



## OPEN CALL

### BODIES-MACHINES-PUBLICS:

#### A Glocal Network Exploring Bodies in the Age of Computer Mediated Reality

BODIES-MACHINES-PUBLICS brings together a “glocal” (global and local) network of cultural and research partners in Switzerland, India and Chile that seek to provide time and space for artists to develop works, prototypes and exploring the sensitive body and technical mediation in relation to public space. The project is a two-year collaborative initiative between **NAVE** (Chile), **KHOJ Studios** (India), **Immersive Arts Space/ZHdK** (Zurich, Switzerland) and **Kornhausforum** (Bern, Switzerland) and is supported by the Pro Helvetia Synergies Program.

People increasingly interact with technologies such as wearable sensors, VR/AR headsets or other data gathering systems on an intimate, bodily level which successfully blurs the lines between the physical and the digital; the body and its interaction with its environment. At the same time, the involuntary data collection and machine-led decisions that arise from these sensing technologies exacerbates historical inequalities, particularly affecting marginalized groups. Addressing the capture of human motion, thoughts and experience through new technologies is therefore an ongoing challenge that requires new kinds of creative and imaginative practices.

#### 1. Call for Proposals

BODIES-MACHINES-PUBLICS invites Indian and Swiss visual, performing and media artists, designers, architects or researchers working between art, technology and science to apply for a shared residency at the Immersive Arts Space and Kornhausforum Bern in Switzerland. Artists can apply through an **open call until 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025**. The residency will last four weeks, two weeks in each institution (Immersive Arts Space and Kornhausforum) between 8<sup>th</sup> September to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025. The aim of the residency is to develop prototypes and works that can be publicly exhibited.

Are you an artist and /or researcher working on the relationship between sensing technologies, XR, the body and space? Proposals for installations, and/or performative interventions, that successfully blur the lines between the physical and digital – the body and the physical environment – are particularly welcome!

#### 2. How to apply?

The applicants hand in a concrete research topic, that seeks for a lasting impact. Ideally, the applicants are rooted in the cultural scene of one region of origin. In addition, the application ideally shows the transfer of the project to the specific residency spaces.

The applicants are currently living and have lived a minimum of half a year in Switzerland or India. A sufficient knowledge of English is required.

- **Contact details:** first name, last name, address, email, contact telephone number. If the selected project has been proposed by a group, a single representative should be named here as a spokesperson for the project\*.
- **CV and short biography** (500 words)
- **Description of the project and motivation** for carrying out the phase of the project that you want to work on during the residency (minimum 500 words, maximum 1,000 words).
- Presentation of 3–5 previously developed works, with images of each one of them.
- Estimate of all the **requirements** such as materials, technology, assistance, and level of technological knowledge about the technology to be used in the Immersive Arts Space.
- **Images** or further material available that help to illustrate the project.

**If you are interested, you can view and complete the application form [here](#).**

### 3. Residency venues and technical infrastructure

**Immersive Arts Space (IAS)** is an interdisciplinary art/tech lab at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK). The IAS takes a critical approach to new immersive technology through art and design *and* a critical approach to art and design through new immersive technologies. The following technology is available at the IAS:

- A workspace in the institution: A Studio of 250m<sup>2</sup> and 8m ceiling height, that will be shared between the residents.
- The following technology is available at the Immersive Arts Space: Motion Capture (Optitrack & XSense), VR technology (Quest 2), Projection Mapping (Spatial Augmented Reality), Ambisonic 3d Audio, 3d Cameras (Intel RealSense, Microsoft Azure), Several Windows machines with state of the art GFX cards, video camera, Insta360 Pro 2, lightfixtures
- Initial tech support from the research team of the Immersive Arts Space, according to the requirements and availability.

The **Kornhausforum (KHB)** is centrally located in Bern's city center and has been the exhibition and discourse venue for socially relevant topics, that are conceived and treated in an interdisciplinary manner based in architecture, design and photography. The Kornhausforum is a place for public participation and cultural encounters; the exhibitions and forums are accessible to a broad public both physically and digitally. In its choice of topics, the Kornhausforum is regionally relevant and anchored as well as nationally and internationally networked. The following support is provided to the applicants during the residencies at KHB:

- A workspace in the institution: A Studio of 120m<sup>2</sup> and 2.4m ceiling height (to be shared with the second applicant, the room can be divided) offering the possibility for installative works.
- Technology from the exhibition business such as: TV Screens, exhibition screens, sound system, microphones, beamer etc.
- The studio connects to the exhibition space of Kornhausforum (closed off by a door)
- Toward the end of the residency an open day is intended where visitors can visit the studio and have an insight into the residencies.

### 4. The residency program covers the following costs:

- Participation fee and production support (for Indian and Swiss applicants): CHF 1'000.-
- Travel costs (round trip) to Switzerland (for Indian applicants only): CHF 1'500.-
- Travel costs for local transportation (for Indian and Swiss applicants): CHF 460.-
- Accommodation costs (for Indian applicants only): CHF 1'500.- (for Zurich and Bern)
- Per diems (for Indian and Swiss applicants): CHF 50.- per day/ CHF 1'400.- in total

\* Please note: In the case of group work, the costs can only be covered for **one person**.

## 5. Intellectual Property

All applicants and/or participants, as well as the selected beneficiaries, will ensure that the graphic, textual and/or audiovisual documentation provided to the residency venues, either (i) within the framework of their application, and also, where appropriate, (ii) during the fulfilment of the project for which the resources described by these terms and conditions have been awarded, are original and do not violate any Intellectual Property rights of third parties. Consequently, they will be held liable by the residency venues and all the other partners of the Bodies-Machines-Publics project for any claims related to Intellectual Property that may be made by third parties in relation to these materials and must indemnify the entities in question for all damages and losses that may arise from any claims related to them. By accepting these terms and conditions, the beneficiaries authorize the residency venues and all the other partners of the Bodies-Machines-Publics project to use the graphic, textual and/or audio-visual documentation that they provide to the residency venues in any medium, with the sole purpose of disseminating the grants covered by these terms and conditions and the fulfilment of the project for which they have been awarded.

### Contact

Kristina Jungic, [kristina.jungic@zhdk.ch](mailto:kristina.jungic@zhdk.ch)



**I.A** [ s p a c e ]

Zurich University of the Arts  
Immersive Arts Space  
Toni-Areal, Pfingstweidstrasse 96  
CH-8005 Zurich  
<https://blog.zhdk.ch/immersivearts/>

**Kornhausforum**

Kornhausforum  
Kornhausplatz 18  
CH-3011 Bern  
[www.kornhausforum.ch](http://www.kornhausforum.ch)