

ARTISTIC CREATION RESIDENCE

DOMAINE DE BELVAL

COAL ART AND ENVIRONNEMENT 2021 PRIZE



The Fondation François Sommer is partnered with the COAL Association to provide the winner of the COAL Art and Environment 2021 Prize with an artists' residence at the Domaine de Belval (Ardennes, France) which includes financial support for artistic production.

THE RESIDENCE

The Fondation François Sommer was established in 1966 by François and Jacqueline Sommer, pioneers of the implementation of a humanist ecology. Faithful to the commitments of its founders, the Foundation works for the respectful use of natural's resources, for the practice of a rational hunting, the sharing of wealth of the natural, artistic and cultural heritage, and for the protection of a biodiversity in which mankind find its proper place.

The Foundation also owns the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature in Paris, opened in 1967 and built on the Foundation's remarkable collection of ancient, modern, and contemporary artworks, naturalia, weapons, and hunting accessories. The Museum strives to study the evolution of the relationship between man and his natural environment through its cultural program, composed of temporary exhibitions, guided tours, public workshops, conferences, seminars, performances, screenings, readings, etc.

In the Ardennes, at Belval-Bois-des-Dames, lies François and Jacqueline Sommer's former hunting territory, an estate which has since been bequeathed to their Foundation. With an enclosed area of more than 1000 hectares, it is essentially a forested area covered in meadows and 40 hectares of ponds. It hosts an exceptional variety of animal species, particularly during the migration seasons. This is mainly due to the repopulation and preservation efforts carried out on the estate, as intended by François and Jacqueline Sommer.

Now, the domain is also home to the School of Belval, an educational center for hunters, providing them with the knowledge and respect for wildlife and ecological balance. It also implements research programs about behavioral-ecology and regularly hosts school groups as well as the public for specific events.

For several years, the Foundation has focused on enhancing the relationship between the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature and the Domaine de Belval. Some of the galleries in the Paris museum, designed as urban lookouts on the Ardennes forest estate, bear witness to this dynamic. The Foundation has also initiated a program to assist artistic production articulated around a creative residence within the Belval estate. The creation program is jointly piloted by the scientific team of the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature and the Domaine de Belval's managers. It offers short stays at the Domaine de Belval (between 7 and 14 days), with a financial assistance for production. The program covers all disciplines of professional contemporary creation: architecture, landscape design, digital arts, visual arts, comics, cinema, video, dance, performance, design, graphics, literature, theater, fashion, music, photography...

OBJECTIVES

The artist's residence at Belval is linked to the Fondation François Sommer's cultural program. The residence encourages the creation of works that questions man's relationship to its natural environment and will contribute to spread these works to a wide audience.

The combined knowledge of the scientific and educational teams of the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature and those of the Belval estate is also available as a resource for the artists. Locally, the residence is a part of a larger mission of animation and development of the surrounding territory which helps to create a cultural dynamic in an area located far from artistic creation's places. It allows the Domaine de Belval to diversify its exchanges with the outside area, to share and nourish its cultural, scientific, and technical expertise, through contacts with the actors of contemporary creation.

The cultural program is part of the relationship maintained by the Foundation with the public and private actors which support creation as well as with the local authorities of the native region of its founder: the Ardennes. The Foundation has initiated a partnership with the City of Charleville-Mézières, the capital city of Ardennes region, associating with its literary residence and temporary exhibitions programs, and driven by the local museums of Arthur Rimbaud's hometown. Since 2013, it has been working in partnership with the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris (with the support of the Neuflyze Foundation) to host the students of artist Eric Poitevin's atelier for a creative seminar. The Foundation has supported the COAL Art and Environment Prize since 2014 and participates in its endowment, offering the laureate a residence at the Domaine de Belval with financial assistance for production.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Accommodation

Independent accommodation is available for duration of resident's stay. Located in the heart of the estate, on the edge of one of the ponds in the grounds, the dwelling contains a living-room, bedroom, kitchen, and bathroom and is energy independent (heating, hot water, electricity). The resident is free to roam the grounds, with the exception of certain areas to which access may at times be prohibited, for example due to forest regeneration or if when doing so would disturb the animals. The resident is also free to work outside of the estate, within the region. The resident may choose to work at the accommodation, however there is no workshop space nor any tools for production. Because of this lack of equipment for production and its remote location, the residence is intended to be for a short duration, a few days to a few weeks at most, depending on the project.

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 part of a collective. The Foundation offers € 3,000 (including taxes) to the resident as production aid. The Foundation also offers transport support of up to € 1,000 (travel to and from Belval, transport on site), and offers food support of up to € 50 per day.

Selection procedure

The winner of the COAL Art and Environment 2021 Prize, recipient of the Belval residence, will be named on spring 2021. The winner will be selected from ten finalists selected as part of an international open call, by a jury of representatives from the contemporary art world, research, ecology and sustainable development. The terms of participation in the COAL 2021 Prize are available on the COAL website: <http://www.projetcoal.org/coal/le-prix-coal-art-et-environnement/prix-coal-2021-appel-a-projets/>

The winner of the COAL 2021 Prize will be awarded the sum of € 5,000 corresponding to the endowment that the Fondation François Sommer grants to the COAL Association. After studying the project selected by the COAL Prize jury, the Foundation, in consultation with the winner of the prize and the COAL Association, will consider the relevance of welcoming the winner in Belval. In case of incompatibility between the winning project and the spirit of this charter or in the event of a proven inability of the winner to accept Belval's residence, compensation of € 2,000 euros will be established, in consultation between the Fondation François Sommer, the winner, and the COAL Association.

Conditions of production

The resident retains all ownership of the physical and moral work produced within the residence in Belval. The resident has the responsibility to complete the production of the work conceived, with the support of the Foundation, within a year after the end of the residence. 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 someone expresses an interest in purchasing the resident's work.

Promotion of the work

The Foundation has a variety of means by which promote the residence and the work produced during the stay in Belval, including exhibition spaces in Paris, websites and social medias, material and immaterial editions (publications, *Billebaude* magazine...). The City of Charleville-Mézières, in partnership with the Foundation, can also promote works completed by the resident, in their municipal museums. The decision to purchase or/and exhibit the resident's work remains to the Foundation and, if applicable, to the City of Charleville-Mézières.

Specific constraints

The winner must read the specific terms and conditions of the residence before accepting it. The winner can visit the domain for one day before accepting these terms and conditions. He/she is requested to prepare a project file to submit to the Fondation François Sommer and to the COAL Association. The resident is autonomous and can work according to his/her own schedule. The residence is located in a deep rural region and local services are several kilometers from the area. The employees who work in the Domaine de Belval (manager, secretary, and maintenance employees of buildings and park) are not art world professionals. It is strongly recommended that a non-French resident speaks some basic conversational French. The resident will also be self-reliant regarding transport, so it is strongly advised that the resident has a valid driving license before accepting the residence. It must be stressed that the housing offered is autonomous regarding to its energy provision and therefore, has limited resources for each day (hot water, electricity, and heating). If the winner cannot accept the Belval's residence, a compensation will be established in consultation with the Fondation François Sommer, the COAL Association and the winner.