becomes the starting point for a new emotional journey that involves those who observe it. Contemporary art allows us to transcend usual boundaries, creating spaces that evoke emotions and offering new ways to perceive the world around us. In this sense, mobility becomes essential: it encourages us to look beyond appearances and face the present, guided by the inexhaustible desire to know.

Objectives

The residency aims to:

- Promote artistic innovation inspired by natural environments and shared public spaces.
- Foster dialogue and intergenerational participation in the artistic process.
- Create meaningful connections between artists, children, old people and people with dementia through collaborative projects.

What We Offer

- **Accommodation and Workspace:** Accommodation options include a shared house with a kitchen and garden (village), Casa Maria d'Alegria (town), a caravan in the middle of nature, or camping setup with a tent at Terra d'Amour Humor (Quinta das Avelãs). Each artist is free to choose the accommodation that best suits their spirit and inform the organization of their choice.
- **One meal per day:** The organization commits to providing one meal per day (preferably lunch) during the residency. If the artist chooses to develop the project with one of the partner organizations (old people or people with dementia), there is the possibility of having a second meal.
- **Mentorship, Curatorial and Technical Support:** Daily guidance and support from the organization's team.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Access to a diverse artistic and local community.
- **Opportunity to present work at a final event:** Exhibition of works in Portugal (June) and Italy (September). More details will be shared later.
- **Video documentary of the experience:** We ask for consent to be filmed during the residency days to share the experience on social media and in a final video documentary.

Minimum Requirements

- Emerging and established artists, of any nationality, orientation, and belief, who work in the fields of visual arts, painting, music, theater, circus, dance, performance, installation, site-specific work, and multidisciplinary languages.
- Artists with a strong interest in community engagement and participatory art.
- Individuals with prior experience or motivation to work with children, old people and people with dementia.
- Adaptability and openness to different environments,
- Consent to be filmed and photographed, as well as to give interviews and testimonials.

Responsibility of the Artist

The selected artists will be required to:

- Develop and execute a project inspired by the themes of nature and public space, promoting social inclusion and highlighting the importance of memory as a bridge between generations, reinforcing the sense of belonging, and stimulating dialogue on crucial topics such as cultural identity, time, and human resilience.

- Commit to creating one or more works to be presented at the two final exhibitions. If this commitment is not met, the artist will be required to pay a penalty of €200
- Collaborate with other artists, community members, including children, old people and people with dementia, throughout the creative process.
- Travel expenses, health insurance, and any additional costs are responsibility of the artist.

Application Requirements

To be considered for evaluation, applications must include:

- **Portfolio:** A selection of recent works (maximum of 10 images or links to videos/performances).
- **Proposal:** A brief description (maximum 500 words) of the project or themes to be developed during the residency, explaining how it aligns with the residency's themes and how it would engage the community.
- **Curriculum Vitae:** Maximum of 2 pages highlighting relevant experience.
- **Motivation Letter:** Explaining your interest in the residency and its community-focused aspect.

How to Apply

- Carefully read the regulations.
- Download the PDF document with all the information.
- The application must be submitted in English, Portuguese and Italian.
- Submit your application by filling out the form <https://forms.gle/H4AMKLPVJcXWX4uQ9> Only complete applications will be considered.
- To avoid any technical difficulties, we kindly ask you not to submit your application in the last hours before the deadline.

Selection Process

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Artistic merit and originality.
- Relevance to the themes of the residency.
- Feasibility and potential for community engagement of the proposed project.
- One of the goals of the residency is to create a diverse group of artists in terms of age and gender.

Communication of Results

All proposals will receive a response, regardless of the decision made by the selection committee. Communications will be sent via email to the address provided. Selected applications will be contacted, and the results will be publicly announced on the DeUna website and through DeUna and Cooperativa D'Alegria's social media channels.

Selection Committee

The Artistic Committee consists of the curators and creators of the residency project, as well as local artists from various artistic disciplines background:

- **Maria Simões**, actress, artistic director, clown, social entrepreneur, co-founder of Cooperativa D'Alegria;
- **Chiara Cosentino**, visual artist, co-founder of DeUna;
- **An invited artist**, selected based on the areas most relevant to the applications / artistic disciplines described in the call;
- **A representative** from the partner social organizations.

Accommodation Information

- Each accommodation is equipped with basic services.
- The arrival day at the residency is scheduled for 31th of March and the departure day will be on 6th of April. Artists must inform the Production team of their arrival and departure times.
- The residency does not provide cleaning services; it is the responsibility of the resident artists to take care of the space they occupy during their stay..
- Before checking out, it is the responsibility of the artists to remove any food (used or unused) from the refrigerator and pantry, as well as organic waste and recyclables.
- In case of key loss, the cost of key reproduction will be charged to the artist.
- If any damage occurs to the residency space, the responsibility will fall on the resident artists, who will be required to replace or compensate for the damaged items.

Languages

- Portuguese
- English
- Italian
- Spanish
- French

For further information, visit the website <https://www.deunaart.com/> or email deuna.art@gmail.com.

Join us for this extraordinary opportunity for artistic growth and cultural dialogue!

Feel free to reach out if you need any more details or help!