

MIGRANTENNALE

2025

OPEN CALL: Artistic Residency

PRESENTATION

The MIGRANTENNALE is a new festival celebrating cross-disciplinary arts in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. At its heart is the concept of "migratory aesthetics," which brings together artists from performing, visual, and media arts to explore the intersection of migration and arts. The program includes opportunities to engage with artistic processes and a three-week artistic residency (August 4–24, 2025). The works created during the residency will be showcased during three festival days.

At MIGRANTENNALE, migration is characterized by a distinctive intensity—a specific way of engaging with time, place, and law. Migratory aesthetics explore themes of belonging, challenge ideas of collectivity, and reflect on borders of a physical, symbolic, and institutional kind. The festival also focuses on decolonizing perspectives, reinterpreting historical archives, and exploring connections among regions of the Global South, such as between Africa and Asia or Latin America and Africa.

The residency program specifically supports artists from the Global South living in North Rhine-Westphalia, offering a collaborative space to experiment and create. It also serves as a hub for exploring themes like colonialism, global migration, North-South exchange, and transculturality, with opportunities to engage with the community at Kulturforum Witten and surroundings.

In 2025, the festival will focus on three core themes:

- **Language:** Exploring linguistic heritage, language politics, discourse, and multilingualism.
- **Ancestrality:** Examining diasporic identities, indigenous lifeworlds, connections to territories, and collective memory.
- **Colonial Continuities:** Working around the impacts of extractivism, industrialization, and socio-ecological disasters on communities.

VENUE

The Kulturforum Witten, a vibrant network of cultural institutions, will host the festival. Located in the Ruhr area and offering diverse event spaces, it serves as a meeting point for local and international artists to collaborate on innovative cultural formats. Key venues include the Saalbau Witten, the Märkisches Museum, and various public spaces.

WHAT THE RESIDENCY OFFERS

The three-week residency is free and collaborative, welcoming six artistic positions (solo artists or groups) to:

- Work independently on their projects while engaging with the local community and forming creative networks.

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- Access shared rehearsal spaces, a kitchen, Wi-Fi, and other facilities at the Kulturforum Witten.
- Receive a €2,500 grant per position (solo artist or group).
- Be reimbursed for material and travel expenses up to €400 per position.
- Get technical equipment and support (by prior agreement).
- Receive process guidance and curatorial assistance.
- Work in a discrimination-aware environment actively centering migrant and BIPOC perspectives.
- Participate in discussions, creative inputs, and networking with other artists.
- Have their work promoted through the festival's communication channels.

Additional notes:

- Accommodation is not provided, as the residency is designed for local artists.
- Transport costs can only be covered, subject to availability and prior agreement.
- Accessibility and family-friendliness can be arranged on request.
- Public presentation of works will take place during the MIGRANTENNALE 2025 festival days: August 22–24 2025 at SAALBAU: Bergerstraße 25, Mitte, 58452 Witten, Germany.

WHO CAN APPLY

Artists or groups from the Global South living in North Rhine-Westphalia are encouraged to apply. Submissions may include completed projects or works-in-progress that engage with one of the three festival themes: language, ancestry, or colonial continuities.

Applications are welcome from the performing, visual, and media arts, as well as cross-disciplinary approaches. Examples include theater, dance, music, performance, media art, video and film art, sound art, photography, installation, sculpture, painting, street art, design, and more.

We especially encourage applications from BIPOC artists (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) regardless of gender, sexuality, religion, age, ethnicity, or body-mind modalities.

SELECTION PROCESS

- **Application Deadline:** February 15, 2025
- **Selection Notification:** By mid-March 2025

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- A. A complete application form with all required attachments.
- B. Artistic biography and a personal connection to the festival theme.
- C. Artistic quality and critical social perspective of the project.

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- D. Relevance to the festival's focus on one of the three core themes (language, ancestry, colonial continuities).
- E. Local resonance and connection to the social and cultural diversity of North Rhine-Westphalia.
- F. Feasibility: technical and financial viability of the project at Kulturforum Witten.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please complete the application form as thoroughly as possible: [Application Form](#)
<https://forms.gle/9DE8M5hN2V4pwSKz8>

Applications can be submitted in **German** or **English**. For submissions in other languages, please contact us in advance.

For further questions about the application, please reach out to us at: info@migrantennale.de

INFORMATION SESSION

Join us for an info session on Zoom on **January 31, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM** (Meeting ID: 684 6439 3710, Passcode: 798791).

OUR COMMITMENT

At MIGRANTENNALE, we are dedicated to creating a safe, inclusive space. We do not tolerate racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Roma discrimination, ableism, queerphobia, sexism, classism, lookism, ageism, or any other form of discrimination or abusive behavior.

Ein Projekt von

**KULTUR
FORUM
WITTEN**

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Das Kulturforum wird gesponsert von

