

RESS RELEASE

On the awarding of the 2024 fellowships

On 11 January 2024, the three expert juries met at Künstlerhaus Lauenburg to award three international residency fellowships and one national work fellowship. The fellowships are offered by Künstlerhaus Lauenburg for the state of Schleswig-Holstein for four months each with a monthly stipend of €1,000. The selected fellowship holders will give an insight into their projects in the final presentations in mid-September 2024.

The high number of applications once again made it clear how important such funding programmes are and that more of them are needed. By the application deadline, the Künstlerhaus had received almost 280 applications. It was no easy task for the jurors to make a shortlist, especially as the quality was very high across the board. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks for the dedicated work of the jury members, which contributes significantly to the professional fellowship work of the Künstlerhaus. We would also like to thank all applicants for the high quality of the portfolios they submitted.

In order to give more visibility to a larger number of them and to present an artistic selection that reflects the diverse composition of our society, a thematically curated group exhibition with works by selected applicants will take place in the Stadtgalerie Künstlerhaus Lauenburg from 2024. This year's curator is Lena Fließbach.

Below we present the 2024 fellowship holders.

Ksenia Gorbunova - Residency Fellowship for Literature

The fellowship for literature goes to the Russian-born author Ksenia Gorbunova, who lives in Munich. Her story "Russländisch" thematises the reality of life for Kumir, Sandyr and Ženja from the Altai, Siberia and the Urals. All three move to Germany to escape racist and transphobic hostility.

According to the author, the term "Russländisch" is used in specialised circles to describe what is not "Russian" on the territory of the Russian Federation. It makes it possible to address the experiences of indigenous ethnic groups or queer people who, as marginalised groups of people, have no space in Russia's structures. The narrative ties in with larger political contexts, but focuses on the personal experiences of the protagonists and the questions about their origins and their future.

Gorbunova's story promises many things and talks about small things. Of berries and dumplings, a big bear and answers in spring. The excerpt from the author's novel project plays with phonetics and bilingualism, with the familiar and the (still) hidden, and hints at a very unique sound that unanimously convinced the jury.

Literature jury: Caren Gäbel, project collaborator at Literaturhaus Schleswig-Holstein, editor and translator / Erec Schumacher, author, publisher, activist and fellowship holder for Literature 2023 / Astrid Braun, former managing director of Stuttgarter Schriftstellerhaus / Miedya Mahmud, author, spoken word artist, curator

Zara Ali - Residency Fellowship for Composition

The sound of the music with its absolutely high compositional quality convinced the jury members. The ritualistic aspect of the music and the very harmonious interaction of the multimedia components made an absolute impression. This is why the fellowship for Composition was awarded to Zara Ali (USA, Frankfurt am Main) for her opera project with different vocal styles. The work, her debut in this genre, is very precisely described. The jury is convinced that Zara Ali will successfully realise this multidimensional

work of synergies between light, stage and voice and therefore supports the award to the American composer. They are looking forward to the premiere concert in Lauenburg.

Composition jury: Dr. Daniela Fantechi, composer / Anja Erdmann, sound artist and fellowship holder for Composition 2023 / Dr. Harald Kisiedu, musicologist, journalist, author and lecturer at the Institute of Music at Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences / Prof. Dr. Oliver Korte, Lübeck University of Music

Clara Lena Langenbach – Work grant with child, Visual Arts

Hamburg-based artist Clara Lena Langenbach has been awarded the Work grant with child for 2024 in the field of visual arts. In her artistic practice, she examines normative conditions of corporeality and creates sculptures and objects with "new" personalities. Through moulding processes on human bodies, the artist aims to generate new forms that represent familiar but not clearly recognisable parts of the body as part of her fellowship. For her "Fight or Flight" project, these will be assembled into oversized sculptures and activated in a performance. Performers will put on the hanging sculptures and explore different ways of wearing them. In this way, a public debate on body (pre)images and norms can be initiated. Clara Lena Langenbach was able to prevail unanimously against strong competition with her convincing artistic position.

Juan Blanco – Residency Fellowship for Visual Arts

The Colombian artist's engagement with the town of Lauenburg and important issues of our time was decisive for the jury's unequivocal decision. The jurors emphasised Juan Blanco's independent and exciting approach, as well as his very "accessible" aesthetics and good use of space. These are ideal prerequisites for getting in touch with the place and its inhabitants.

During his residency, the artist wants to explore the landscape, geography and climate of Lauenburg to create a work of art connected to nature, combining scientific facts, local research and visual art. Collections of data and material, archives and interviews form the starting point for his installations, paintings and graphic works.

Visual Arts jury: Dr. Peter Kruska, Director of Stadtgalerie Kiel / Anna Nowak, Managing Director and Artistic Director Kunsthaus Hamburg / Lena Fließbach, freelance curator and member of the board of Saloon Berlin / Reinhold Engberding, freelance artist and former fellowship holder for Visual Arts 1994

Furthermore, Künstlerhaus Lauenburg has decided to extend the **fellowship by invitation**, which is awarded independently, to a period of two years in order to promote process-orientated formats and in-depth research projects. In 2023/2024, the grant was awarded to the **artists' collective otc**, which will be organising a symposium on the topic of "Soldarian work" in May 2024. The collective currently consists of Alexander Klaubert, Francis Kussatz, Julia Lübbecke and Rahel grote Lambers.

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