

قونيكسيون

OPEN CALL



Artist in Residence Program

Summary:

Qonexión invites emerging and established Qatari artists to apply to its annual Artist in Residence Program and reflect on their practices under a specific conceptual framework inspired by Mexico.

Three selected applicants will travel to Mexico, being provided with **flights, accommodation, studio space, mentoring and art supplies allowance** in order to fully engage in their projects and develop their craft and artistic methodologies in a professional and multicultural environment.

In addition to critical mentorship sessions, cultural tourism activities around Mexico will be provided as a platform for inspiration and exchange with other cultural spaces.

Only three artists per period will be selected after the Open Call all throughout the year. Our team will review each application individually, and the selected applicants will be notified of the results by Qonexión.

The Artist in Residence Program and all its activities are conducted **fully in English**.

All applications must be submitted by April 30th, 2022 (23:59, Doha time).

Application Deadline:
April 30th, 2022

Duration of the Residency:
4 weeks: June 1st – June 29th, 2022

The Artist in Residence Program Includes:

- Round flights to Mexico City from Doha.
- Accommodation for 4 weeks.
- Travel Insurance.
- Art supplies allowance of USD 500.
- Inspiring studio space in Mexico City.
- Cultural tourism activities and weekend trips around Mexico.
- Administrative and logistical support.
- Specialized mentoring sessions and talks that will help you introduce your work and talent to the Latin American market.

Number of applicants selected:
3 Qatari applicants

The Artist in Residence program does NOT include anything not specifically mentioned on the previous list.



Objectives of the Residency:

- To introduce and showcase Qatari artists to the Latin American market.
- To initiate business opportunities and facilitate networking between creatives of both regions.
- To establish a new dialogue that promotes active collaboration, sharing best practices, sharing knowledge, and addresses common artistic and creative issues.
- To create a platform that exhibits creatives locally and internationally.
- To provide an intercultural exchange through a variety of mentoring formats and cultural tourism activities.

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Artistic Direction 2022

People, Places and Spaces: Understanding our human connection within our natural and domestic environments

"I dwell in the city and the city dwells in me."
- *The Eyes of the Skin, Juhani Pallasmaa*

For as long as we've created our own habitats, we have defined the spaces and places that provide us with a sense of connection on a physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual level. By transforming spaces into places of significance, we express our natural urge to identify and connect with a greater force. Without developed places of meaning, humans feel isolated in the world.

How do we develop a sense of home, and with what exactly do we connect?
Is it space? Is it people? Is home the four walls of our house, or is it a mindset?

We experience spaces through our individual interpretations of the environment, but it is the physicality of a space that creates a dialogue with the human body. Spaces are perceptual, existential and geographical.

In contrast, a place is a space with humanity added in. A place considers how humans occupy a space. What people do, how they engage and feel in a place gives it an identity, and its physicality manifests its unique character.

Although humans constantly interact with spaces and places, we have forgotten how important different environments are to us. For the past 2 years, COVID-19 and strict isolation periods demonstrated just how vital spaces and places are not only for connecting with others, but for developing our identities, as well as our emotional and mental health.



During the pre-pandemic era, we took the environments we occupied for granted. We disassociated from our surroundings, moving from one place to another without establishing meaningful connections with them.

Human senses are awakened by physically experiencing spaces, providing them with a broader and more nuanced awareness and understanding of their environments. In that regard, art and creativity, both able to symbolize complex abstractions in concrete ways, have a unique capacity to understand the shift in mindset that is necessary for our survival and wellbeing.

A work of art, specifically related to the natural environment, forces the viewer to consider the work's relevance in relation to the surroundings. During this awakening process, creatives hope to raise the public's consciousness about the world and to foster a paradigm shift for understanding the vital connection between humans and the environments they exist in.

In this Artist in Residence Program, three artists will be tasked to portray the connection between the people, places and spaces of the visited country, researching how they engage and interact and how they develop emotional connection to the settings they inhabit and occupy.

Throughout the content development stage, the three artists will capture in real life and interpret how Mexicans experience their exterior and interior environments, as well as their social and built surroundings. The artwork developed will be showcased in Doha, Qatar.

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Assessment Criteria

The selected residents will be assessed against several criteria by a panel of judges representing Qonexión and its partners.

Applicants will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Creativity:**
Is your artwork innovative?
- Quality:**
How does the artist guarantee high quality assurance of their artwork?
- Sustainable and Socially Responsible:**
Is your artwork sustainably designed?
How does your artwork aim to represent Mexico's cultural values and heritage?
- Application Quality:**
Did the artist submit a thoughtful and complete application, including narrative sections?



Successful Applicants

- Selected applicants are expected to participate in **all program activities** and reflect these through their work.
- Selected applicants **must be 100% focused on the project** and **must not** have any commitments and/or impending deadlines.

**APPLY NOW ON OUR ONLINE PLATFORM
DEADLINE APRIL 30TH, 2022**