Exile Today – Production Residencies for Artists

Starting in 2020, Körber-Stiftung and Kampnagel Hamburg are awarding production residencies focusing on the theme of ‘Exile Today’. The residency programme will run for three years with a call for proposals each October. Two residencies will initially be awarded for the 2020 production period, with three to follow each year in 2021 and 2022.

What are we seeking to support?

The residency aims to support the production or creation and subsequent performance of either new stage works or existing works adapted for the local context in the genres of theatre and performance or dance. Production and performance will take place at Kampnagel Hamburg or, in the case of a site-specific work, at a location within the City of Hamburg. Consideration will be given to artistic projects that deal with exile from a contemporary perspective. The work should reflect personal experiences with political repression, resistance, persecution, displacement or expatriation; positive or negative experiences with relocation and adaptation to the country of exile; questions of personal identity and belonging; and the development of political, activist or artistic potential and associated problems in the country of exile. Against the backdrop of Germany's historical responsibility to protect those who face persecution, the work should also consider political and theoretical aspects of the social significance of exile and the situation of exiles in their country of origin and country of exile.

Who may apply?

This is an international call for proposals aimed primarily at artists with personal experience of exile. Applicants should be independent artists or groups and not permanently associated with an institution. Awards will be made to artists working with innovative aesthetics and formats in the genres of theatre and performance or dance.

What does the award encompass?

Each selected project will be provided with the following support:
• A grant of up to €25,000 for the production and presentation of the work of theatre, performance or dance at Kampnagel Hamburg or a site-specific work performed within the City of Hamburg. This grant can be used to fund the project in its entirety or to complement existing funding. Where additional sources of funding are included in the proposal, they must have already been secured at the time of application.
• Use of a rehearsal stage at Kampnagel for a period of one to six weeks for development, creation and/or adaptation of the chosen project.
• Where required: transport of all necessary artistic personnel to and from Hamburg.
• Where required: accommodation for all necessary artistic personnel for the duration of their work in Hamburg.
• Technical support in creating and realising the production by Kampnagel Hamburg.
• Support by Kampnagel curators/dramaturgical staff.

Conditions for application

• By submitting an application, the artist(s) undertake to develop and present the artistic proposal contained therein. The work of theatre, performance or dance must be developed at Kampnagel Hamburg and given its world or German premiere in one of the Kampnagel buildings or as a site-specific performance within the City of Hamburg. Where possible, the work should be performed in its entirety at least three times at Kampnagel.
• The artist(s) shall also develop a proposal for a programme of public information to accompany the production. This will be realised during the rehearsal period in cooperation with Kampnagel and Körber-Stiftung. This may include workshops, podium discussions, publications (flyers, video), or open rehearsals, but should not place an excessive burden of work on the artistic personnel. The intention of this side programme is to raise public awareness of the topic of exile while granting an interested public insights into the processes of artistic creation and rehearsal.
• The successful applicants for the first production period in 2020 will be required to participate in the launch event for the residency programme within Körber-Stiftung’s ‘Days of Exile’ (to be held on 14-15 May 2020). As part of this, the artists will also participate in a public discussion at Kampnagel on the role of exile in their artistic practice.

Timeframe

Two proposals will be selected for 2020, with the first to be premiered in August 2020 at the Kampnagel International Summer Festival and the second in October/November 2020 at the start of Kampnagel’s 2020/2021 season.
The one to six weeks of production and rehearsal time in Hamburg must be planned to correspond with the specified performance period, and details of this should be included in the application.

To apply, please send the following documents in German or English in the form of a single PDF file by email to: kresidenz@kampnagel.de

- Completed application form
- A brief project proposal of no more than 3,600 characters (including spaces)
- Your answers to the questions: What is the relationship of the artist(s)/group to the topic of Exile Today? What motivates your engagement with this topic? Who does the project address? (max. 1,800 characters including spaces)
- A sketch of your proposal for the public side programme: How do you intend to communicate your aesthetic approaches, artistic language, and, last but not least, political views to the Hamburg public? (max. 1,800 characters including spaces)
- A rough project schedule (phases, timeline) including details of any transport and accommodation requirements the schedule entails (max. 1,800 characters including spaces)
- A detailed budget and financing plan in € (columns for income and expenditure)

By submitting these documents, the applicants agree to the processing of their personal data for purposes of evaluation by the project partners, Kampnagel and Körber-Stiftung.

Closing date

This call for proposals for projects in 2020 closes on 07 December 2019

The artists selected will be informed of the jury’s decision by the end of January 2020 and invited to take up their residency.

Jury

Selection of successful applicants will be made by a jury of five persons, consisting of two representatives of Kampnagel, two of Körber-Stiftung and one external expert from the fields of art and culture with relevant expertise on the theme of exile.

Background

Kampnagel and Körber-Stiftung have a history of intensive engagement with questions relating to exile, which are of growing relevance in contemporary life. The Exile Today –
Production Residencies for Artists seek to provide a stage to showcase the theme of exile, encouraging and enabling artists to tackle this subject in innovative and creative ways.

As a result of their lived experience, artists in exile have the knowledge and skills to survive in different societies. Precisely because of their multi-layered identities and transnational character, they are able to function as a progressive force for both countries of origin and destination. Focusing on art created under conditions of exile, the residency programme provides a platform for reconceiving exile as a means of generating new insights. The programme seeks to foreground the multidimensionality of artistic life in exile and place the theme of exile in the context of processes of memory, remembrance and memorialisation (what the Germans call 'Erinnerungskultur'). The aim is to engage with universal and specific aspects of the exile experience while creating a space where art in exile can be viewed from a wide range of contrasting and complex perspectives.

With 'Migrantpolitan', Kampnagel has created a performance space for, by and with artists in exile, who can use this facility to exercise their cultural self-determination while simultaneously being introduced to professional artistic production in the independent art scene. Numerous Migrantpolitan stage productions have dealt with the phenomena of exile, created and performed by artists ranging from international stars to local representatives of various diasporas.

With its 'New Life in Exile' programme, Körber-Stiftung seeks to create opportunities for people living in exile in Germany and reflecting on their experiences of war and flight, loss of homeland and adaptation to a foreign culture. The Foundation aims to showcase the journalistic, artistic, academic and political activities of these exiles and allow their voices to enter public discourse. By building bridges to experiences of exile in the past, this work can also demonstrate continuity, making explicit Germany's historical responsibility and strengthening social solidarity as a result.

The 'Days of Exile' are a month-long programme of public events and encounters in Hamburg dedicated to the topic of flight, displacement and exile. Over 50 participating partner institutions regularly contribute to the wide-ranging programme, which encompasses exhibitions, concerts, talks, encounter events, readings and panel discussions, as well as theatrical performances and film showings.