

BAJO EL OLIVO International Artist Residency Program,
Alhaurín el Grande, (Málaga) Andalucía, Spain
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APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Call for Applications – Program for 2025. Hosting Guest Artist Residencies at **CASA MIA, Alhaurín el Grande, Andalucía, Spain, WE ACCEPT application documents from: 15 FEBRUARY – 15 NOVEMBER 2025.**

**Our International Artist Residency Program is open from:
1 June to 15 December 2025.**

Applicants can apply for one week, two weeks, one month or two/three-month residencies.

All residents applying should complete the **APPLICATION FORM** on the website by clicking on the google link.

All residents that are accepted should send their international email transfer payment to the attention of: **Rudolf Keller: rudykeller48@gmail.com**. A detailed invoice will be sent to you upon acceptance of your application to our residency for your own tax purposes.

Should any questions be left open, please contact Dr. Juliana España Keller at:
residency@bajoelolivocasamia.es

Who are we? Who are we hosting and why?

Bajo el Olivo seeks to host and foster artists from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines. Residents benefit from an exceptional location and infrastructure in the province of Andalusia, in Southern Spain as well as local networks around the city of Malaga, conducive to accomplishing the creative project they have been selected for.

Our International Residency Program dedicates particular attention to creative projects exploring the interplay of the natural environment, performative gestures, sonic interplay, and spatial relations where technology is more than ever entangled with the core of contemporary discourse in (re)imagining our post-pandemic world.

We are seeking practicing artists and researchers:

Those artists and researchers who are engaged with nature, forging connections with a range of scientific, historical, philosophical, and conceptual ideas that enable, sustain, and develop a collaborative environment dedicated to a platform of transdisciplinary art practices and social community engagement.

Our creative open platform provides a peaceful space for artistic projects that entangle with speculative processes, philosophical enquiry, storytelling, and rich research-creation experimentation. These conceptual ideas can also be explored through a critical writing practice.

We are inviting **Practicing Artists**: to translate collected data or field work into (image-, sound, text-based or otherwise) art works contributing to the understanding of our natural environment that broaden the context of interspecies or multispecies relations.

Researchers/Writers are asked to contribute to this pragmatic research through a text-based project during their residency time.

Your artistic project proposes and engages with or is examining whether, and to what extent, the subject of nature/culture and technology has become part of or is shaping/mapping our natural environment. We are also open to virtual reality environments that reshape the notion of what constitutes an environment, and what is “natural” and we invite artists, writers and researchers to entangle themselves with this intra-subjectivity.

keywords: Practice-Led Research, Making Kin, the Posthuman, Critical Posthuman knowledge, the Environmental humanities, the Anthropocene, the Cthulucene, Feminist theory, Social Engagement, Visual & Spatial Design and Architectural practices & Art theory and all forms of experimental sonic art research, Algorithmic culture, Open AI and the Digital Humanities.

OUR MANDATE

We are particularly interested in proposals that question:

- the environmental humanities, social justice, food sovereignty and food security and by extension, their opposites.
- environmental inequities, social injustices, food sustainability.

During this moment of political turmoil, social inequities, economic uncertainties, and accompanying deep disrespect of the cycles and needs of nature, it is precisely the type of wake-up call that this residency is being called to negotiate and will continue promoting in post pandemic times.

We are looking for proposals that are relational to:

- a visionary journey that emphasizes, investigates, challenges these discourses in some rhizomatic aspect of the posthuman condition, as we are moving closer to a catastrophic crescendo.

At **BAJO EL OLIVO**, we believe that all artists, researchers/writers find harmony and balance between the human to non-human and in parallel with the planet's resources. It is indeed the time for us to listen to the earth, to the mountains being clear-cut, to the communities being destroyed, or risk all of us being swallowed by the very nature that keeps us alive. This approach is not easily defined and demonstrated in our current forms of art making, in relation to the social entanglements that are now complicated and multifaceted.

BAJO EL OLIVO is excited at the possibility of creating an artistic platform as facilitators to support artists/researchers who are investigating our current posthuman condition and using this potential to foster hope, care, and community building in our residency mission. "We are all in this Together" is our ethical mission and mandate.

At **BAJO EL OLIVO**, we are committed to environmental justice and food security which is perhaps one of the most important and unequivocal goals to which we must aspire together. We are looking for like-minded artists who can contribute to how do we begin to do this work, to do better, to not just attend to injustices but be allies and to work to make change collectively.

For this goal to be accomplished, this residency is a call to action through new meditations and by forging new creative directions that offer some insight into the future. This international residency is committed to continuing to move positively into the future with your significant artistic contribution.

Practice-led artists, Researchers and Writers, are also encouraged to create propositions through programmed/coded/designed artworks in posthuman times (this is an optional choice in their proposition). Thus, we are looking for digital media artists, researchers/writers who are exploring the how and the why, in our technological and digital age there is a return to ancient scientific knowledges, indigenous knowledge. New digital technologies are gaining new traction as hybrid intermedia.

We are looking for artists who further explore the posthuman condition and contribute to new materialist knowledge, multi-species approaches and symbiotic, rhizomatic thinking in the Posthumanities.

This call includes:

- Curators, critics, and theorists active in these research fields.
- Emerging as well as established studio artists are welcome to apply – but applicants must be professional in their field and strive for excellence in it.
- Applicants must show proof of specialized training or an equivalent track record, recognition among their peers, and a history of publicly showing their work.

What We Offer at CASA MIA.

BAJO EL OLIVO International Artist Residency Program provides the opportunity for artists to live and work at **CASA MIA** for a period of one week, two weeks, one month or two to three months (depending on the context of the creative approach to their project).

Artists-in-Residence are provided with their own private guest room for the time of their stay. Each individual guest resident pays the resident fee as well as their partner or friend, despite choosing to share the same guest room. Each guest room is furnished with a computer desk and chair. We ask guests not to use this space for studio work. For example, in the field of painting and drawing, each room should be kept clean and tidy and free of messy art materials.

CASA MIA is a smoke-free environment. Smoking is permitted in certain areas outside in the garden. There is a fully equipped second outdoor kitchen, pantry room with a washer and dryer. Each separate guest room has a private bathroom, and all residents will share a flexible main living space distributed on two floors of the villa.

There are two outdoor terraces on both sides of the villa: one facing the Valley of Guadalhorce on the Northside, with views of the city of Malaga to the East and the Sierra Nevada mountains and to the West, the mountains of the Sierra de las Nieves National Park and the city of Ronda.

The South side of the Villa faces the mountain of the Sierra de Mijas and the Mediterranean Sea beyond. The second outdoor Guest Resident Kitchen is located on the Southside terrace and the whole villa grounds are developed with raised garden beds, a tomato patch, fruit trees and ancient olive trees.

The swimming pool and pergola rooftop lie on the Northside of the property map. There are also two dining areas on both terraces and a pond feature that houses frogs, toads, turtles, blue heron, and other aquatic plant life. This terrain features, fruit trees and the abundance of wild pasture attracts many wild birds to the property.

Depending on the needs outlined by their residency project, residents will be granted exclusive or shared use of additional studio space.

Since our guest rooms are of limited size, residents are encouraged to use the natural grounds outside **CASA MIA** to build their installations, create material performative experiments or use the terraces or free spaces inside the villa to construct and build their work.

There is a working gallery space upstairs on the second floor that provides an airy and naturally bright area to work. There is a permanent plastic drop-cloth on the floor and a rather large easel and table, cutting mat. The walls cannot be used for painting on and there is a small area for

hanging and displaying on-going artwork and your painting/drawing on-going studies.

BAJO EL OLIVO will provide support and assistance when and wherever possible.

Once on site, residents will benefit from comprehensive support by local contacts, city excursions and introduction to the topography and cultural landmarks of the area. They will also benefit from networking services provided by Juliana and Rudy to ensure residents make the most of the vast community networks made available to them. Juliana and Rudy speak fluent Spanish and can be of assistance to contact the local community and make their research more accessible.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Residency Rates

- Accepted Guest Residents will pay (500 EUROS) per person, each week to offset the costs of day-to-day living plus utilities. There is a (50 Euros) cleaning fee applied to the total invoice with 10% IVA (taxes).

Cancellations

- **For a full refund of the weekly rate**, the Guest Resident must cancel within (48) hours of booking and at least (14) full days prior to the local check-in time (shown in the confirmation email).
- **For a 50% refund of the weekly rate**, the guest must cancel (7) full days before the local check in time (shown in the confirmation email), otherwise there will be no refund.
- If the guest cancels less than (7) days in advance or decides to leave early after check-in, the week not spent is not refunded.

OTHER CRITERIA

- Guest Residents are responsible for applying for their own visas or other necessary travel and residency documents.
- Guest Residents must make sure they have *valid insurance* to cover medical emergencies and assistance during their stay in Spain.
- Travel costs are not covered and there is a small fee for pickup (35 EUROS) and/or (35 EUROS) for return to the airport in Malaga. In other words, (70 EUROS coming and going). Otherwise, if you take the train from the airport to the center of Malaga, there is a bus that can transport you to Alhaurín el Grande.
- The buses departing from *Maria Zambrano Bus and Train terminal* and will drop you off at Hotel Mirador which is a (10 mins.) walk from the community of “*San Jorge*” where **CASA MIA** is located on (Parcela 3).

- You may call us for pick-up if you have excess luggage and do not want to walk from the bus stop (Hotel Mirador) to the residency at **CASA MIA** (*Urbanización San Jorge*).
- We are a gated community, so it is important to call us for instructions on how to enter the property at the main electronic gate. We use **WHATSAPP** here in Spain to communicate. You may however wish to purchase a **SIM card** in the Airport before you leave for the countryside.
- A Continental Breakfast is provided on the day you arrive since most International Artists arrive at Malaga Airport very early in the morning. Most guest residents also commonly arrive on a Sunday. Here in Spain, all supermarkets are closed on Sunday so we will provide you with lunch and dinner free of charge if you arrive on that day. Normally, Lunch and Dinner are not included. Guest Residents are expected to cook their own meals or eat at the many local restaurants in the village of Alhaurín el Grande.
- A refrigerator in each guest room can be used to store drinks and food produce. We will also try to contribute to your meal plan by providing fresh vegetables and fruit from our garden (depending on the season and when available) if we have an extra yield/bounty from our raised garden beds. We hope to share with you *'the taste of Spain'* infused with the variety of organic fruits, herbs and vegetables that grow on our property.

Application Criteria (2025)

GUEST CANDIDATE PROFILES

Our International Residency Program welcomes applications from local Spanish and International Professional Artists/Researchers working in a wide range of disciplines*:

- architecture
- research & critical writing, text-based projects
- design (concept design, graphic design, design research)
- film and video art
- digital media arts
- music and sound art
- performing arts, live art
- photography
- painting and drawing
- sculpture
- fibres
- hybrid interdisciplinary media

***note:** since the Residency is always evolving and developing new possibilities, we are not able to provide a kiln to ceramicists. We can provide a professional artist's easel to painters and painting and drawing masonite boards.

These material resources will be accumulated slowly and added to our resources at Casa Mia in the near future. Also, there will be an inventory list of art material resources provided which will be offered to each artist upon acceptance to the residency.

Printing services are offered in the village of Alhaurín el Grande.

We will do everything possible to assist you with your creation project as it unfolds. *Please make sure to bring all art materials* with you in your suitcase for your own personal use. Excursions to the Art Supply Store in Malaga can be arranged for special paper and painting and drawing materials.

TIMELINE

- When applying, applicants must specify the desired length of their stay and if possible, their specific dates (if urgent, based on funding and creative deadlines).
- **BAJO EL OLIVO** cannot guarantee that the preferred stay period can be granted to all applicants.
- We reserve the right to propose another period of stay to selected applicants, and to make several proposals to them until the applicant has found a period of stay that is accommodating for everyone.
- Candidates must apply within the given time frame, i.e., a once-per-year.
- **Applications for the 2025 programming period are from 15 FEBRUARY – 15 NOVEMBER 2025.**
- Applications are now on-going for these dates.
- All applicants, even previous Guest Residents, must submit a complete application including recent work samples when applying or reapplying for the residency.

LANGUAGES

Languages generally spoken at **BAJO EL OLIVO** are English and Spanish. A good command of English is a requisite in order to function well with everyone during one's stay. Oral Spanish is a plus as it will help residents understand and navigate their immediate environment, but it is not a requisite criterion. Juliana and Rudy also speak French and Swiss German.

A NOTE ON WRITING ABOUT YOUR PROJECT PROPOSAL

In the residency project proposal outline, candidates must show an explicit, structured interest in the guiding themes developed in the International Residency Program; namely the notions of nature and technology by mapping their interplay. Applicants must also clearly state why their project will specifically benefit from being developed at **CASA MIA** and what they expect to draw from our location and our networks.

Please specify what part of the project will particularly benefit from the residency.

In short: why does the applicant's project necessitate or justify a stay at CASA MIA?

In addition, applicants must specify their workspace needs so we can prepare accordingly.

DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

- All submitted work samples should have been completed within the past five years, unless otherwise noted.
- Any work done with a collaborator must be noted as such including collaborative roles and participation.

Specific Work Sample Requirements

- **Performing Arts (Contemporary Dance, Performance art, Theatre)**

Digital portfolio should include at least *two videos or video clips of at least two distinct projects* within the applicant's body of work, or web links to these materials (please include a password if password-protected) and written documentation about the work.

- **Design and Architecture**

Digital portfolio should include documentation of *three different projects* completed within the past five years, with an explanation of significant features, and a writing sample where appropriate.

- **Short Film and Video Art**

Digital portfolio should include web links to *two (5-minute excerpts)* of the work (please include a password if password-protected) for feature-length work, and up to *three (5-minute) excerpts* of the work (include password if password-protected) for short films.

- **Research & Critical Writing, Text-based projects**

Digital portfolio should include *a (3-page) minimum and (8-page) maximum* writing sample, as well as links to published work by the applicant.

- **Music, Music Composition and Sound art**

Digital portfolio should include *audio samples of three representative works*, or web links to these works (please include password if password-protected). Scores and live on-line performance documentation may also be provided where appropriate.

- **Visual & Studio Arts**

Each digital portfolio should include *visual documentation of (5) different artworks* with a slide list. For all other hybrid media: scripts, work plans or storyboards; audio files; videos; video documentation of time-based elements in the work; and for medium-specific digital art, documentation should include *at least (5) artwork samples* that allow us to get a sufficient grasp of the work.

Thank you for reading this important document and we look forward to hosting you!

Rudolf Keller and Dr. Juliana España Keller
Director/s, BAJO EL OLIVO International Artist Residency.

JEK/JULY2025

