vagabond'art asbl

2027 Edition

Call for Artistic Proposals

as part of “La Fête de Mai”

Environmental Art – Gesves (Belgium)

Types of works

Organised by Vagabond'Art ASBL*, La Fête de Mai* invites artists to engage with the landscape and imagine new ways of entering into dialogue with nature.

Through this call for applications, we are seeking original artistic proposals that are situated in the natural environment, resonate with the landscape and offer visitors a distinctive experience.

We wish to prioritise works designed to become a lasting part of the landscape. Beyond ephemeral creations, we are looking for projects with an expected lifespan of at least five years.

Preference will be given to natural, locally sourced and environmentally responsible materials. Particular attention will be paid to the relevance of the intervention to its setting, its integration into the landscape and the quality of the artistic approach.

Applications may be submitted by an individual artist or an artists' collective.

Each artist or collective must possess the technical skills required to carry out their project. If specific assistance is needed, the nature and extent of the support requested must be clearly stated in the application form. However, Vagabond'Art ASBL cannot guarantee the availability of specialised technical expertise.

Location of the work

"La Fête de Mai" showcases 16 hiking trails extending over 135 kilometres through more than 6,500 hectares of the Condroz landscape (Province of Namur, Belgium). They are free to access and open to everyone throughout the year. These trails host artistic installations in natural surroundings.

The artistic installations created as part of this call for proposals will be placed at the sites presented and described on the *La Fête de Mai* website: https://lafetedemai.org/emplacements-2027/

Creation period

The artist's residency and the on-site creation of the work will take place from 20 to 29 May 2027. The artist must be present throughout the entire residency. The work must be completed by 29 May 2027 at the latest. The official opening will take place on 30 May 2027.

During the on-site period, the artist may be invited to meet the public, particularly school groups, as part of awareness-raising, mediation or lifelong-learning activities.

The association Vagabond'Art will ensure that such activities do not interfere with the time needed to create the work and will arrange these meetings in consultation with the artist.

Call for proposals: submission requirements

Each artist may submit several projects for different proposed sites.

Each project must be submitted as a PDF file by email to vagabondartasbl@gmail.com and must include:

1. The completed and signed participation form attached to this document (sections 1 and 2);
2. A presentation of the project and the project sheet attached to this document (section 3), accompanied by sketches and the necessary technical details;
3. An artistic CV (maximum one page) and a portfolio of recent works, indicating the materials and dimensions of the works.

Projects must be sent to the association at vagabondartasbl@gmail.com no later than midnight on 10 January 2027.

Additional information about the participation form

In the form, the artist must specify the chosen sites from those listed on https://lafetedemai.org/emplacements-2027/, the dimensions of the work, the materials used (stone, earth, clay, wood, iron, etc.) and their cost.

The materials budget stated in the artist's quotation may under no circumstances be exceeded.

The artist must identify any elements of the work that may require maintenance, so that this can be carried out without compromising the original artistic intention. The artist must also estimate the expected lifespan of the work.

Signing the participation form constitutes acceptance of all the provisions set out in these general terms and conditions. (Only the French version of the general terms and conditions is legally authoritative and takes precedence over all translated versions.)

Financial conditions

For their work, each artist (or artists' collective, in the case of a collective project) will receive a fee of EUR 1,500, inclusive of all taxes, covering expenses and travel.

In consultation with the artist, the association Vagabond'Art will provide the materials requested and needed to create the work, within the budget specified by the artist in the application form.

Any social security contributions or taxes arising from this fee are the responsibility of the artist.

Any person accompanying the artist must cover their own expenses (meals and travel). Accompanying persons can be hosted only insofar as the association's resources allow.

Accommodation and meals in Gesves

The artist, or the artists of the collective, will be provided with free accommodation and meals in residents' homes.

Selection Procedure

Projects will be reviewed by a jury made up of members of Vagabond'Art ASBL, artists and professionals from the contemporary art world.

The selection process will pay particular attention to the distinctive nature of the proposals, their artistic ambition and their ability to engage in dialogue with the landscape and environment.

The main assessment criteria will be:

- **Originality and innovation** of the artistic approach in the field of environmental art;
- **Use of natural materials;**
- **Quality of integration into the landscape** and relevance of the intervention to its local environment;
- **Feasibility of the project** in view of the association's human, technical and financial resources;
- **Durability of the work,** particularly its estimated lifespan**.**

The jury's decision is final and no justification will be provided.

The selection results will be communicated to the artist as soon as possible and no later than 31 January 2027.

Communication and rights to the image

A communication plan is already being developed for "La Fête de Mai", ensuring visibility for the works created and the participating artists (print and audiovisual media, posters and programmes). The work will also be listed in the archive of works on our website: http://www.lafetedemai.org .

The artist authorises Vagabond'Art ASBL to promote their work through any medium and by any means, including, without limitation, making it available online, incorporating it into audiovisual, television or multimedia presentations (regardless of their medium, form, name or purpose), and exploiting it through audiovisual, television (including cable and satellite) and multimedia channels, provided that the artist's honour or reputation is not harmed.

The participating artist grants the association permission, free of charge, to use images of the work and of the artist for the cultural and tourism promotion of the region and the project.

Insurance

The artist is responsible for their own health and accident insurance. Civil liability is covered by the association.

Ownership of the Works

Under the law, artistic installations placed on private or public land automatically become the property of the owners of that land. The artist therefore relinquishes all ownership rights to their work. The association, for its part, undertakes not to exploit the artistic installations commercially.

The association has sole discretion over whether artistic installations are retained, maintained or dismantled, while respecting their original design.