

Sonnenberg

Artist in Residence Program – Call for applications 2024

Villa Sonnenberg

At Villa Sonnenberg in Lenzburg, we live hospitality and culture – *honestly, heartfelt and reciprocally.*

The sponsor

The sponsor of the Villa Sonnenberg is the «Villa Sonnenberg Foundation», which is committed to preserving and revitalising the listed property. This also includes art and cultural projects as well as *an Artist-in-Residence-programme for professional artists.* Through the residencies, the foundation promotes intercultural exchange and international networking. The artistic work of the studio guests should experience new impulses and find time to develop further at Villa Sonnenberg.

Annual theme 2024

As an artist in residence, you will have the opportunity *to realise a project related to the annual theme* and to participate in everyday life at Villa Sonnenberg. The estate with its historic buildings and picturesque garden has been recently renovated and is open for events, conferences and overnight guests. Your stay will conclude with a public exhibition or presentation of your work.





Villa Sonnenberg before renovation

Annual theme 2024:
«Crooked & Slanted – Beautiful Imperfection?»

Crooked stairs, sloping floors, slanted walls. You can discover many irregularities in the 250-year-old Villa Sonnenberg. *What effect do asymmetries have on us humans?* Do we love dissimilarity or do we prefer symmetry? Is symmetry the epitome of beauty? Or is it surpassed even more by disruptions and breaks?

Are productive phases associated with asymmetrical processes? As, for example, in the formation of the universe, which could only come into being in all its complexity through the deviation from symmetry? Does this therefore mean: Without deviation, without asymmetry, no life?

But asymmetry can also be seen in the unequal relationships between the countries of the global North and South, and it also makes us think of unequal majorities in politics. In mechanics and construction, asymmetries seem to be disadvantageous. Symmetrical relationships are considered the norm, whereas asymmetrical relationships must be explained, legitimised or even corrected. – *This is a tension that also arose during the renovation of Villa Sonnenberg.* Without blurring or even erasing the historically grown irregularities of the building structures, the task was to implement current building norms or at least to come closer to them. Creative solutions were called for.



The Foundation is dedicating the first annual theme entitled «*Crooked and slanted – Beautiful Imperfection?*» to the discussion of symmetry and asymmetry – a discussion that formed a vital part of the renovation project of the listed Villa Sonnenberg.

For 2024, the Villa Sonnenberg Foundation calls for applications of *professional artists of all disciplines for three studio residencies*. The artists are invited to take up the discourses around «A/Symmetry» and to interpret them artistically.

Residencies 2024

Studio residencies at Villa Sonnenberg usually last three months:

- January to March 2024
- May to July 2024
- September to December 2024

Please indicate all time slots that are possible for you in your application. Attendance of at least 80% is a prerequisite.

The place

Villa Sonnenberg is located in Lenzburg, a small town between Zurich and Bern with a rich cultural life. The property is a 10-minute walk from the old town and shopping facilities, with a view of Lenzburg Castle, and is surrounded by a picturesque garden and features a natural water source.

Living and working

You will stay in a modern studio on the top floor of the main house with a small, equipped kitchen and private bathroom. Bed linen, bath towels and cleaning materials are provided. You are responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of the studio and the infrastructure used. The studio has a WIFI connection. Smoking is prohibited in the entire house and all outbuildings. We cannot accept pets. The studio is for single use.

As an artist in residence you may use *the studio house* which offers a workshop, a music rehearsal room with piano and the garden.

Contributions

You are responsible for your *own meals*. The foundation pays a contribution to the daily CHF 25 per day (CHF 750 per month).

You can apply separately to the Foundation for a financial contribution towards your *working materials*.

Return journey incl. entry visa

You are responsible for organising your own travel to and from the Foundation as well as any necessary entry visa. The foundation offers you support. If possible, the journey should be made by train. You can apply to the Foundation for funding of the travel costs.

Personal contribution

During your stay, you will contribute in the form of a high-profile event (workshop, work show, reading, concert, etc.).

The Foundation also enables you to bring in your interests and skills to the daily life of the Sonnenberg, for example in the form of a cooking event, gardening, or similar. We look forward to receiving your written proposal (optional).

Language skills

Good knowledge of German or English or French is required for the stay.

Application documents

- CV with work history as an artist
- Project outline with reference to the annual theme incl. motivation for the stay
- Proposal for your contribution to the daily operations of Villa Sonnenberg (optional)
- Examples of your work
- Proof of insurance in case of illness or accident (at the latest upon acceptance or agreement)



Application deadline for 2024 residencies

The application deadline for *all residencies in 2024 is 31 May 2023*.

Please send your documents electronically to:
info@villasonnenberg.org

The selection will be made by the Board of Trustees of the Villa Sonnenberg Foundation. After the initial selection will be followed by a personal interview via Zoom. The final decisions will be made by *the end of August 2023*.

Contact

Your questions can be directed to the President of the Foundation Board Ms Christine von Arx:
info@villasonnenberg.org

We look forward to receiving your application!

Address:
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The studio house before renovation

