



pépinières européennes pour jeunes artistes



technical form

Centre des arts du cirque de Basse-Normandie

Pépinières européennes pour jeunes artistes
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- **national co-ordinator** Christine Palau, Pépinières européennes pour jeunes artistes

presentation of the host organisation

- **name of the residency** Centre des arts du cirque de Basse-Normandie
- **juridical status** Public non profit organisation (which will probably become a public establishment of cultural cooperation on March 1st, 2005)
- **address** Rue de la chasse verte, B.P. 238
- post code 50102
- city Cherbourg Cedex
- country France
- **tel** +33.2.33.88.43.73
- **fax** +33.2.33.20.19.02
- **e-mail** infos@arts-du-cirque.com
- **web site** www.arts-du-cirque.com
- **artistic director** Jean VINET
- **administrative director** Cédric MARTIN
- **number of artist(s) welcomed** 2 artists
- **length of the stay** 3 months
- **proposed dates of the stay** Between September 1st 2005 and May 1st 2006 (to determine in relation to the artist's project)

artistic project of the host organisation

- **fields of expression proposed for the residency:**

The two fields of expression offered for this residency are circus arts and visual arts.

- **description the general artistic project of your structure:**

The Centre des Arts du Cirque is an organisation facilitating links between different artistic fields, between the artistic and cultural protagonists, between different generations and between different geographical worlds. It is a people-based art factory, whether in relation to itself, to others or to the world. The circus is a glimpse of contemporary civilisation; it transforms rigid structures because it focuses on infinity contained within a pore, a gesture. Its inheritance is to challenge and question the notion of belonging (human nature, urban areas, social circles) and absence (of guidelines, of distinctive signs). These are the issues that we investigate with the artists beyond the very phenomenon of over-production that characterises our society.

- **particular frame offered for this residency:**

During the residency period, the Centre will be undergoing structural work. This will be the basis of our question. What reality are we creating, architecturally, politically, socially, economically? How can the artist engage with the reality of this construction, this present and future edification? What is at stake on this building site? For the workman, the builder, the local people? How does it reflect our society?

- **the means of encouraging exchanges among different forms of expression:**

This is the very basis of our project, to bring together different artists through a common reflection, an artistic production as yet to be finalised, determined by events on site, in the heat of the moment, in the here and now of the manifestation of an idea, a project. Each creator is challenged in his vision, his perceptions, his desires, the meaning that unfolds. Their surroundings incite them to measure their acts, to express points of view, to enrich their joint reflections.

- **the means of fostering interactions with the human, social and economic contexts:**

Meetings are organised with other local organisations involved in local life, artistic training and cultural life. Practical workshops can be set up to encourage exchange and interaction between the artist and the inhabitant. The Centre hosts over 20 creative teams each year in the field of circus art and also in other areas and their presence can enrich the multiplicity of approaches.

- **human resources which will enable the artist to develop his project:**

Their small team is responsible for welcoming the artists on site. Their manager works solely on preparing their arrival and responding to their material and technical needs. They are trying to set up promotional tools to publicise and inform people of the artists' intentions and thus enable follow-up and continuity.

- **material resources which will be available for the artist:**

A semi-solid big top will be in place during the period of residency with a 13 m ring and a height of 10 m beneath the central dome, situated near the construction site and there will be access to the administrative offices, office equipment (computer, photocopier, Internet), a storeroom of tools and a pre-determined budget for miscellaneous expenses (supplies, rentals, DVD, books etc.) The residents will be living on site and will have access to a kitchen and refectory.

- **ways of promoting the artistic work:**

We will plan meetings with the public at different times during the residency in the form of readings, animated site visits, films, balls etc. Maybe a final show with amateurs; we are particularly interested in the format of the meetings.

description of the residency

- **description of the professional and artistic environment of the structure:**

The Centre is a creative beacon for the whole area, together with the 'Centre Dramatique national' in Caen (directed by Eric Lacascade), the Centre Choréographique National (directed by Héra Fatoumi and Eric Lamoureux), the Théâtre du Préau in Vire (ex CDN youth). We operate as a network, exchange our ideas, solicit meetings and participate in the regional cultural life by prioritising contemporary creation and its artistic, social and political implications.

Within the town itself, we work with the Centre Régional de la Photo that has, for a number of years, been developing events that bring together the work of plastic artists and social and environmental debate. We wish to work with l'Ecole des Beaux Arts that enrolls about fifty students each year and that wishes to expand its training towards new technologies and their interaction with the naval construction industry.

- **description of the local environment and the standard of living:**

The urban area of Cherbourg counts a population of 110 000 within 5 independent counties. Cherbourg is the second largest town in Basse-Normandie, after Caen, capital of the Cotentin peninsula; it is presently experiencing economic and social difficulties essentially due to the reduction in workload of Cogema, the recycling factory of La Hague, DCN, main nuclear submarine constructor and its cross channel ferry port. The population is majority working class and a gentle social transformation is in motion due to the increasing influx of tourists, more and more drawn to the nearby seaside resorts.

- **description of the means of accommodation and the distance from the working place:**

The residents live in caravans on site, close to the big top, the construction site and the offices. They have access to the offices, a refectory and kitchen.

- **amount of the grant (monthly):**

A grant of 1000 euros monthly will be given to the artist. An administrative budget will be attributed in relation to the project's needs (between 1000 and 5000 euros). The artists' travel expenses within France will be reimbursed and they will receive either an allowance of 8 euros/day for meals or catering will be provided (two meals a day).

- **financer of the grant:**

The 'Centre des Arts du Cirque' de Basse Normandie is financing this residency. Depending on the projects, complementary funding could be provided locally, departmentally or regionally.



comments of the national coordinator
