

Open Call

# Residency Program

DEADLINE **15.12** 2019

**AADK SPAIN**/CENTRO NEGRA



Application deadline: 15th December, 2019  
Selected projects will be contacted by mail.

**Monthly Residence:**

minimum 1 month / maximum 6 months

# Open Call / 2020

**AADK Spain** invites all artists and researchers who wish to work on the topics of *body, territory* and *spatiality* to participate in its **Artistic Residency Program**.

**For this edition, priority will be given to those proposals that focus on an expanded concept of architecture.** We propose to consider listening and modeling spaces, experimenting with ways of inhabiting and recovering the memory of places as possible lines of action.

For those interested in working with the community of Blanca, please bear in mind that projects of less than two months will not be accepted. The ability of artists to establish respectful relationships with the inhabitants and to be willing to engage in trial-error processes will be fundamental for these proposals.

Theoretical research projects of any scientific or humanistic discipline may be applied to this call, provided that they have the artistic practice as their object of study.

The Artistic Residency Program is carried out in Centro Negra, the current headquarters of AADK Spain located in the town of Blanca, Murcia. This program is a space for reflection and artistic research that encourages linking research with the historical, cultural and geographical context of the region.

We invite all those interested to submit their proposals.



Photo: Manasseri & Depetris

# AADK Spain

## About us

AADK Spain is an international artistic platform that opens up spaces for research and contemporary creation. With a focus set on experimental and creative processes, its primary interest is to explore the notions of body, territory, and spatiality through an interdisciplinary approach.

The platform advocates the decentralization of culture and access to contemporary art in non-urban areas. It addresses local issues as a means to understand global problems.

Currently based in Centro Negra (Blanca, Murcia), AADK Spain holds several programs among which its Artistic Residency Program stands out. Deeply rooted in its context, the program constitutes a framework for research and debate where knowledge exchange and creative collaboration are always encouraged. Besides the aforementioned, the platform also holds a wide number of activities, workshops and events that enrich the stay of the artists in residence.

Furthermore, AADK Spain weaves networks with other cultural and artistic enterprises in order to facilitate mobility for the artists that it hosts and fosters their work at national and international circuits.

## Our philosophy

- AADK Spain is an independent project run by artists that works through horizontal dynamics.
- It advocates the decentralization of culture and the access to contemporary art in non-urban areas.
- It sets up a space for transdisciplinary research with a focus on knowledge exchange and creative collaboration.
- It boosts the value of creative processes over the need for finished art pieces.
- It researches new artistic practices with the aim of expanding the borders of creative disciplines and exploring transversal pedagogies.
- It is an organic and absorptive platform that can be transformed and resignified through all its participants.
- It promotes the work of the artists who have taken part in the project, understanding them as an active part of itself.

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## GUIDELINES

Research and creation  
Processes and experimentation  
Context and communities  
Collaborative creation  
Body / territory / spatiality  
From local to global

## Establishing the platform

AADK Spain is an extension of Aktuelle Architektur Der Kultur (AADK), a collective of three artists founded in Berlin in 2006. **Abraham Hurtado** (Spain), Jochen Arbeit (Germany) and Vania Rovisco (Portugal) gathered to develop artistic and curatorial projects with the purpose of weaving new networks for artists and delineating new cultural circuits.

For six years, AADK developed numerous events and actions in different parts of Berlin, activating new venues and reflecting upon the borders of established contemporary art practices.

In 2012, Abraham Hurtado set up Centro Negra together with the artist Juan Conesa, establishing the headquarters of AADK Spain. During the first years a series of site-specific interventions took place there. These pieces were deeply rooted in Blanca's context and community.

Then in 2015, **Elena Azzedín** joined the platform to collaborate in the conceptualisation and implementation of the current residency program. Besides her role as curator, she developed complementary contents and programs such as conferences, workshops, exhibitions, festivals, and a radio show.

During these seven years of work, Centro Negra has welcomed more than 300 artists from all continents and has gained recognition among numerous national and international institutions.



Photo: Sofian Jouini & Amelie Créach



Photo: A. Manasseri / Depetris / Casado / Tibaldi

## **Main building**

Centro Negra is the main building of AADK Spain. It serves both as working area and exhibition space. The building is located on the slope of a mountain, being reachable only by foot. It stands at the foot of a Moorish castle from the twelfth century. At the beginning of the 20th century, this area was allocated for animal husbandry. An assembly of small poultry yards slowly developed, but later fell into disuse. In 2010, a group of these constructions were recovered and transformed into the modern and integrated building of the Center that still retains stone walls and mountain ledges.

The current building is made up of 6 different and interconnected spaces. Each of them is unique in its size and morphology, constituting a set of great versatility and capable of adapting to multiple purposes.

## **Housing**

The housing facilities are divided into two areas, consisting of a group of four apartments bordering Centro Negra and an old house in the center of the town. The latter was the former Video Art Museum, EDOM.

The apartments are equipped with private kitchens, toilets and showers. They have a terrace for common use and direct access to the main building.

The house has three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a kitchen with a living room. It is located in the heart of the village and has excellent access to all shops and stores.

It is also ideal to immerse oneself in the daily life of Blanca.

Both housing areas have access to washing machines and are equipped with bedding and towels.

# Community & Coexistence

Those who wish to participate in the project should keep in mind that in addition to its Artistic Residences Program, AADK Spain carries out another series of programs and activities that involve local, national and international participants. We consider all of them, as well as our artists in residence, participants of a temporary and shared community, where everyone commits to give their best in pursuit of a harmonious coexistence in a small town. Artists in residence are warmly invited to take part in our activities throughout their stay. Likewise, they should be aware that given the morphology of the building, closed workspaces are not possible. We invite you to take on this challenge as an opportunity to be in touch with the creative processes of other participants.

In case you have any particular needs regarding housing or ways of working, it may be indicated in your application. The AADK Spain team will take it into account when assigning your home and study.

# Location & Context

AADK Spain develops its Artistic Residency Program in the town of Blanca, which is part of the Ricote Valley. The origins of the region go back to the beginning of the VIII century, in the time of the Muslim conquest of the Iberian Peninsula.

Blanca has a little more than 6,000 inhabitants and it extends onto the banks of the Segura River. The town was founded in the thirteenth century by Arab settlers. It was initially known as “Negra” and believed to be due to the dark color of the land on the mountain nearby. It is surrounded by a mountain range and an extensive area of pine forests. From its highest cliffs, one can perceive the contrast between the intense green of the valley and its surroundings, which describes a dystopian landscape of large semi-desert zones colliding with areas of intensive agricultural exploitation.

The capital of the province, Murcia, is located just 40 km from Blanca.



# Artistic Residency program

AADK Spain understands residency programs as contextualized spaces where location models the practices and modifies both its participants and the local communities. Thus, our Artistic Residency is an interdisciplinary and socially committed program that offers its attendants a space for analysis and production. It aims to facilitate research in rural environments, highlighting the value of local knowledge as a means to re-think how these locations can position themselves in an era of massive urbanization through a social, historical and geographical perspective.

Throughout their stay, participants create a temporary community that shares experiences and processes, fostering debate and a transversal perspective of their projects. AADK Spain provides tutelage and curatorial follow-up as well as assistance in production and management of projects and Open Studios night on the last Saturday of each month. Additionally, participants are encouraged to keep in touch with us after their residency ends, so that we can promote their work in forthcoming exhibitions curated by our platform as well as in papers, conferences and/or publications.

We invite artists, designers, architects and practitioners of all related disciplines to come to Centro Negra to work at the intersection of art, geography and local communities. The residence periods may be from one up to six months with two months being the recommended minimum for the full development of a project. The amount of participants varies every month, but reaches a maximum of six projects (including individual proposals or duos/collectives).

To date, the program has hosted more than 300 artists from various disciplines. It is open to both individual and collective proposals\*.

## Who can apply

Artists, architects, landscapers and professionals of all related disciplines who wish to think and work on the proposed axes.

\* *The cost for the residency program varies according to the number of members per project.*

## **How to apply**

Submit the completed application form to [info@aadk.es](mailto:info@aadk.es) together with a single PDF file (maximum 5 MB) containing:

- Project proposal**
  - Motivation and expectations**
  - Brief biography**
  - Portfolio in PDF** (in the case of audiovisual works, attach the correspondent links)
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## **What we provide**

- Accommodation
  - Work space
  - Access to common areas with equipped kitchen and outdoor space
  - Basic technical equipment
  - Support in production
  - Mentoring and curatorial support
  - Visibility of the artist in the communication channels of AADK Spain
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## **We don't provide**

- Mobility costs
- Work materials
- Insurance (mandatory)
- Food expenses

For more further information, you can write to [info@aadk.es](mailto:info@aadk.es)



International platform  
Of research and contemporary creation.

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**Team 2019:** Abraham Hurtado - Artistic Director / Elena Azzedín - Residency Program Director / Selu Herraiz - AADK Lab Coordinator / Giuliana Grippo - Communication and Curatorial Assistance / Josman Parikmaker - Technical Production / Juan Conesa - Spacial design

Organized and Produced

Collaboration



Aktuelle  
Architektur  
Der Kultur

