

RESIDENCY OF ARTISTIC CREATION **AT DOMAINE DE BELVAL** **COAL PRIZE ART AND ENVIRONMENT** **2016**

The François Sommer's Foundation joins COAL in order to provide COAL Prize Art and Environment 2016 laureate of an artistic creation residence at domaine de Belval (French Ardennes), coupled with financial support for production.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESIDENCY

The François Sommer's Foundation is recognised as a public utility since November, 30th of 1996, the date of its creation by François and Jacqueline Sommer, pioneers of an implementation of humanist ecology. This foundation, loyal to the commitments of its founders, works for the protection of biodiversity, where man finds its place, for the respectful use of natural resources, for rational hunting, and sharing the wealth of natural, cultural and artistic heritage.

The Foundation also owns the Museum of Hunting and Nature in Paris, open to the public since February 1967 and labelled « Museum of France ».

Building on the outstanding collection of the Foundation, (ancient, modern and contemporary artwork, weapons and hunting accessories, trophies), the museum of Hunting and Nature strives to study the evolution of the relationship between human and his natural environment by an annual cultural program (temporary exhibitions, visits and workshops for all, conferences, seminars, performances, screening, shows, readings...).

Moreover, in the Ardennes, at Belval-Bois-des-Dames, the Foundation has inherited an area from the François and Jacqueline Sommer's former hunting territory. This closed area of over 600 hectares, is mainly covered by forest, meadows and by 40 hectares of ponds. It hosts an exceptional variety of species through migration, due to repopulation and preservation efforts intended by François and Jacqueline Sommer.

Nowadays, the domain offers a training field for the school of Belval, a new centre that essentially conveys to hunters knowledge and respect of wildlife and ecological balances. It also implements research programs about behavioral-ecology and regularly hosts school students and a general audience for specific events. The domaine de Belval is managed responsibly.

For many years, the Foundation has developed relationships between the Museum of Hunting and Nature, and the domaine de Belval. Some spaces in the Museum at Paris, are made as urban point of view of the Ardennes forest

estate, and attests of its dynamic. The Foundation has initiated a support program for artistic production, structured by a residency program for creation in the domaine de Belval, to improve interaction between current creation and the natural and cultural heritage of the foundation.

The program for creation is jointly driven by the scientists of the Museum of Hunting and Nature, and by people of domaine de Belval. It offers housing at domaine de Belval for short trips (between 7 and 14 days), coupled with a financial support for production. The program covers all creative contemporary and professional disciplines: architecture/landscaping, digital arts, Arts, comics, films/videos, dance/performance, design/graphism, literature, theatre, fashion, creative music, photography...

EXPECTED OBJECTIVES

The art residency at Belval is linked to the cultural program of François Sommer's Foundation.

The residency promotes the creation of works that question the relationship of human to its natural environment, and gives access to art for a large audience.

The residency offers the creation process A network of complementary skills, carried by scientists and educational people of the Museum, and people of domaine de Belval.

Locally, It follows a mission of animation and development of the territory, and contributes to create a cultural dynamic in an area far from cultural institutions.

The residency allows domaine de Belval to diversify its external exchanges, to share and nourish its cultural, Scientist and technical expertise, within the exchanges with contemporary artists.

The program is part of the relationship maintained by the Foundation with local department authorities. It also initiates a partnership with the city of Charleville-Mézières, the capital of Ardennes department in France, associating with its literary residency program and temporary exhibitions program, driven by the local Museums of Arthur Rimbaud's hometown.

The residency evolves within the framework of the relationships of the foundation with public and private actors who support creation in France. Since 2013, the residency program has a partnership with the National School of Fine Arts of Paris, (with the support of the Neulize Vie Foundation) to host Eric Poitevin's students for a creation seminar. The foundation supports Coal Prize for Art and Environment since 2014 and participates to its endowment, by offering the laureate a residency at domaine de Belval coupled with a financial support for production.

Work Context

Accommodation

Located in the heart of the area, independent accommodation is available for duration of resident's trip. Situated on the edge of one of the ponds in the grounds this accommodation contains a living-room, bedroom, kitchen and a bathroom and is fuelled by independent means (heating, hot water, electricity).

The resident is free to move across the grounds, with the exception of some prohibited access for example: due to forest regeneration or if when doing so would disturb the animals' local to the area. The resident is also free to work out of the domain, if he's cultural region of influence is respected. The resident may work inside the accommodation however there is no workshop space and no tools for production. Because of this lack of equipment for production and its remote location, the residency is considered to be for a short duration, a few days to a few weeks at most, according to the project.

Twining with the town of Charleville-Mézières

Through partnership with the city of Charleville-Mézières, the residence of Belval is twinned with the literary residence of Museum Arthur Rimbaud, which offers the possibility of exchanges.

Financial Conditions

The residency is subject to a contract involving the foundation and the resident. This contract can be coupled with another, involving the city of Charleville-Mézières. The resident may be an individual or a group of residents incorporated. The Foundation offers € 3500 (including taxes) to the resident, as aid for production.

The Foundation also offers transport support up to € 1000 (transportation to and from Belval, travel on site), and offers food support up to € 50 per day.

Selection Procedure

The laureate of Coal Art and environment Prize 2016 will be elected on autumn 2016 and is offered the position of residency in Belval. He/she will be chosen from ten finalists, selected through an international call for projects, by a jury of representatives from worlds of contemporary art, research, ecology and sustainable development.

The participation terms of COAL Price 2016 are available on website of the association COAL:

<http://www.projetcoal.org/coal/en/2016/06/01/prix-coal-2016/>

Production work

The resident retains all ownership of the physical and mental work produced within the residence of Belval.

The resident has the responsibility to complete the production of work initiated, with the support of the Foundation, within one year after the end of the residency.

The resident is required to give priority to the Foundation for the purchase of the work produced. Meanwhile the Foundation has an obligation to notify the resident if an organization or individual expresses an interest in purchasing the residents work.

Promotion of work

The Foundation has a variety of means by which to promote contemporary art including exhibition places, a cultural policy of the Museum of Hunting and Nature, and through material and immaterial editions (publishing, *Billebaude* Magazine, websites...).

The city of Charleville-Mézières, in partnership with the foundation, can also promote work completed by the resident, in the municipal museum places.

The decision to purchase or/and expose the work of the resident remains with the Foundation and, if applicable, the city of Charleville-Mézières.

Specific Constraints

The laureate must read the specific terms and conditions of the residence before accepting.

The laureate can visit the area for one day before accepting these terms and conditions.

He/she is requested to prepare a project file (annex 4) to submit to François Sommer's foundation and Coal Association.

The resident is considered self ruling in terms of working time. People who work in the domain of Belval (manager, secretariat, and maintenance personnel of buildings and exteriors) are not art creation professionals.

It is strongly advised for a non-French resident to speak French basics.

The resident will also be self reliant in regards to travel so it is strongly advised that the resident hold a current car or other license before accepting the residency. It must be stressed that the housing offered is autonomous in regards to its energy provision and therefore, has limited resources for each day (hot water, electricity and heating).

The residence is located in agricultural land and local services are located several kilometers from the area.

If the laureate cannot accept the residence of Belval, a compensation will be established in consultation between François Sommer's Foundation, Coal Association and the laureate.