

Open Call Hydromedia: Seeing with Water

1st Open Call (1/3) Hydromedia Residency I

Deadline application
24 feb. 2023

Residency Period
1 april - 30 april 2023

Royal Academy of
Fine Arts Antwerp

For more information:
hydromedia@ap.be

To address the climate crisis, we desperately need new methods for imagining the relationship between human and nature. The existing scientific or documentary images are either too complicated or too overwhelming to create the necessary sense of urgency.

Sidestepping the purely documentary approach that prevails today in the photographic imagination of climate emergencies, *Hydromedia: Seeing with Water* would like to develop and promote new, experimental and easy-to-use artistic protocols to visualise and narrate the ecological breakdown.

We invite artists to develop innovative tools based on the alternative photographic model of direct tracing through physical contact. By sharing these newly developed visual and/or narrative protocols with the general public, *Hydromedia* will give them the artistic means to reimagine their relationship with nature.

Stressing a multidisciplinary approach, artists will work together with scientists and environmentalists. To develop these novel methods and tools, *Hydromedia* will organise three residencies. Each residency is dealing with a local topic concerning ecological water management during a one month stay at one of the participating institutes in Antwerp, Utrecht or Karlsruhe.

This is the open call for the **first** residency at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp which will take place in the month of April 2023. The **second** residency at the HKU in Utrecht will take place in Autumn 2023 and the **third** one at the HFG Karlsruhe will take place in Spring 2024.

For each residency we will select four artists. Each of them will receive a fee of 2000€, a working budget of 2000€, as well as the coverage of their travels, accommodation and subsistence during the residency period.

TOPIC & TIMELINE RESIDENCY IN ANTWERP

Residency I: THE SCHELDT ESTUARY IN ANTWERP

Residency period in Antwerp from **1/4/2023 until 30/4/2023**

After the residency period the selected artists will have time to further develop their work which will be shown in a local exhibition starting September 2023

The deadline to apply for the first residency at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp is set for February 24th, 2023.

The four selected residents will work in the Scheldt Estuary, the ecological zone alongside the Scheldt, a living climate laboratory, and a rare phenomenon worldwide. This area, determined by the ebb and flow of the river, contains brackish to saline to freshwater habitats and forms a unique ecosystem of mudflats and salt marshes. The wetlands and polders have great value as purification and flooding areas, important in the face of rising sea levels, and if managed ecologically these marshes can also store huge amounts of CO², thus providing important services in the fight against global warming.

These aquatic nature reserves along the banks of the Scheldt are home to endangered species ranging from waterbirds and eels to otters, and are home to saltwater plants such as algae and seaweed that are seen as products of the ecological transition and a carbon-neutral future because they can store carbon from the atmosphere faster than trees. Specifically, we want to explore three sites: Kruibeke Polder - the largest flood area in Flanders; the Drowned Land of Saeftinghe - the largest brackish water salt marsh in Europe; and Droogdokken - a zone from Noordkasteel to Sasdok along the Scheldt where a new mudflat and salt marsh area is being developed.

Hydromedia is a joint art project of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp, the Utrecht University of the Arts and the Staatliche Hochschule für Gestaltung in Karlsruhe and is supported by the European Union's Creative Europe programme.

Image: From the series *Responding Rain* (2019) by Dries Segers



Creative
Europe

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CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

You are a visual artist currently living in Europe and/or have the nationality of one of the countries that are part of the EU.

You are available for the full period of the research residency.

You have a thorough knowledge of English so you can work with others in this language throughout the project.

You are willing to share your working methods with the general public.

HOW TO APPLY

Your application should be submitted before February 24th, 2023 by sending it to this email address: hydromedia@ap.be.

The application should contain:

- A short bio of max. 300 words**
- A portfolio of your recent work**
- A motivation letter of maximum 1 page explaining why you would want to participate in this project**

For questions concerning the application, you can contact the team in Antwerp at hydromedia@ap.be.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

The application submitted will be judged by a professional jury consisting of the project partners

Selected artists will receive notification of acceptance in the week of March 6th, 2023

The decision of the jury is final and will not be discussed

SELECTED ARTISTS

Receive remuneration for the travel, lodging and subsistence during the research residency and receive a fee of 2000 € and a working budget of 2000 € for the production of their work(s)

Are expected to:

- be present at and collaborate actively during the research residency
- available for online meetings after the residency for feedback and follow up of the work in progress
- keep a visual diary of their process
- describe their working method and share it with the general public
- promote the project via their websites and social media profiles
- participate in the local exhibition and the final exhibition in Dresden
- fulfill the requirements concerning financial reporting