

# EXCHANGE PROGRAM THESSALONIKI – LEIPZIG 2023

## Call for Artists from Greece

### Two eight-week Residencies in Leipzig in 2023

In 2023, the sixth interdisciplinary exchange program between Leipzig and Thessaloniki will take place. Artists living in or originating from Greece are invited to apply for one of the two eight-week residencies in Leipzig (Germany). A jury of specialists will choose two artists from the applications received. The residencies in Leipzig will take place from May 2 to June 25, 2023 and July 3 to August 27, 2023.

For the duration of their stay, awardees will reside in a 140 m<sup>2</sup> studio in HALLE 14 Art Centre, which is located on the historic industrial area known as Leipziger Baumwollspinnerei (Leipzig Cotton Spinning Mill). Each resident will receive a one-time stipend of 2,500 euros and will be reimbursed for travel expenses up to 300 euros.

The project planned for the residency should relate artistically to the past, present and/or future of the partner cities Thessaloniki and Leipzig. It can also involve various forms of cultural exchange and networking between the partner cities. It should deepen individual aspects or reveal new facets. The accompanying descriptions of Leipzig and Thessaloniki provide a short introduction to the connections and differences between the two cities. Project proposals will be selected on the basis of their promise of high artistic or cultural quality. A completed result at the end of the residency is not expected.

Please send your completed application documents in English by 23:59 CET on **March 12, 2023** to **Claudia Gehre (HALLE 14), [studioprogramm@halle14.org](mailto:studioprogramm@halle14.org)**

Please use our application form, available online at: **[www.halle14.org/studioprogramm/residenzen](http://www.halle14.org/studioprogramm/residenzen)**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Claudia Gehre by e-mail or by phone at +49 341 492 42 02.

An exchange project by:



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# Leipzig and Thessaloniki

The city of **Leipzig** owes its rich history to its location on the old trade routes of the Via Regia and Via Imperii, which in the Middle Ages turned the city into a metropolis for commerce and trade fairs between Western and Eastern Europe. For many centuries, Leipzig was an international center of the fur trade. A very large Jewish community was linked with this trade—until the Shoah. Through trade links with the Ottoman Empire, one of the largest Greek communities settled there as well. Many Greeks studied at the 600 year-old university in early modernity, spreading the enthusiasm for Greek antiquity in the German-speaking countries. At the gates of Leipzig, the forces allied against France brought about the historically decisive defeat of Napoleon and his allies (which included the Kingdom of Saxony) during the Battle of the Nations in 1813. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Leipzig became an industrial and publishing city and a metropolis of almost 1 million. Through the two world wars, the Nazi regime and 40 years of GDR socialism, Leipzig lost numerous inhabitants and its importance as a place of economic, cultural and artistic exchange. However, numerous commentators on the political events of 1989/90 see Leipzig's important role in the non-violent protest against the SED dictatorship as part of its cosmopolitan tradition. This resistance played a large role in the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War.



Sam Albatros, Queer Exodus, Performance, 2021

In the past decades, the city has started to rediscover its potential. In 2007 The Guardian chose Leipzig as the »hottest place on earth«. The New York Times recommends the city as »one place to go in 2020« due to its history of transformation from historic industrial center through the shrinking of the 1990s to today's »cool-kid town«. Located on the premises of the Leipziger Baumwollspinnerei (Leipzig Cotton Spinning Mill), HALLE 14 is part of this revitalization process. Beyond that, there is a lively art scene in Leipzig with

the Academy of Fine Arts—famous not only for New Leipzig School Painting, but also for photography as well as graphic and book arts—the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum for Contemporary Art, numerous galleries and art associations as well as off-spaces and an experimental club culture. Other attractions include the Gewandhaus Concert Hall, the German National Library, the zoo and many other museums.

The cultural heritage of Leipzig's partner city **Thessaloniki** is over 1300 years older and richer. The city, founded by the Macedonians in 315 BCE, is mentioned in the New Testament because the apostle Paul stayed there during his missionary trips and founded a congregation. During its long history, the city has been part of the Roman, Byzantine and—as Selânik—Ottoman empires and served repeatedly as the residence of emperors.

Today it is the second largest city in Greece and also an important modern university, trade fair, cultural and industrial city. Its international trade port on the Mediterranean makes Thessaloniki Europe's gateway to the Balkans. Located at the intersection of the Balkan trade route and Via Egnatia, the city has been a crossroads between cultures since ancient times. Because of the large Jewish community, the city was known for centuries as the »Jerusalem of the Balkans«. Many Jews expelled from the Iberian Peninsula in the 15<sup>th</sup> century found a new home there until almost the entire community was destroyed under the German occupation in World War II. Before the war, it had 53,000 members. The founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, was born in Selânik. He was one of the historical figures who re-designed the political geography between Southeast Europe and Asia Minor at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the 1920s, after numerous wars, there was an exchange of population between Greece and Turkey: A large number of the Greek refugees from Anatolia found a new home in and around Thessaloniki, while the Turks who lived in the city were required to leave it.

The pulsating life of the present is shaped by the tradition and modernity of locals, students, migrants and tourists. The long history of the city can be explored in the Archaeological Museum, the Museum of Byzantine Culture and the Ethnological Museum. The Museum of Modern Art houses the most important collection of the Russian avant-garde outside Russia. The Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art shows a large collection of Greek and international works of art. Important to the cultural scene of Thessaloniki are, among others, the National Theatre of Northern Greece, the »Lazarist Cloister«, the Royal Theater, the »Garden Theater« and the large Megaron Mousikis concert hall directly on the coastal

promenade »Paralia«. Furthermore, the »International Film Festival Thessaloniki« takes place every November. In 1997, Thessaloniki was the European Capital of Culture. The Goethe-Institut Thessaloniki was officially opened in October 1955, making it one of the oldest in the world.



Klara Charlotte Zeitz, Semantic Greenhouse, 2021,  
Photo: Alisa Kossak, 2021

In the middle of the city there are also many original buildings to be discovered that testify to the different historical layers of Thessaloniki: for example the Roman forum, the many neoclassical buildings, several early Christian and Byzantine churches and last but not least the »White Tower«, an impressive monument to the medieval fortifications and today's symbol of the city. In the evening, cafés, ouzeri restaurants, taverns, bars, bouzouki pubs and wine bars in the port city invite you to outings and to enjoy Greek specialties.

The importance of both cities is revealed by their historical and cultural diversity. In 1984 Thessaloniki and Leipzig signed a partner city agreement, which was renewed in 2008. After the catastrophes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the benefits of transcultural exchange, which brought about European unification, new digital media and globalization, became almost self-evident. At the same time, economic injustices and economic crises increase social tensions, which put cosmopolitanism, democracy and transcultural exchange in question. The past and present of the two partner cities offer numerous, partly still undiscovered connecting lines that can be explored literarily and artistically and that could be activated for cultural exchange. This current exchange program between Thessaloniki and Leipzig aims to have a long-term effect and to offer creative people opportunities for their discovery and new connections.

## Previous awardees:

### 2022:

Grizzly & Leo Productions: Marina Erler & Paula Schlagbauer (artist/author)  
Mata Kastrisiou (author)  
Dafni Melidou (artist)

### 2021:

Sam Albatros (author)  
Evangelia Basdekis (artist)  
Cosima Phanessa Petratos (author)  
Laila Uhl (artist)

### 2020:

Marios Chatziprokopiou (anthropologist & author)  
Aikaterini Gegisian (artist)  
Alisa Kossak (artist)  
Klara Charlotte Zeitz (author)

### 2019:

Lucia Graf (artist & author)  
Geeske Janßen (artist)  
Elma Petridou (artist)  
Evita Tsokanta (author & curator)

### 2018:

Peter Hermans (artist)  
Christine Koschmieder (author & literary agent)

# Information on the Residency in Leipzig



Installations of Studio Forage and Isola Art Center & out in the exhibition: The Future of Cities. Not for Granted (2021/22), Photo: Walther Le Kon, 2021

## HALLE 14 - Centre for Contemporary Art

Founded in 2002, the non-profit art center HALLE 14 is a space for the presentation of, reflection on and communication about contemporary art. HALLE 14 is located in a five-story industrial building within the Leipziger Baumwollspinnerei. Since 2003, one to three international group exhibitions take place presenting socio-critical positions (e.g. »Forgotten Enlightenments. Unknown stories on Islam in contemporary art«, 2019, »The Future of Cities. Not for Granted«, 2020) challenging exhibition traditions and reception habits as well as bringing rarely represented art regions into focus (e.g. »Distant Divides - Between Lebanon and Germany«, 2022). Our unique art library, with a collection of more than 25,000 books and other media, an art mediation program, event series, and our studio program shape into HALLE 14 to a lively, nationally and internationally recognized art center. For visual artists also a digital photo lab is available for their own projects.



Studio 7 on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of HALLE 14, Photo: HALLE 14, 2020

## THE STUDIO

The studio is found on the first floor of the historically registered industrial building. It combines the charm of the historic factory building with new architectural elements. The heated workspace is 140 m<sup>2</sup> with a 4.35 meter ceiling. The studio is furnished with a worktable, a desk, chairs, shelves to store work materials, a bed, a dresser and a small cooking unit and has internet access. Restrooms and a shower can be found on the floor. The studio offers an ideal retreat for a period of concentrated creation while at the same time—and just a couple of steps from the studio—providing all of the advantages of working in the middle of a cultural hub like HALLE 14 and the Leipziger Baumwollspinnerei: research and inspiration, exchange and contacts. On the same floor you can find twelve more studios, used by other artists & collectives.



Leipziger Baumwollspinnerei, Photo: Uwe Walter, 2014

## LEIPZIGER BAUMWOLLSPINNEREI

The Leipziger Baumwollspinnerei is an almost six hectare factory complex with 24 historically registered production halls and other buildings built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. From 1884 to 1907, it grew to become the largest cotton spinning mill in continental Europe. In the 1990s, even before yarn production had completely ceased, artists began to put the space to alternative use. Today over 130 creative workers and visual artists find the ideal studio and office spaces for their work. Since 2002, the former manufacturing plant has transformed into one of the strongest and liveliest centers for art in Germany. Over a dozen galleries from Leipzig found their home here. The complex also houses a theater, a movie theater, an art supply store, project spaces, and numerous printers and trades- and craftspeople.