

Ras Masqa Artists in Residence (RMAR) - Open Call -

Location: Ras Masqa (Koura District), Northern Governorate of Lebanon

Main partners: Municipality of Ras Masqa, Lebanese University (Institute of Fine Arts)

Curator: Amanda Abi Khalil

Artistic coordinators and residency tutors:

- Dr Ali El Ali (Artist and Professor at the Institute of Fine Arts of the Lebanese University)
- Roy Dib (Artist and Journalist, from Ras Masqa)

The *“Museum in the Making”* initiated by APEAL (The Association for the Promotion and Exhibition of the Arts in Lebanon), with the contribution of Temporary. Art. Platform (T.A.P) is launching an open call for six artists-in-residence in the village of Ras Masqa.

The program will be focusing on the theme of “art education” by taking the village of Ras Masqa and its surroundings as a site of exploration.

The residency //

The artists in residence will be conducting research and implementing their proposals by living in the village, giving greater time and depth to explore the local context through the residency format. Proposals should address the context and use of a participatory approach creating an access point for the public to engage with contemporary art. Taken outside the urban context, the participatory nature of the projects will develop an awareness of contemporary art in the rural while engaging with the diverse communities of the village. In what ways and which kind of platforms can pedagogy emerge through contemporary artistic practice? How can the projects create a larger awareness of contemporary art within the community, and, in turn, how does the community inform the project?

Parallel events will also take place with the residency partner - the Lebanese University, Institute of Fine Arts (North Branch) - located in the village - including a public program of lectures, events, workshops targeting the University students and the communities living in Ras Masqa. This program will be shaped to fulfill the needs of both the artists in residence and the university students, creating bridges between the informal education formats of artistic practice / research and the academic program of the Lebanese University.

The residency will provide the participants with a proper working environment and support on a production and curatorial levels to develop or complete their proposed projects. Above all, it will provide liaison with a network of partners to engage with the different communities. The public program will feed the residency with discursive input based and developed according to the proposed projects by the participants.

Ras Masqa //

The village of Ras Masqa is located near Lebanon's second largest city, Tripoli. Nowadays, the village is seen as more as suburb because of urban expansion, even though its rural identity is still present. Ras Masqa is home to a number of important educational institutions such as: Lebanese University, Saint Joseph University, LIU, public and private schools (Collège Sacré Coeur, LIT, Ras Masqa's public school, Saint Joseph School...) as well as health and social institutions. Located near the northern highway with its proximity to the sea, the village is in an ideal area for its growing number of industries. This industrial area of Tripoli's suburbs with the village is commonly known as Bahsas.

Ras Masqa, in Arabic, refers to the presence of many water sources in the region, overlooking a main source called "Abi Halka Al Fawwar" that provides water to the city of Tripoli.

Two hundred years ago, the southern part of the village was built by Christian families who shaped the contemporary typography of the territory, dividing it geographically between a Southern and Northern part respectively, inhabited today by Christians and Muslim communities. Presently, 70% of Ras Masqa's residents are originally from Tripoli due to a slow and expanding migration since the last decade.

Eligibility //

The residency is open to Lebanese individuals (from any country of residence) and to individuals based in Lebanon (from any nationality) of all ages with practices that share the concerns of the residency (collective proposals cannot be considered).

Ras Masqa Artists in Residence (RMAR) is seeking submissions from participants of all disciplines: visual artists, writers, musicians, designers and other cultural practitioners.

Participants will be expected to fully commit to the spirit of residency: to reside in the town for the duration of the program and to encourage an environment of discussion, collaboration and collective engagement amongst all six participants.

The residency will encourage the production, if relevant, of an intervention, workshop or artwork during or upon completion of the residency, however this is not mandatory.

Duration: One month

Dates: 18 March - 18 April, 2016

Number of participants to be selected: six



Conditions //

Artist fee/stipend: 1000 \$

Production budget: available upon request and if relevant to the participant's project

Travel: At the participant's expense

Accommodation (excluding meals) will be provided in the village

Language: Participants must be able to communicate and attend lectures in Arabic

Please submit in English or Arabic:

- A short letter of intent outlining relevance of the residency to your practice and proposal for projects and possible activities during the residency answering the following questions: (Max 600 words)
 - Why are you interested in this residency?
 - How would your practice benefit from the theme or the participatory nature of the residency?
 - Please give examples of the type of activities, works or project you would like to develop during your residency taking into consideration the engagement with the local community?
- A portfolio of selected works and projects (in one pdf document of max 10 MB)
Additional links can be listed in the email.

Application deadline: midnight January 3, 2016

Applications will not be received after this deadline / All applicants will receive a reply by mid-January
Please email your application or additional inquiries to info@temporaryartplatform.com

Jury//

Nada Khoury (APEAL)

Amanda Abi Khalil (Residency curator and founder of Temporary Art Platform)

Roy Dib (Artistic coordinator and tutor of the residency)

Dr. Ali el Ali (Artist and Professor at the Institute of Fine Arts of the Lebanese University)

Jacko Restikian (Artist)



The **"Museum in the Making"** initiated by **APEAL** (Association for the Promotion and Exhibition of the Arts in Lebanon), will be a home for art and culture in the heart of Beirut.

A generation on from the end of the civil war, the tenacity of Lebanese artists and curators has generated a vibrant local art scene. The museum will contribute to this art landscape, mounting inspiring exhibitions, supporting local artists and cultural practitioners, and building a home for a permanent collection that reflects the strength and diversity of Lebanese art history.

The museum is devoted to art, above all, and serving the needs of its diverse public, contributing to the development of civic society in Lebanon. APEAL believes in the restorative power of coming together before culture; the museum will be a repository for shared heritage, and therefore a truly public space, to which every citizen of Lebanon has access.

TEMPORARY. ART. PLATFORM (T.A.P) is a curatorial platform that develops art projects relating to the public realm. It aims to shift art practice and discourse toward a complex contextual network of public interest and concerns.

T.A.P. is also concerned with legal and artistic research that stimulates more proactive attitudes toward curating art projects outside the art world, including private partners, municipalities and councils.

T.A.P supports and encourages art practices concerned with public space, urban and social design, architecture, as well as a contextual approach to curating. It intervenes in non-places, urban spaces and rural contexts, focusing on practices that forge innovative modes of production in response to their context. It participates in the creation of new networks that engage art in the public sphere.

The artist in residence format is one of the many formats used by the association to achieve its mission. These residency programs are temporary and they are based on themes that are specific to the residency's location and territory.

The first iteration of Temporary Art Platform's artists-in-residence took place in the village of Meziara in August 2014 around environmental concerns.