



## **Call for applications for the fellowship program 2020–2021 March 1 to April 30, 2019**

**Akademie Schloss Solitude** is happy to announce its 17th call for applications for its international and interdisciplinary artist-in-residence-program.

The name Akademie Schloss Solitude unites the belief in artistic, scientific, and societal exchange with the notion of a refuge, a credo which underlays the construction of the Schloss Solitude from the very beginning. Residencies at Akademie Schloss Solitude enable fellows to devote themselves to their research projects under favorable material and intellectual conditions. For them, the Akademie Schloss Solitude becomes a transdisciplinary learning unit, a platform for communal learning outside the formal educational system, a place which is open to a broader and more diverse public. By experimenting with artistic research practices and new formats, the Akademie aims to change societal processes and to stimulate intergenerational discourse.

More than 1,400 artists from more than 120 countries have developed and advanced projects at the Akademie since its opening in 1990, creating a close-knit, global network of Solitude alumni that expands from year to year. It is essential for the self-conception of Akademie Schloss Solitude that fellows of all spheres of practice are enabled to work and research free of daily pressures and presentation deadlines. Despite this, the Akademie offers the possibility to communicate and present projects to the public. Besides the realisation of numerous public events, the online platform *Schlosspost* allows international visibility of fellows and their projects.

International artists and scientists from the following spheres of practice can apply for a fellowship: **VISUAL** (visual arts and media), **AURAL & PHYSICAL** (music and performing arts), **DIGITAL/Digital Solitude** (digital art, gaming, digital journalism, digital publishing), **SPATIAL** (architecture and design), **TEXTUAL** (literature and language), **SOCIETAL/COMMUNAL-BASED WORK** (education, mediation, theory), **SCIENTIFIC/art, science & business** (humanities, social, natural and economic sciences).

For the first time in its 30-year history, Akademie Schloss Solitude is expanding its profile with the addition of a **thematic call**. In cooperation with [KfW Stiftung](#), Akademie Schloss Solitude is launching the new program with the specific content-related focus »Mutations«. To foster transdisciplinary and transcultural dialogue between the arts, sciences and society, young professionals from all fields are invited to engage in this topic in a focused group conversation. The 9-month program aims to encourage critical reflection and artistic production as well as encounters across disciplines.

**Who can apply?**

International artists, scientists, and cultural professionals are invited to apply for fellowships in the spheres listed above. The candidates should not be older than 40. Applications from students enrolled in degree programs will not be considered. Applications of artist groups are possible. The main language is English.

The decision regarding the fellowships' allocation is taken by independent specialist jurors responsible for the various spheres. Fellowships are usually awarded for a period between six, nine or twelve months.

The Solitude fellowship is a residential fellowship. Fellows are obliged to spend at least two thirds of their fellowships at the Akademie.

The fellowship includes the following benefits:

- A free, furnished living/working studio including electricity, water and heating,
- A monthly fellowship grant of € 1,200,
- Travel expenses for arrival and departure (on a one-time basis).

**Application Instructions**

To apply, please visit the Akademie Schloss Solitude [application page](#).

Questions? Contact us at [apply@akademie-solitude.de](mailto:apply@akademie-solitude.de)

## THEMATIC FOCUS – Interdisciplinary Thematic Call 2020–2021

### MUTATIONS

Mutations are processes with unpredictable outcomes: transformation, loss of control, and irreversibility, but also diversity, metamorphosis, and hybridity. It is this indeterminacy and associative richness that makes mutations uncanny and attractive at the same time.

In the fields of biology and genetics, mutations refer to a change in DNA, the elementary code of life. Mutations occur as variation and alteration, as unforeseen transformation of material or environment. Mutations happen at the intersection of information and manifest in a modification of all aspects of life; in the physicality of living beings. In the environment and its ecological, social, and political conditions they apply to the formation of cultural spaces. Mutations hold an enormous potential for radical thinking and change. They contradict the existing order, challenging hierarchies and perhaps heralding the dawn of a new age.

Today's ecological crisis and social inequalities pose serious structural challenges to all societies of today. Residence programs serve as an experimental space in which the participants observe, analyze, and challenge mutant processes. Through the lens of mutations we can assess and rewire these processes from the ground up. In this sense, how can we think about mutations in times of profound socio-political and ecological change? How can we unleash the diversity and multiplicity that is inherent to mutations? What does »mutation« mean in the interrelationship between artistic, social, and planetary work? In this sense, »mutations« serve as a subject to be explored from intertwining points of view, both scientifically and artistically. The group of **seven selected fellows will be committed to working on the topic jointly for the time span of nine months**. They will contribute to the Akademie's internal program via monthly labs, and will also participate in public events. Accompanying mentoring will be offered during the entire stay of the residence.

»Mutations« is a cooperation of Akademie Schloss Solitude and KfW Stiftung to foster transdisciplinary and transcultural dialogue between the arts and sciences. By inviting artists, scientists and creative minds from all fields to engage in a focused group conversation within a given thematic frame, the 9-month-program encourages critical reflection and artistic production as well as encounters across disciplines.

Further information about the thematic focus and the **application conditions** can be found via the following link: <http://www.akademie-solitude.de/en/fellowship/residency/>

#### Who can apply?

The open call is open to applicants from all fields of the arts and sciences – **VISUAL** (visual arts and media), **AURAL & PHYSICAL** (music and performing arts), **DIGITAL** (digital art, gaming, digital journalism, digital publishing), **SPATIAL** (architecture and design), **TEXTUAL** (literature and language), **SOCIETAL/COMMUNAL-BASED WORK** (education, mediation, theory), **SCIENTIFIC** (humanities and sciences). The program addresses young professionals with different disciplinary emphases with a distinct interest in a transdisciplinary approach and a strong motivation for group interaction. We would particularly like to encourage artists from non-western knowledge backgrounds to apply for the fellowship. The conditions of the Akademie Schloss Solitude apply.

**Residency:**

**The duration of the residency is October 2020 to June 2021. All successful applicants are expected to spend the full nine months in Stuttgart to engage in the program.**

The first six months of the residency are dedicated to an intensive dialogue between the fellows, in which they communally develop their practice, creating a platform for knowledge exchange. The collaborative approach to artistic research stands at the forefront of this phase. The following three months are dedicated to a development process in which the fellows expand their practice to engage with the public. The topical residency leads to a closing format (symposium, exhibition or other event, and a publication).

**Application:**

Applicants are asked to submit an abstract (max. 250 words), a portfolio of their work, and a concept paper/essay sketch related to the topic of »Mutations« (max. 1,000 words).

**KfW Stiftung** ([www.kfw-stiftung.de](http://www.kfw-stiftung.de)) is an independent non-profit foundation based in Frankfurt/Main which addresses the challenges facing society today. With the aim of raising awareness, encouraging people to take on responsibility, and shaping diversity in today's globalized world, KfW Stiftung is active in four major areas: Environment and Climate, Social Commitment, Responsible Entrepreneurship, and Arts and Culture. The Arts and Culture program initiates various platforms for international contemporary arts, with a focus on non-European and non-Western art. It initiates and funds projects such as residency programs for emerging artists and curators, or writers' workshops.

**KFW** STIFTUNG