

OPEN CALL 2026



Who can participate?

- The AMA#5 Open Call is open to all professional artists, photographers, and artist collectives who are of legal age.
- The AMA#5 Open Call is primarily aimed at artists whose work addresses questions related to photography and the archive.
- The residencies at the *Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln (German Dance Archive Cologne)*, *Greven Archiv Digital*, and *LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn & FrauenMediaTurm Cologne* are open to international applicants.
- The residency at the *Archiv der Fotowerkstätte Köln* is open to artists who were born in the Netherlands, reside in the Netherlands, or hold Dutch citizenship.
- The residency at the *Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln (German Dance Archive Cologne)* is only open to artist collectives or duos.
- Artists who have already taken part in the Artist Meets Archive program cannot apply again.
- Applicants should be willing to work temporarily in Cologne.

What does the program offer?

- An artist fee of €4,500, divided into €1,500 for the residency stay, €1,500 for the project development, and €1,500 for the realization of the exhibition. The fee for the artist collective at the German Dance Archive Cologne amounts to a total of €9,000, divided into three installments of €3,000 each.
- Access to the archive/collection or selected parts of it provided by the respective institution.
- Coverage of travel and accommodation costs for the residency stay, exhibition installation, and opening weekend.
- An exhibition as part of the Photoszene Festival 2027.
- The basic funding for the exhibition in the amount of €5,000.

When can I apply?

Applications can be submitted **from 5 January to 5 February 2026 (23:59 CET)** exclusively via the online portal.

Please note: only one application, i.e., to one archive/collection, is permitted!

What do I need to submit?

- A **CV** including information on place of birth, residence, education, and exhibition history (max. 2 pages A4).
- A **letter of motivation** explaining the interest in the chosen archive/collection and its holdings (max. 2,000 characters). Alternatively, the motivation may be submitted as an audio file (MP3 format).
- A **portfolio** of previous works (max. 15 MB) and/or an informative **website**.

Submitting documents via email is not possible. All documents must be uploaded in PDF format via the Open Call registration page.

*Catalogues, brochures, etc., may be submitted by post to: Internationale Photoszene Köln gUG, Im Mediapark 7, 50670 Köln (optional). Postal submissions **cannot** be returned.*

Who can I contact if I have questions or problems?

If you have questions or run into problems, please email us at: opencall@photoszene.de

Jury & selection process

The jury meetings will take place in February 2026. The juries consist of two representatives of the respective archive/collection, two representatives of Internationale Photoszene Köln (Heide Häusler, Artistic Director & Managing Director, and Daria Bona, Program Director Artist Meets Archive), as well as one external expert.

In early March 2026, the selected artists for Artist Meets Archive #5 will be announced.

Residency 2026

The residency stays will take place in the summer of 2026, concentrated into a one-month period. The exact timing will be coordinated with the institutions and Internationale Photoszene Köln, who will oversee the residency schedule. The stays are intended to last up to one continuous month but may, depending on personal or logistical circumstances, also be divided into several shorter visits to the archives/collections. Follow-up research and additional visits may take place beyond this period depending on the budget. During the residency, artists will receive conceptual support from the respective archive/collection, which also provides access to the holdings. Internationale Photoszene Köln organizes travel and accommodation, facilitates networking among participants through joint excursions and archive/exhibition visits, and arranges a public accompanying program (e.g., artist talks).

Exhibition 2027

The exhibitions will be presented as part of the Photoszene Festival starting in May 2027. The exhibition projects will be shown at the respective archives/collections and/or associated venues and will be on view for at least four weeks.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



In which language can I apply?

You may apply in English or German.

Is the application only open to artists from Germany or Europe?

No, artists from all countries are eligible to apply.

Are there any age restrictions for applying to the program?

No, the program is open to artists of all ages; applicants must be at least 18 years old.

Can I apply for more than one residency?

No.

Can I apply if I live with a physical disability?

Yes, applications are expressly encouraged. Please refer to the option to specify individual access need in the online application form.

I am currently doing a PhD or am enrolled at a university or college. Can I apply?

Yes.

Can artist collectives or duos apply?

Yes.

Can I apply as an individual artist for the residency at the Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln (German Dance Archive Cologne)?

No, this residency is exclusively open to artist collectives or duos. Applications must be submitted by at least two people applying together with a shared project idea. Artists who have not yet worked together as a collective may also apply jointly.

Does the collective applying for the residency at the Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln have to consist exclusively of artists/photographers?

No, the collective may be interdisciplinary and may also include people from fields such as dance, performance, or research. However, the focus of the collective's work should lie in artistic practice.

Can I apply for the residency at the Archive of the Fotowerkstatt Schmölz if I do not live in the Netherlands or hold Dutch citizenship?

No.

The application materials include a letter of motivation. What should it contain?

The letter of motivation should outline the specific interest in the respective archive and present initial ideas, questions, approaches, or preliminary observations. If a more concrete and clearly defined project concept already exists, this may also be outlined.

Does a new work have to be produced during the residency, or can the project work purely curatorially with the archival images/materials?

In any case, a new artistic engagement is expected, which will be presented in the form of a solo exhibition during the Photoszene Festival in 2027. The form and appearance of this work are completely open.

Does the work produced during the residency have to be purely photographic?

No, the outcome and form of the new work are not fixed.

Does the residency at the Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln (German Dance Archive Cologne) also take place in summer 2026?

Yes. The residency at the Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln takes place in summer 2026 as well. During the Photoszene Festival in May 2027, the development process of the exhibition will be made publicly visible and accessible over a period of approximately four weeks. A special feature of this residency is that the exhibition space will be conceived as an “open lab,” allowing the project and exhibition to continue evolving throughout the festival. Therefore, stays on site will also be required during the festival period. The open experiment concludes with the exhibition opening, which coincides with the festival’s finissage. The exhibition will then be shown for a further ten months at the Museum of the Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln.

Are the holdings of the Greven Archiv Digital accessible online?

Yes, all holdings are fully digitized and accessible online at <https://greven-archiv-digital.de/>. The Greven Archiv Digital is a growing online archive with several hundred thousand photographs from press, church, and corporate archives, as well as photographic estates and collections. The online archive is the central focus of the residency.

Are travel and accommodation costs for the residency covered?

Yes.

Can I submit my application by mail (post)?

No, applications must be submitted via the online application forms. However, catalogs or other publications may be submitted additionally by mail (post).

I am experiencing technical problems with my submission, need technical support, or require more characters/data/pages than specified. Who can I contact?

Please contact us at opencall@photoszene.de.

I will not be able to meet the deadline. Can I submit my application late?

No. If you are unable to meet the deadline due to personal circumstances or individual access needs, please contact us at opencall@photoszene.de so that we can discuss a possible exception and find a solution.

I have already submitted my application but realized afterwards that I forgot something important. Who can I contact?

Please contact us at opencall@photoszene.de.

When will I be informed about the outcome?

The jury meetings will take place at the end of February/beginning of March. Applicants will be informed afterwards (expected between March 9 and March 15).

How can I stay up to date with the activities of Internationale Photoszene Köln?

Via our [website](#), [newsletter](#), or [Instagram](#).

I still have questions. Who can I contact?

Feel free to contact us at opencall@photoszene.de.