

O P E N
C A L L S T R E A M S
F O R I N -
T E R D I S C I -
P L I N A R Y
A R T I S T S
A N D
P R A C T I -
T I O N E R S

F I L M I N G

S T R E A M S

F L O W I N G

S T R E A M S

FLOWING STREAMS

a multi-residency project in rural areas of Romania exploring local approaches to the cultural ecology of water.

Extended deadline:

21 April 2024

Period of residencies:

10-14 days at various dates between June to August 2024

Place of residencies:

rural areas of Romania

Who can apply:

interdisciplinary and socially-engaged artists, architects/landscape architects, hydrologists, anthropologists, community organisers

Eligibility:

citizens or permanent residents from: Czech Republic, Italy, UK, Germany, The Netherlands, Poland and Romania

About the Project

FLOWING STREAMS is a multi-residency project designed and developed by EUNIC Romania.

It involves seven cultural institutions operating in Romania, each engaged in supporting one residency.

British Council
Czech Centre
Embassy of the Netherlands
Goethe-Institut
Italian Institute for Culture
Polish Institute
Fundația9

EUNIC – European Union National Institutes for Culture – is Europe’s network of national cultural institutes and organisations, with 39 members from all EU Member States and associate countries.

The project was framed by this consortium of European partners, in collaboration with curator **Adelina Luft**.

In the context of the climate emergency and shrinking mobility opportunities for pan-european exchange, FLOWING STREAMS aims to harbour meaningful collaborations between artists, architects, anthropologists, hydrologists or community organisers and the local partnering organisations from Romania. The programme intends to create space for co-learning, mutual listening and exchange of knowledge and practices, centred around the theme of water – the cultural embeddedness of local or traditional approaches to water management and water conservation, the social and environmental sustainability of these practices, and their adaptability to changing environmental, political and economic circumstances.

Romania’s rural landscape represents 90% of the country’s territory, with diverse climates and natural resources. Lack of investment in rural areas has generated scarcity and limited opportunities for inhabitants, but it has also left nature to survive on its own, with many areas still holding old forests, wetlands and rich biodiversity. Sadly, corruption and poor policies to protect the natural environment, connected with lack of ecological education, are threatening the sustainable development of these areas.

Seven European practitioners, selected through the open call, will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the daily life of the Romanian village and explore the context of water specific to each location, hosted and mediated by a partnering organisation. Located in different rural areas of Romania, the host organisations have been running dedicated programmes around notions and practices that recontextualize the rural space and the natural environment through a reorientation of sensibilities and from a new paradigm of ecological knowledge. Through the residencies, participants are encouraged to explore local cosmologies and practices around water, its relationship with customs, traditions, or occupations, by listening, sharing and exchanging with the spaces as sites of interpellation. These encounters are intended to open up new possibilities of reclaiming knowledge linked to a territory, historical memory and ecology, and to map a network of existing or potential socio-ecological practices that restore our relationship with water.

Situating Waters

The ways in which we relate to water today is inextricably linked to a genealogy that takes root in Western thought. From the modern regimes of knowledge and their mechanisms of intellectual abstraction, scientific specification and material containment, dominant cultures have pushed forward an understanding that all water is homogeneous and objective, an abstract and ahistorical entity devoid of any cultural content. This epistemic moment of change that turned water into a thing, particularly its identification as a compound of hydrogen and oxygen by proto-chemists in the late eighteenth century, filtered out any remains of water's cultural content, evacuating its non-scientific meaning under a universal pretension that all water is the same. Water was rendered as a passive material, a "resource" that needed to be contained and isolated from people, reinforced by modern techniques of management that enabled many of us to survive without having to think much about it.

Overcoming the hegemony of "modern water" involves changes in how we think about it, as well as how we represent, manage, distribute, value, and use water, for all these are closely related. The project departs from thinking about ways to recuperate the social nature of waters, its particular situatedness and relationality, asking questions of how do waters, as plural and heterogeneous entities, bring people together and what cultures spring from its flows? The invitation implies practising a way of thinking with waters, acknowledging its fluctuating identity that bears the traces of its social relations, along with its many manifestations and meanings given by the different hydrological and cultural circumstances that signify, understand and manage it. As all water is situated and we are situated in relation to water, the project challenges traditional understandings from natural sciences to unveil a cartography of practices that signify and treat water as a social relational process.

Conditions of the Residency:

The residency covers **travel costs** from the applicant's country of residence, **accommodation** within the premises of the host organisation and some meals, a **fee of 700 EUR** and a **300 EUR production budget**.

The programme encourages and assists the insertion of the artist into the everyday life of the village. **The host organisation will provide mediation and knowledge of the local context, connect the resident with the local community, document the process of the residency and share available resources for research.** Communal meals will be organised on occasion. Depending on each host organisation, means of transportation can be put at disposal (bicycle, car, or information to public transportation).

Only individual applicants can apply. Selected residents are allowed to travel with their partners.

Eligibility and Criteria:

We welcome applicants of all ages, genders and linguistic, cultural and other minorities.

The applicants must be citizens or permanent residents from the following countries: **Czech Republic, Italy, UK, Germany, The Netherlands, Poland and Romania.**

Each residency space is targeting applicants from one country and will select one applicant. Please check the **list of host organisations and the country eligibility.**

We encourage applications from practitioners with diverse disciplinary backgrounds and artistic approaches: **interdisciplinary and socially-engaged artists, architects/landscape architects, hydrologists, anthropologists, or community organisers** with a minimum of 5 years of experience in their respective fields. Please check the eligibility of applicants for each host organisation.

The project is particularly encouraging applications from practitioners who showcase an ability to work collaboratively and flexibly across disciplinary boundaries; have practices aligned to ecological and sustainable principles of thinking and working; ground their work on decolonial and critical perspectives that acknowledge the interdependencies of different life forms; have experience or interest in working in rural settings.

The resident must stay for the **entire residency period** (between 10 to 14 days) within the time span proposed by each host organisation.

The resident must organise **one public event** during the residency (workshop, discussion, gathering, cooking session, or any other type of public format) that will take place in relation to the local community or the residency space. The costs of the event will be supported from the production budget. No other outcome is expected.

The resident is encouraged to keep a journal in any type of format: texts, audio-visuals, objects, drawings, sketches, new works, or others. The materials gathered from each participant will be selected by the programme curator and included in a final publication in autumn 2024.

How to Apply:

Please apply to the residency by filling out **this application form** in English by the latest **Sunday, April 21st, 2024, 23:59 CET**.

After the representatives from the Flowing Streams project and partnering institutions have evaluated the applications, there will be **a round of interviews with shortlisted candidates taking place online**.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by **8 May 2024**.

If you have any questions please contact us at **tamina.bojoanca@britishcouncil.org**

Host Organisations

1 IN CONTEXT/ LA CENTRALA

Supported by the British Council Romania

Open to applicants from: UK

Residency Period: 1 – 15 June 2024

Who can apply: interdisciplinary and socially-engaged artists; hydrologists; anthropologists.

Location: Slănic Moldova/former Slănic Baths (Bacău County)

Description: "In Context Slănic Moldova" Association started, beginning with 2017, as a cultural and educational programme dedicated to the creation of unique experiences based on investigation, research, social interaction and collaboration. Our purpose is to stimulate people to think independently, to understand the complexity of a global world and to act in solidarity with nature and with future generations, thus contributing to the creation of a living future. We are actively involved in the creation of a culture of experimentation and collaboration, promoting life-long learning, critical thinking, curiosity, community, inclusion and durability. Our long-term vision includes the construction of a contemporary art centre, focused on the environment and human development. The aim is to build a healing lab of transdisciplinary learning, integrating the arts and sciences as alternative ways of exploring the world.

Positioning: Slănic Moldova is located in the Carpathian peaks and forests, in an especially scenic natural setting, an important resort for mineral waters. Formerly Slănic Baths, the settlement was founded and developed due to the numerous mineral springs from the Slănic brook's valley which passes through a region with a soil rich in soluble salts, a "slatina" (a spring with salted water) or salt mine. Along the Valley of Slănic, embraced from all directions by mountains, the mineral springs come from both sides, bringing mineral, alkaline, bicarbonate, ferruginous, brominated, iodinated, hypertonic and hypotonic, sulphurous, chlorine-sodium, oligomineral, and chlorinated waters, used since the 1820s. There are 24 hydro-mineral sources identified and homologated in 1980, including 20 in operation, three in conservation and one in reserve; 12 of these sources are currently used.

Website: <https://incontext.art/>

2 THE EXPERIMENTAL STATION FOR RESEARCH ON ART AND LIFE

Supported by Institute of Arts – Theatre Institute, in cooperation with Czech Centres and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic

Open to applicants from: CZECH REPUBLIC – [APPLY HERE](#)

Residency Period: 15 June – 15 July 2024*

Who can apply: interdisciplinary and socially-engaged artists; anthropologists; landscape architects.

Location: Siliștea Snagovului village (Ilfov County)**

*applicants may choose to stay between 14 and up to 30 days

**the participant will be accommodated at the Czech Centre Bucharest

Description: The Experimental Station for Research on Art and Life is a collective project of a group of cultural workers, who, together with tranzit.

ro Association, co-own and co-manage a plot of land in the village Silistea Snagovului, 40 km north of Bucharest, Romania's capital. The Station aims, through an open, participative process of building and contextualization, to become a place for research and/of the living, situated in a post-development narrative and based on ecological and ethical principles. In the vicinity of a natural reserve (comprising a lake and 500-years old forest, with many botanic and animal species that are endangered), the Station builds a biodiversity garden in the place of a former intensively agricultural field and creates an infrastructure that considers the scarcity of resources (especially water) and the cascading effects of climate disruptions. As a prototype for how a cultural institution could function in a sustainable way, the Station challenges artists to think about the concept of their work in accordance with the material production. Also, it brings questions of community, rurality, the commons, in the foreground of its scope.

Positioning: The Experimental Station is located in the vicinity of the Snagov Lake and Snagov Forest, both part of Snagov Natural Complex Reserve with a rich local biodiversity, including many endangered species. Lake Snagov is a river edge and the deepest one in the Romanian Plain area, having an elongated and sinuous shape with many bays, hosting around 4200 species of fauna and flora. Due to increased privatisations and expansion of the urban dwellers into the villages nearby, the region's biodiversity is severely affected due to lack of programs of ecological management to protect and conserve the natural heritage.

Website: <https://ro.tranzit.org/en/project/bucuresti/2021-05-01/the-experimental-station-for-research-on-art-and-life>

3 EFORIE COLORAT

Supported by the Polish Institute of Bucharest

Open to applicants from: POLAND

Residency Period: 24 June – 7 July 2024

Who can apply: interdisciplinary and socially-engaged artists; hydrologists; anthropologists; community organisers.

Location: Eforie Sud town (Constanța County)

Description: "Eforie Colorat" is an umbrella project developed by the NGO Forumul Artelor Vizuale in 2021, primarily centred in Eforie Sud at the Cinemascope open air Cinema throughout the entire summer season. It offers a diverse array of cultural events, ranging from the European festival Cinemascope Festival to nightly movie screenings, art residencies, concerts, workshops, photo and art exhibitions, art galleries, archival research, as well as conferences and debates. Built in 1958, the Cinemascope open air cinema operated continuously until the 2000s, when it was closed, like many other summer gardens and theatres in Romania. In 2018, the NGO Forumul Artelor Vizuale and Czech Center Bucharest reopened the gates of Cinemascope Garden, one of Romania's most beautiful open-air cinemas, by organising the first edition of the Cinemascope Festival. After seven years filled with challenges, with much effort, involvement, and dedication, we managed to transform the old cinema, from a ruin, into one of the most appreciated cultural event venues in Romania.

Positioning: Eforie, a resort located on Romania's Black Sea coast, sits between waters, where the sun rises over the sea and sets on Lake Techirghiol, offering unique daily spectacles. Besides Lake Techirghiol, a saltwater lake located in Eforie known for its therapeutic mud and waters rich in mineral salts, other lakes can also be found in close proximity: Belona Lake, situated between Eforie Sud and Eforie Nord, a smaller lake that used to be popular for fishing and birdwatching; Agigea Lagoon: a brackish lagoon connected to the Black Sea, located south of Eforie; and Neptun Lakes, a few freshwater lakes close to Eforie, providing opportunities for fishing and leisure activities.

Website: <https://eforiecolorat.ro/>

4 WATERMELON RESIDENCY

Supported by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Romania

Open to applicants from: THE NETHERLANDS

Residency Period: 8 - 21 July 2024

Who can apply: interdisciplinary and socially-engaged artists; community organisers.

Location: Bechet town (Dolj county)

Description: The Watermelon Residency - Reziidența Lubenița - takes place in the rural area of Bechet, Dolj county, situated only 12 km away from Dăbuleni, famous for its watermelon culture. The town is a historically important Danube port, with a ferry service to Rahova city in Bulgaria. Initiated by the artist couple Alexandru Niculescu and Daniela Pălimariu, founders of Sandwich gallery, the residency takes place in a century old house that belonged to the family, and previously included a general store called Firimitura (The Crumb). The first official edition of Watermelon Residency took place in 2023 for three weeks and brought together seven Romanian and foreign artists to engage in research and create organic interventions in the village without the pressure of production. The residency aims to facilitate a space for artists and practitioners from various backgrounds to enter a dialogue with a new environment, propose collaborations with the locals, and contribute to the ongoing efforts for cultural and artistic renewal at a local level. Six other artists and a few special guests will also join the residency during the same time, and a celebratory weekend with guests from Bucharest will be organised.

Positioning: Bechet is a small town located 4km north of the Danube river flow in Dolj county. The name "watermelon" is a direct reference to the local identity of the region, known mostly for the watermelon plantations that grow on sand. For more than 50 years, scientists have been researching ways to irrigate the arid fields, while developing three local varieties of watermelon supplying national and international markets. Also called "The Romanian Sahara", the region of Sadova-Corabia, including the lower towns of Bechet and Dăbuleni, is one of the many regions in the country affected by desertification. With access to the Danube, the proximity to the Jiu stream, several ponds and swamps, a complicated history of dams and floods, Bechet is a resourceful ground for the study of past and current practices of water irrigation systems in the context of desertification and rising temperatures.

Website: <https://www.instagram.com/watermelon.air/>

5 INTERSECȚIA

Supported by Fundația9

Open to applicants from: ROMANIA

Residency Period: 25 July - 8 August

Who can apply: interdisciplinary and environmental-socially-engaged artists; anthropologists.

Location: Brădet village, Întorsura Buzăului (Covasna County)

Description: Intersecția (the intersection) is an informal space for art in the south-eastern Carpathian Mountains. It is a house to host artists and researchers, and to create a temporary space of meeting and confrontation. An intersection between people, ideas and energies, based on hospitality, conviviality and sharing. It offers an atypical-utopian space of freedom, for an ethic and poetic regeneration, and for new imaginaries to grow, according to the rhythm of the forests and the passes. Intersecția is a research project, aimed at developing ecological thinking starting from a rural environment. Learning from the meadows, the trees, the villagers, the animals, the mushrooms, the wind. It is an attempt to deconstruct and rebuild our

habits of thinking and acting, resetting them at another frequency, to trigger reflections aimed at rethinking the interrelation of man and the environment from an ecological and interspecific perspective.

Positioning: Intersecția is located in Brădet, Întorsura Buzăului, a little village in the heart of Carpathians, in southern Transylvania. It is 800m above s.l. along the national street DN10, between Braşov and Buzău, on the edges of hay fields, pastures and woods. It is a rural place, in the Buzău valley, the river that gives its name to the Municipality of Întorsura Buzăului (Buzău turn), and which originates about 20 km from the village.

Website: <https://www.intersectia.org/>

6 TERRRA – THE SCHOOL OF PLANETARY GARDENERS

Supported by Goethe-Institut Bucharest

Open to applicants from: GERMANY

Residency Period: 1-15 August 2024

Who can apply: architects; landscape architects

Location: Brezoi town (Râmnicu Vâlcea County)

Description: The School of Planetary Gardeners – TERRRA (with partners AAA, Nedeea Valceana, Brezoi Town Hall, TERRRA) is located in the Carpathian mountains, on a 6,000m² site dedicated to educational experimentation and research including seminary and workshop spaces, accommodation and land to experiment with agroecological and forestry techniques, eco-prototyping, and others. In addition to the annual school sessions, other activities will be proposed periodically, during the whole duration of the year, by the thirty members of the network and other TERRRA partners. Some of these activities will take place within the Brezoi area, in a region which still preserves a rich rural culture. In partnership with AAA (Atelier d'Architecture Autogérée), TERRRA is currently developing the first R-Urban Hub in Brezoi, dedicated to the mapping and promotion of traditional knowledge and know-how, through research projects on ecology and resilience, and by offering educational activities based on new alliances with the living world.

Positioning: During 2020-22, AAA was the leading partner in the Creative Europe project C4R (Cultures for Resilience) under which they began a series of constructions on the TERRRA site in Brezoi, including the creation of a dry toilet and a phytopurification system by ecologically treating the grey and fluvial waters from the site. For the school's edition in 2024, TERRA will lead a series of projects, continuing the workshops on eco-prototypes, such as the phytopurification systems, as well as the plans to collect water from the nearby torrents into a pond, collectively investigating traditional systems and knowledges related to water use.

Website: <https://terra.org/>

7 CUCA (CÂRȚIȘOARA CULTURAL CENTER)

Supported by the Italian Cultural Institute Bucharest

Open to applicants from: ITALY

Residency Period: 15-30 August 2024

Who can apply: interdisciplinary artists; hydrologists; anthropologists; landscape architects.

Location: Cârțișoara village (Sibiu County)

Description: CUCA is a collective project developed by the DALA Foundation. Located on the extended southern side of the village Cârțișoara, it oc-

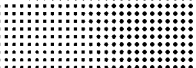
cupies an area of 2,4 acres (24.000 square metres). The project started by restoring abandoned wooden houses typical of the mountain wooden architecture of central and southern Transylvania. Over time, CUCA has become a multidisciplinary platform with an emphasis on local ecosystem, conservation and protection. Since 2013, DALA Foundation has started a series of initiatives and field research aimed at monitoring the Cârțișoara water body and its impact on the cultural landscape of Cârțișoasa commune. These surveys represent solid documentation, relevant to and applicable in the current state of affairs in the region.

Positioning: Cârțișoara river and its tributaries spring from the Făgăraș mountains, from an altitude of 2034 metres. For a span of 14 km, the river flows steeply and goes through spectacular falls, until it finally meets its tributary, Laița, at an altitude of 504 metres. Subsequently, it follows a relatively linear and horizontal course towards its discharge into Olt river. In recent history, the river has been affected by a series of anthropogenic interventions, the most notable being the construction of the Transfăgărășan paved mountain road. Cârțișoara is the main locality crossed by the river at an altitude of 500 metres. Due to its positioning, certain sections of the commune can easily get flooded, particularly given the local topography.

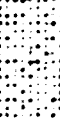
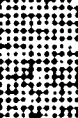
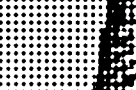
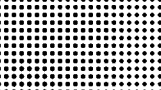
Website: https://www.facebook.com/spreCUCA/?locale=ro_RO

FLOWING STREAMS

Funded by:



Organizers:



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Strategic partner:

fundatia9