

Residency in the Archives — Artists and writers

Description

This one-time program will support two artists and two writers in the creation of art projects and texts based on the processing of Verticale — centre d'artistes' (VCA) archival documents.

The goal of this residency program is to expose artists and writers to the processing of VCA's archives, currently underway. Working alongside archivists, the selected participants will be able to consult and discover the contents of these documents. In doing so, they will learn about archival practices and conservation issues that will stimulate new interactions in the creation and development of contemporary art.

Context

VCA's history has been shaped by mobility. With this in mind, the focus of this archives-based residency should reflect the centre's quest for a permanent space, an important goal since its foundation. VCA seeks to uncover how its archives reveal the artistic and social concerns of a community, and how these preoccupations and their various manifestations can, in turn, inspire creativity.

Through this program, the processing of VCA's archives becomes a catalyst for reflection and intergenerational exchange. The initiative aims to promote a greater knowledge of the centre's history through the work of artists and writers who are involved with it today, as a way to collectively imagine what it could be in the future.

List of VCA's former locations (excluding ones during off-site programming, starting in 2011):

1987

Foundation of the Société des Arts Visuels de Laval, June 18, 1987. Exhibition at the Maison des arts de Laval;

We are seeking art proposals that are utopian, critical, sensitive, and ambivalent; ones that can merge past and future visions of VCA's potential, and can renew links between artists of different generations around a variety of artistic practices and issues.



1ère Galerie Verticale Art Contemporain (1991-1994), 1897, boulevard Dagenais. Photo : Édith Martin

1991

Opening of the first Galerie Verticale Art Contemporain (GVAC) at 1897, boulevard Dagenais Ouest. Inaugurated on October 9th;

1994

GVAC moves to its new location at 1871 boulevard Industriel. The new gallery is inaugurated on September 1st;

2000

GVAC relocates to 2080, boulevard des Laurentides, second floor. As with previous locations, the space includes a documentation centre and studios for members;

Residencies

— Artists

Each artist in residence will develop a project within an experimental framework without the constraints of an exhibition. However, the selected proposals must be able to generate dialogue around the idea of territory and the themes of mobility that emerge from the centre's archives, as well as with practices that engage with the materiality of documents and the archivists' work itself. To facilitate the future revaluation of these projects via their remnants (presentation context to be determined), the centre strongly encourages artists to document their work process throughout their residency.

— Writer (observational text)

The writer in residence will develop a text in parallel with the artists' projects. The resulting text should consider individual practices and experiments, the collaborative process with the archivists, and the interactions that are generated by the residency's framework.

— Writer (historical text)

The writer in residence will develop a text that examines VCA's history, with a particular focus on the mobile nature of the organization and its programming, and the City of Laval's transformation as it relates to the different sites VCA has occupied over the years.

— Public discussions

The program will include three public discussions:

- the first will be between the archivists and other invited experts;
- the second will be between the author-historian and invited past and present members;
- the third will feature the artists and collaborators who will each present their projects.

By inviting a broader cross-section of the public and the cultural community of Laval, VCA seeks to measure, through its organizational history, the impact of space and infrastructure on the development of visual art practices within a given territory and, conversely, the impact artists and cultural organizations have had on urban development.

2010

July 1st, GVAC moves its administrative offices to 397, boulevard des Prairies Ouest. This marks the beginning of a lengthy process of relocation, transition, and reflection on the future of the centre.

* Of note: VCA's proposed permanent venue, in the Centre de création artistique professionnelle, will be located at the heart of the Métamorphoses créatives (Montmorency) sector.

Who can apply

This program is addressed to established, mid-career, and emerging artists and writers.

This program seeks to promote VCA members and Laval-based artists in a non-exclusive manner. Members of our broader community who have taken part in VCA's activities (through exhibitions, as board members, etc.) will also be considered.

In the interest of inclusivity, VCA strongly encourages submissions from people who are under-represented in the art world. We constantly strive to expand our outreach and the response to our calls by contacting different partners. Please do not hesitate to give us your recommendations.

Deadline to submit a proposal: December 1st, 2022

Schedule

Planning meetings: March and April 2023

Residency period: between May and June 2023

Public discussions: spring, summer, and fall 2023

Details

VCA offers its artists and writers in residence support in the coordination, promotion, and organisation of public discussions related to their projects. Also, time will be reserved for learning about the archival process, to browse through documents under the supervision of the archivists, and to periodically access the centre's archives currently being processed. Translation fees are also paid for by the centre.

The consultation of archives is by appointment, at a location to be determine.

Access to a shared workspace to view and consult the documents will be made available where VCA's office is located, in Laval.

The selected participants will receive a per diem; a copyright fee for texts, and a presentation fee for the public discussions.

In brief

The artist residency includes:

- A per diem for a four-week residency
- A planning meeting with the archivists and access to the archives by appointment (equivalent to three or four half-days)
- Access to a shared workspace, as needed
- Image reproduction rights
- Presentation fees for participation in the public discussion
- A contribution to production costs

The writer's residency (observational text) includes:

- A per diem for a two-week residency
- Access to the archives by appointment, accompanied by the artists (equivalent to three or four half-days)
- Access to a shared workspace, as needed
- Copyright for a 1500 word text
- Translation of their text
- Presentation fees for participation in the public discussion

The writer's residency (historical text) includes:

- A per diem for a three-week residency
- A planning meeting with the archivists and access to the archives by appointment
- Access to a shared workspace, as needed
- Copyright for a 1500 word text
- Translation of their text
- Presentation fees for participation in the public discussion

Proposals should include the following elements:

- Contact information (name, pronoun, email, phone number, mailing address, website)
- Project description (max. two pages), including a preliminary choice of locations and periods from VCA's brief history as outlined in this call
- Artist statement
- CV
- Visual documentation* and descriptive list
- Excerpt of written work* and descriptive list
- Any other relevant documentation: publications, press reviews, proposed work schedule, budget, equipment needs, documentation of preliminary research (locations, potential audience, contexts), etc.

* Please respect the following guidelines:

- Images: a maximum of 10 in jpg format
- Audio and video: a maximum of 7 minutes – please provide external link(s)
- Writing excerpt: maximum of 10 pages
- Writers who wish to produce a historical text do not need to choose a specific site or period. Their text should encompass VCA's history in its entirety.

To submit your proposals:

- Submissions must be sent via [WeTransfer](#) to: art@verticale.ca. You will automatically receive an upload notification – this will be your acknowledgement of receipt. Please choose the option “Send transfer by e-mail” to have the download link emailed to us via WeTransfer.
- In the “Message” field, clearly indicate your name and the program you are applying for (Residency archive, artist or writer).
- When naming your documents, avoid using accents, symbols, or spaces.