

## 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 prototypes and works 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.

We are interested in the contribution of artists who are processually exploring the relationship between existing power structures using both digital and physical technologies and the possibility of challenging them through artistic-led creation, where the human body lies at the center of the exploration. Proposals for installations, and/or performative interventions indoors and outdoors are particularly welcome.

#### **Call for Proposals**

For 2024, the BODIES-MACHINES-PUBLICS project invites Swiss artists together with Chilean visual, performing and media artists, designers, architects or researchers working between art, technology and science for a joint research residency at the Immersive Arts Space and Kornhausforum Bern in Switzerland. Artists for the residencies can apply through an **open call to July 7, 2024 (extended deadline)**. The residency will last four weeks, two weeks in each institution (Immersive Arts Space and Kornhausforum) between September 5 and October 5, 2024. The aim of the residency is to develop prototypes and works that can be publicly exhibited. In each venue, technical and production support will be provided as well as travel, accommodation, artist and production fees. The selected artists will also be

involved in internal and public workshops at the venues and will present their research work in progress to local artistic and research communities.

**How to apply?**

Please fill out the online form [here](#).

## 1. SELECTION COMMITTEE

The selection committee consists of representatives two of the two network-partners Kornhausforum (Bern) and Immersive Arts Space (Zurich University of the Arts, Zürich) as well as two external experts of the field:

**Jana Eske** Fundraising Managerin of Immersive Arts Space // **Joëlle Kost** Space Manager of Immersive Arts Space // **Nicolas Kerksieck** Head of Kornhausforum Bern // **Adrian Notz** Curator AI and Art at ETH AI Center // **Christopher L. Salter** Director and Professor of Immersive Arts Space // **Marlene Wenger** Head of Program and Curator of HEK

## 2. SELECTION CRITERIA

- A concrete research topic with a lasting impact
- Motivation behind the desired context
- Applicants show the transfer of their project to the residency-spaces
- Applicants are rooted in the cultural scene of one region of the residency-spaces
- Applicants are living and have lived a minimum of half a year in Switzerland or Chile
- Sufficient knowledge of English

## 3. RESIDENCY VENUES AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

**Immersive Arts Space (IAS)** is a new kind of interdisciplinary, cross-departmental hybrid laboratory in the 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 support is provided to the applicants during the residencies at IAS:**

- A workspace in the institution
- Access to technology available in 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
  - Filmcamera
  - Insta360 Pro 2
  - Lightfixtures
- Assistance from the research team of the Immersive Arts Space according to the requirements and availability

Since its foundation in 1998, the **Kornhausforum (KHB)**, centrally located in Bern's city center, has been the exhibition and discourse venue for socially relevant topics that are conceived and treated in an interdisciplinary manner based on the fields of 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. We rely on co-creation with our partners and external experts to address these complex topics. The social relevance and urgency of the exhibition themes and forums as well as their qualitative development and implementation is the focus of our activities and thus forms part of the public discourse on knowledge: We want to inspire new thinking and wonder.

**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.

**Further the residency program covers the following costs:**

- Participation Fee and production support (total of 1'000 CHF)
- Travel and accommodation (Round trip from his/her residence or from wherever he/she may be just before the time period of the residency)
- Per diems for artist coming from Chile and India (CHF 50.00 per day, 28 days in total = CHF 1'400.00 in total per participant)

4. SUBMISSION MATERIALS

- **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. **Please note:** For group works only travel, accommodation and per diems costs for **one** person can be provided.
- **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).
- Any **images** or other material available that help to illustrate the project.
- **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 Sapce
- **CV and short biography** (500 words)

5. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

All candidates 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 FOR QUESTIONS

**Jana Eske** (IAS), please email to [immersiveartsspace@gmail.com](mailto:immersiveartsspace@gmail.com)



**I.A** [space]

**Kornhausforum**

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Kornhausforum  
Kornhausplatz 18  
CH-3011 Bern

## **Kornhausforum**