

Koumaria 2017 Open Call

A project of the artist collective
Medea Electronique
<http://www.medeaelectronique.com/>
www.koumaria.gr

In Partnership with
the **Onassis Cultural Centre (OCC)** in the framework of the **INTERFACES**
project supported by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.
(<http://www.sgt.gr/eng/SPG1810/>)

FROM Oct. 6th to Oct. 16th

Deadline: June 15th 2017

Residency Theme

“INTERFACES” and creative performance practices
(see below for a description of the INTERFACES project)

Open Call

The Koumaria Residency 2017 is looking for sound artists, dancers / performers, photographers, video artists, programmers and DIY makers to work on a multidisciplinary project *Soundscapes/Landscapes_Rizome III – Sparta and its environs*. This involves a sound walk application together with DIY wearables and DIY electronics.

The Koumaria Residency - 2017

In 2017 the residency will focus on generating content (and documentation of the creative process) for a new sound walk app for visitors to Sparta and the surrounding countryside. This is the third such app to be brought on-line by Medea, and the first to focus on both urban and rural locations. We will select and visit a number of sites, including Sparta, the village of Sellasia (adjacent to the residency base), and any number of archeological, historical, and religious significant sites, along with sites of great natural beauty and interest.

Given the theme, we are looking for artists excited by the idea of collaborative artistic creation, grounded in an improvisatory spirit and practice, which relates and speaks to specific sites. We will produce high-quality content in all media related to these sites, often produced at the sites, which will enrich the experience of the site by visitors. Residents should be excited by the idea of researching the history and function of specific sites, conceiving in association with other residents appropriate creative content to

produce, and then engage in the production and documentation of the content. The content may well vary site to site—from the filming of an in-situ dance performance, to photographic projects, musical performance, cross/multi art performances, or the use of new technologies, triggers, control surfaces to animate the spaces.

We place no limitations on what we may do, we only ask that you be expert in your chosen media, and willing to work with others in realizing the content. Residents will have all the expenses paid and will receive a modest stipend of 200 euros in exchange for their participation in this project. We will also present the outputs of the residency in a performance and mixed-media presentation in Sparta at the end of our time there.

Alongside the sound walk App that will be developed during the Koumaria Residency we will also focus on music/sound, audiovisual, and performative artwork that makes heavy use of technology and new media. Be it sensors, projection mapping, practices like live coding and live patching, networked performance, or any other use of technology, we are open to new ideas and suggestions. The works that will be produced don't necessarily need to incorporate all the above-mentioned forms of expression (sound, visuals, and movement), but as a genuinely interdisciplinary artist collective, we have an inclination towards cross-media artworks.

It is worth emphasizing that Koumaria's focus is collective art creation. Individuals should expect, and desire, substantive input from other residents, and be open to having their projects morph considerably during the course of the residency. While the final outputs we produce may each have a primary organizer behind them, Koumaria is not the place for the development and presentation of solo works/content.

The Koumaria Residency- Background

Since 2009 the artist collective Medea Electronique has organized an annual 10-day experimental artist residency –The Koumaria Residency - near Sparta in Greece (the village of Sellasia), focusing on improvisation and new media practices. New-media artists from all over the world, inspired by the Greek natural landscape, come together to create a multicultural and cross-media 'dialogue' culminating in a collective presentation both locally and in Athens at the end of the residency. Past residents have formed lasting friendships and new artistic partnerships. For us the residency serves as a model for future creative collaborations.

The residency is held at an organic olive oil farm at the foot of Mount Taigetos in Sparta. The base for the residency, a modern and comfortable house, features dormitory-style bedrooms, large and comfortable common rooms (featuring fireplaces and magnificent views of the surrounding mountains and fields), two primary spaces for project development and practice, terraces, rooftop overlooks, and a large and modern kitchen. The surrounding hills, mountains, villages and the not too distant sea, coupled with a vast expanse of sky, stars, and ever-changing mountain vistas, afford the residents ample space and opportunity for creative work. Meals are taken communally, with an emphasis on fresh and local produce and traditional recipes. In this environment artists not only have the chance to live and work together interacting with the Greek landscape, but also to trade their experiences concerning everyday life and culture. Chores are undertaken

collectively, but there is ample time for residents to work, create, explore the surroundings and enter into new artistic partnerships.

About Residents

Medea Electronique, being an eclectic art collective, is interested in people from diverse cultural and artistic backgrounds. Past residents have come from a variety of artistic backgrounds, and from numerous countries. While assorted nationalities and ethnicities have been represented, the common language of the residency is English (although fluency is not necessary, an ability to interact with other artists in English is necessary).

Members of Medea Electronique will also be on hand to both guide the overall direction of the content being developed, and fully participate in the content development. While these members will be able to lend their expertise in assorted new media practices, and have great knowledge of the area, and the precise needs of the app, they are equal partners with the residents in the artistic production. In other words, the Koumaria Residency is not a school or workshop in new media art production run or taught by Medea Electronique, the residents are expected to be experienced in their chosen media, understand the use of the technologies they interact with, and come with these technologies or make it clear in advance what they will need to be supplied. The residency takes place in a remote region of Greece – see the residency details for what this means for availability of technology materials when there.

INTERFACES

The 2017 Koumaria residency is organised within the framework of the Interfaces project. Interfaces is an international, interdisciplinary project focusing on bringing new music to an extensive range of new audiences. With the support of the Creative Europe Programme, Interfaces unites nine diverse partners from 8 European countries with the main objective to engage new audiences of all ages and those potential audience segments which, for a variety of demographic or cultural reasons have not yet been exposed to the music of our time. www.interfacesnetwork.eu

Practical Residency Details

The residency provides hospitality as follows:

- transportation from Athens to the residency and back.
- housing and food supplies during the course of the residency
- transportation to all the sites visited as part of the residency
- an additional stipend of 200 Euros

Accommodation is organized as follows:

- rooms & bathrooms at the residency are shared
- cooking and cleaning the house during our stay is undertaken collectively according to a rota (organizing what tasks people are expected to do on what day)

Access to technology:

- residents should bring their own equipment (instruments & computers etc.)
- the residency takes place in a remote region of Greece, with limited ability to obtain tech/electronic materials while we are there - it is far easier to get in the area a ball of wire, or a piece of pipe than a semi-conductor or an obscure battery!
- for this reason residents should check in advance concerning what materials will be available, and what they will need to bring.
- No Internet access at the House.

Living expenses:

- while there are few expenses the residents need to consider while at the residency, it is worth having some funds for trips to local cafes and the like.
- calculate approximately 5-10 euros a day for such incidentals. Your stipend will more than cover this.

Transportation to and from Athens:

- the residency does not provide transportation to and from Athens
- residents are responsible for arranging this themselves

Application Procedure

Please submit the following materials to the online application link

<http://medeaelectronique.com/koumaria/apply-to-koumaria/>

Make sure you read how to apply before feeling up your application

<http://medeaelectronique.com/koumaria/#howtoapply>

- 1) A completed application form
- 2) A personal statement detailing why you wish to participate (which should address the 2017 residency theme)
- 3) A small sample of your individual work (site, demo, pictures etc.)
- 4) Your C.V.