

## OPEN CALL Kunstfort Vijfhuizen x Czech Centre Brussels

**Learning from the More-Than-Human, Four Weeks — mid-September — mid-October 2026 — Vijfhuizen, the Netherlands**



Photo: Patricia de Ruijter

Kunstfort Vijfhuizen is a UNESCO world heritage site and contemporary art space located between Amsterdam and Haarlem. The fort combines a rich historical landscape with an active programme of visual art, ecology, and community. With its biodiversity initiatives, artist studios, and deep ties to the surrounding natural environment, Kunstfort operates as a living site of cultural and ecological practice.

Czech Centre Brussels is part of the global network of Czech Centres, a non-profit organisation established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic to promote Czech culture abroad. It serves as a platform for cultural exchange between the Czech Republic, the Benelux region, and Europe, supporting interdisciplinary projects, residencies, and international collaboration.

This open call focuses specifically on practitioners with a proven link to ecology, interspecies relationships, and site-responsive artistic practice. The four-week residency is part of Zoöp Connections, a networked knowledge exchange programme connecting Dutch Zoöps and European cultural institutes.

Zoöp Connections creates one-month residencies for artists, thinkers, and practitioners from across Europe to learn from, live with, and work within living ecosystems. The programme prioritises process, learning, and shared inquiry over predefined outcomes, and is centred on co-creation, care, listening, and reciprocity.

## Who we are looking for

Residents in Zoop Connections may be creative professionals of many kinds: artists, designers, researchers, educators, writers, technologists or other practitioners. What matters is shared purpose: the ability to work experimentally, collaboratively and reflectively.

At Kunstfort Vijfhuizen, we especially welcome candidates curious about ecological relationships, interspecies dynamics, and more-than-human perspectives. Applicants should be open to developing work in response to the site, engaging with the local community, and exploring questions around biodiversity, heritage, and ecological care. We welcome a wide range of approaches—including painting, sculpture, installation, performance, sound, and experimental media—as long as they foster dialogue with the site, its ecology, and the Zoöp framework. Connection to the Czech Republic and/or Czech cultural practice is considered an asset, supporting exchange, cross-cultural dialogue, and perspectives that enrich the residency programme.

## Eligibility

Open to practitioners based in a Creative Europe country other than the Netherlands, aged 18 or older, with a demonstrable connection to cultural, artistic, regenerative, or ecological practice, and an engagement with the Czech Republic and/or Czech cultural practice.

Full presence for four weeks is required. Working language: English.

## Selection criteria

- Connection to the Czech Republic and/or Czech cultural practice
- A few years of professional experience
- Resonance with Zoöp principles and ecological thinking
- Openness to collaboration, site-responsive work, and engagement with the Zoöp framework
- Clear motivation for a residency at Kunstfort Vijfhuizen specifically

## What is asked of you

We believe residents should first immerse themselves, being curious, connecting, co-learning, before shaping their own project. The scheduling of activities will be planned in dialogue with you from the start.

Three things are asked of every resident:

1. A **public moment** aimed at our community and networks, form to be developed together
2. A **documented exchange** with Bonnie Chopard, our Speaker for the Living; form open, to be shared online
3. A **Trace of Care** — a site-specific gesture or intervention that improves biodiversity care or increases the life-carrying capacity of the local ecosystem

Please indicate briefly in your application whether you anticipate needing specific materials, tools, or resources. No formal production plan is expected.

Before the residency, an online introductory session will take place on April 23, 2026 at 3-5 pm (CET). This session allows potential applicants to become familiar with Kunstfort Vijfhuizen, including its artistic programme, history, and ecological surroundings. Participants will also get an introduction to the Zoöp framework and the residency context, helping them prepare for a site-responsive approach.

**The Zoomlink for the residency information session can be found here:**

Zoop Connections II: introduction to Kunstfort

Time: 23 apr 2026 15:00 Amsterdam

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83018177770>

Meeting ID: 830 1817 7770



During the residency, a Finnish resident will also be in residence at Kunstfort Vijfhuizen. Applicants are encouraged to be open to connecting with them, exchanging ideas, and exploring joint activities or discussions. This is an opportunity to foster dialogue and mutual learning across different cultural and creative backgrounds.

## How to apply

Applications must be submitted through the online application form:  
<https://tally.so/r/VLYGgN>

Include:

- Portfolio (max. 10 pages, up to 3 projects)
- CV
- Motivation letter (max. 500 words) or short video
- Brief note on any materials or resources you anticipate needing

The deadline for submissions is **30 April 2026, 23:59 CET**.

We welcome alternative formats — a short video alongside or instead of a written motivation letter is fine. Applications should be submitted in English.

## Selection

Applications will be reviewed by a jury including representatives from Kunstfort Vijfhuizen, Czech Centre Brussels, members of the Kunstfort community.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an online conversation. Applicants will be notified within one month of the application deadline.

## Data protection

Application materials are used solely for this selection process and are not shared outside the jury without your consent. Unsuccessful applications are deleted within three months of notification, unless you choose to allow us to keep your data. We will ask for your consent in the application form.

## Workspace and accommodation

Residents will have access to a work space, outdoors and/or indoors, to be selected in close collaboration with the resident. Residents will stay in our on-site accommodation at Kunstfort Vijfhuizen, consisting of a simple room inside of the fort, with a private shower, toilet, and shared kitchen facilities.

Residents will also have access to the caretaker's workshop, along with on-site technical support from the caretaker, available for advice or assistance, Monday–Thursday, 08:30–16:00. A wide range of hand tools, garden tools, and power tools is available in the workshop (there is no lathe or welding equipment).

## Stipend and conditions

The resident receives a gross stipend of **€50 per day** — an all-in amount covering daily subsistence including food. We want to be transparent: this is a modest stipend reflecting a process-focused residency centred on immersion and exchange rather than production. Tax obligations are the responsibility of the resident.

Accommodation is provided on site at no cost, in a private room within the fort that includes a private shower and toilet, with access to a shared kitchen.

Travel to and from the residency is reimbursed, with a strong preference for land-based travel. Train, bus and multi-day accommodation en route are covered. Local travel during the residency is also covered.

If you have accessibility needs, please let us know. We will do our best to make reasonable adjustments.

For questions about the open call or application process, please contact Kunstfort's finance and business coordinator Caroline Bakker at [caroline@kunstfort.nl](mailto:caroline@kunstfort.nl).

Good luck with your application!



Photo: Kunstfort, 2023, Patricia de Ruijter