

International Creator Residency Program 2024 (B: Theme Projects)

Application Outline

Tokyo Arts and Space (TOKAS), operated by a division of The Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, offers artist-in-residence programs for international creators working in various creative fields to stay, engage in creation and conduct research activities in Tokyo. It also provides creators with the opportunities to exchange creative ideas and to present outcomes of their residency at TOKAS-organized events, such as the Open Studio.

The open-call program “International Creator Residency Program (Theme Projects)” for the period from May to July 2024 aims to invite two distinguished and highly motivated international creators in the field of visual art, film, design, and architecture who would engage in creative activities based on the theme “**Beyond Divisions.**” At the same time, we will call for two local creators in Japan who would stay at TOKAS Residency under the “Local Creator Residency Program” to work on the same theme during the same period. The four creators will have an opportunity to exchange ideas and have a dialogue based on the theme, while working independently on their own projects. The result of their residency will be presented at the Open Studio and/or the Result Presentation.

1. Project Theme: “Beyond Divisions”

One of the major changes brought by COVID-19 is the way we communicate with others. While some people had more conversations with their families as a result of spending more time at home, for most people, opportunities for direct interaction with others were rapidly lost.

Alternatively, online communication and gathering information through the internet spiked, however, bias in thinking caused by echo chambers*, slander on social networking sites, and the spread of fake news are becoming problematic. Societies distorted by such phenomena would eventually lead to societies intolerant towards diversity.

Austrian philosopher Karl Raimund Popper proposed the notion “Paradox of Tolerance” in his book entitled *The Open Society and its Enemies, Volume I* (first published from Routledge, 1945). Popper states: “If we extend unlimited tolerance even to those who are intolerant ... the tolerant will be destroyed, and tolerance with them.” This discourse implies that even though a tolerant situation appears ideal, a one-sided society cannot survive. In this contemporary society where divisions, conflicts, and disparities are widening, it is important to have a rational dialogue and discussion on an equal basis. What is in need now might be such ways of communication which used to be taken for granted.

TOKAS now calls for creators from various backgrounds who will work on the theme “Beyond Divisions” and seek to actively exchange ideas on cultural differences in thoughts, recognitions, actions and languages while engaging in creative activities in Tokyo/Japan during their stay at TOKAS Residency from May to July 2024. We hope that the program provides an opportunity to examine the underlying phenomena of our customs and societies in the metropolis Tokyo, a city where diverse identities intersect, through the framework of “Beyond Divisions”.

*An environment in which a person encounters only beliefs or opinions that coincide with their own, so that their existing views are reinforced and alternative ideas are not considered. (Oxford Languages, 2023)

2. Target for this program

This program is aimed at those creators

- who are willing to explore new creative activities in Tokyo.
- who practice in any of the following cultural/ artistic fields:
visual art, film, design, architecture.
- who are eager to exchange ideas with other residing creators.

3. Residency Period/ Number of Creators

[Residency Period]

From the beginning of May, 2024 to the end of July, 2024

[Number of Creators (tentative)]

2 creators

4. What TOKAS offers

- Living space (single room)
- Shared studio
- Airfare: A round-trip economy-class air ticket between the nearest airport from the place of residence and Tokyo (either Narita or Haneda Airport) will be provided.
- Living expenses (per diem): JPY 3,500 (consumption tax excluded) per day
- Fee for work/project: JPY 300,000 (consumption tax excluded)
- *Income tax (20.42%) will be deducted from the above amounts.
- *A twin-bedded room will be provided to creators applying as a duo.

5. Eligibility

- ① Resides outside of Japan.
- ② Has 5 years or more of experience in his/her specialized area of expertise.
- ③ Has sufficient ability to communicate in English with other residing creators and TOKAS staff for mutual understanding.
- ④ Independent and capable of working and living on his/her own.
- ⑤ Creators working as a duo are also eligible. (A duo consisting of at least one creator residing outside of Japan is eligible.)
- ⑥ Students are ineligible (except for Ph.D. candidates.)

6. Requirements/ Conditions

- ① Able to stay consecutively at TOKAS Residency during the proposed residency period.
- ② Shall create the work based on the theme to be presented at Open Studio and submit a comprehensive report on the proposed project.
- ③ Participate in the Result Presentation and other programs if asked by TOKAS, and cooperates with its public relations activity.
- ④ Do not carry out any commercial or profitable activities throughout the residency period.
- ⑤ Do not conduct any activities that would make big noise or vibration in TOKAS Residency.
- ⑥ The accommodation is provided for the participating creator only. Family members, partners, friends or guests are not permitted to stay at TOKAS Residency.

7. Application Deadline

Deadline to submit documents: **June 26, 2023, 18:00 (JST)**

Deadline to submit support materials: **July 3, 2023, 23:00 (JST)**

8. Selection Schedule

Selection stage: review with external juries in August, 2023

*The successful applicants will be informed of their final results individually by the end of September, 2023.

The final results will be announced through our website at the beginning of October, 2023.

*We do not respond to any individual inquiries on the selection process and result.

9. Application Method

[Submitting documents]

Please download Application Package from our website and read carefully through Manual (.pdf file). Please send your **①Application Form (1 and 2)** and **②Two letters of recommendation** mentioned in **10. Application** to TOKAS Residency referring to **12. Email Address for application** by Email. Please write your name and “International Creator Residency Program 2024 Theme Projects” on the subject line of your Email.

[Uploading materials]

We will inform you of the URL to upload support materials within five working days. Please make sure to upload **③Support materials** in **10. Application** no later than July 3, 2023, 23:00 (JST).

10. Application

- ① Application Form 1 and 2 (.pdf file): have to be filled in English
- ② Two letters of recommendation (.pdf file): have to be prepared by two different referees (stated in “3) Referees” in Application Form 2) from art and cultural institutions, related educational organizations, or professionals specialized in the fields of art and culture.
*Letters must include signatures of the referees, written in either English or Japanese in A4 format.
*Please send the scanned PDF files of letters by June 26, 2023, 18:00 (JST).
- ③ Support materials: referring to Manual (.pdf file), send support materials stated in “14) Past Projects” in Application Form 2.

*Any application which does not meet the requirements stated in this outline will not be accepted.

11. TOKAS Residency Facilities

Location: TOKAS Residency (2-14-7 Tatekawa, Sumida-ku, Tokyo)

-Single room (25 m²) / twin-bedded room (49 m²)

*Each accommodation is equipped with kitchen, toilet, bath, furniture (bed, desk, chairs, etc.), refrigerator, air-conditioner, tableware, towels and sets of linen.

-Wi-Fi internet connection: All day accessible

-Common spaces: Available from 9:30-22:00

*Networking room (equipped with kitchen, dining and living room sets, computer, printer, TV, etc.), library, laundry, and shared studios (125 m² and 48 m²)

12. Email Address for application

Email: apply_residency2024@tokyoartsandspace.jp

*Please do not send inquiries to this email address. You will not receive a response to inquiries sent to this email address.

13. Inquiries

Email: contact_residency2023@tokyoartsandspace.jp

*For inquiries not listed in the FAQ page on our website, please contact us by Email by June 2, 2023. We will update the FAQ on our website after June 9, 2023. Please note that in principle, we cannot answer each inquiry individually.

14. Policy of Personal information usage

TOKAS uses your personal information solely for contacting you on this program. TOKAS never uses or shares your personal information provided to us in ways unrelated to the one described above, also providing you an opportunity to opt-out otherwise prohibiting such unrelated uses.

*This Program is finalized to be implemented under the condition of obtaining the approval for the Annual Plan 2024 of Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture by the Board of Directors by the end of March 2024.