



Fresh perspectives! Art – Culture – Science – in dialogue with sustainable development policy

Federal Environment Ministry and Federal Environment Agency invite applications for 2017 artist-in-residence programme on the Isle of Vilm

Can art and culture advance the transition to a sustainable, future-proof society? Can ecological concerns be incorporated into artistic practice and cultural concepts? As part of a research project, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) are inviting applications for a new artist-in-residence programme. The residency comprises six weeks on the Isle of Vilm near Rügen and is aimed at artists working in the fine arts, including performance art, installations, photography, literature and music. The deadline for applications is 17 March 2017. The residency is scheduled to start at the beginning of June 2017. A high-profile jury will select the artists-in-residence from the submitted applications.

Culture of Sustainability

Art and culture not only help to shape our identity and provide direction and meaning, they can and should also reflect the challenges facing society and consider transformation processes with a critical eye. Art and culture can provide new perspectives, fresh lines of thinking and original ideas for changing and improving the way we organise our society. At present there are still very few theoretical or practical approaches to the cultural aspects of sustainability. The BMUB and UBA want to bring artistic practices and cultural concepts into dialogue with science and sustainable development policy. The aim is to develop new formats for communicating a culture of sustainability in keeping with the goals of Germany's National Sustainable Development Strategy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN. The project will highlight the points of connection between cultural discourses, artistic practice and sustainable development policy.

Vilm: Island of Inspiration, Reflexion and Exchange of Experience

This dialogue between art, culture, science and sustainable development policy will be launched on the Isle of Vilm. Part of South-East Rügen Biosphere Reserve, the island embodies the unparalleled diversity and splendour of unspoilt nature. For two hundred years, artists, scientists and nature-lovers have been coming to the Isle of Vilm to experience its nature and find inspiration for their work. In 1990, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) opened a branch office on the island which also includes the International Academy for Nature Conservation (INA). INA is a think tank and international training centre fostering exchange of experience and ideas on nature conservation. Experts from Germany and abroad take part in the many events hosted by the Academy.

Artist-in-Residence Programme on the Isle of Vilm

Between the beginning of June and the end of August 2017, the selected artists – one each from literature and music, a maximum of two from the visual arts – will spend up to six weeks (2 x 3 weeks) in residency at the INA premises on the Isle of Vilm. During their stay, the artists-in-residence will have the opportunity to develop an artistic concept. The resulting works are intended to form part of a group exhibition planned for 2019 in Berlin or to be incorporated into the exhibition's accompanying programme. Artists-in-residence can join in INA's public programme and engage in dialogue with the BfN divisions based on the island. The artists-in-residence are also expected to play an active role in a transdisciplinary workshop with representatives from the arts, culture, science and sustainable development policy. This workshop will take place from 6 to 9 June. On request, contacts can be arranged between the artists-in-residence and staff of the BMUB and its subordinate authorities. Participation in BMUB events is also possible. Any additional travel expenses incurred for these activities cannot be reimbursed.

The artist-in-residence programme includes free accommodation in the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Isle of Vilm. Single and double rooms with internet access are available in nine well-equipped guesthouses. The selected artists will receive a living allowance of 1,400 euros gross per month during their residency, plus a one-off payment for travel expenses to and from the Isle of Vilm. Comprehensive applications should be sent by 13 April 2017, via email only, to neue.ansichten@uba.de.

Please address any questions regarding your application to:

Fotini Mavromati, Tel. 0049 (0) 340 21 03 2318, email: fotini.mavromati@uba.de

Please address any questions regarding the Isle of Vilm to:

Dr. Norbert Wiersbinski, Tel. 0049 (0) 38301-86 113, email: norbert.wiersbinski@bfm.de

Further information:

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/ausschreibung-artist-in-residence-stipendium-auf>
https://www.bfn.de/06_akademie_natursch.html