

Jelsa Art Biennial 2023: DECUBATOR

Open call for artists in residency

**JELSA ART
BIENNIAL**

OPEN CALL
APRIL 20TH – MAY 11TH

2023



HVAR

DEKUBATOR

The Jelsa Art Biennial is a festival of contemporary art, which since 2019 on the island of Hvar connects different audiences through a multitude of artistic media and practices. The event is specific for works that are mainly performed in public spaces or spaces out of use, activated as part of the festival, with the aim of bringing contemporary art closer to the widest possible audience and emphasizing art that conveys the message of social responsibility and sustainability.

The third edition, which will be held in Jelsa from May to August 2023, is thematically located under the umbrella concept of Decubator. As part of the artistic residencies, the artists, in cooperation with mentors/curators, will perform 2 productions of new collaborative works and presentations at the locations of the biennial.

The residency program is separated into 2 programs:

1. Tunnel – 20.6.-1.7.2023.
2. Imagining Gardens – 20.7.-31.7.2023.

Applicants can apply to one of the two programs.

1. RESIDENCY PROGRAM – TUNNEL – 20.6.-1.7.2023.

Mentor: **Francisca Rocha Gonçalves** (PT)

JAB23 focuses on a street in Jelsa in the network of the Mediterranean city – Kala. The residency project focuses on practices such as bioart, ecological art and care practices that the artists in residence will develop in collaboration with artist Francisca Rocha Gonçalves and implement in the public space of Jelsa. The intervention will take place site-specifically in a specific transitional space in Jelsa, more specifically in a tunnel in the center of the city where tourism is very important in the main part of the street and in a side street adjacent to the life of the locals, a potential space for the meeting of two worlds. The tunnel is a metaphor for transfer, migration, the connection of micro-communities, and the idea is to make visible something bigger than ourselves: nature.

The production is conceived as a **collaborative site-specific installation**. Residential program in Jelsa on the **island of Hvar** from **June 20** to **July 1 2023**.

[Francisca Rocha Gonçalves](#) – a researcher from Porto, currently living in Berlin. She holds a degree in veterinary medicine from ICBAS (University of Porto), a master's degree in interactive music and sound design from FEUP (University of Porto) and a PhD in digital media from FEUP (University of Porto). Her research focuses on acoustic ecology in artistic creation as a tool for raising awareness of underwater soundscapes. She currently works for ICARUS, collaborating with Dr. Johannes Goessling and Luis Aranda. ICARUS is an art-science project that focuses on the photonic properties of diatoms and creates enlarged

ice sculptures of their inner shells. She is the co-founder of the art collective Openfield Creative Lab and the project Ocean Soundscape Awareness – ØSAW.



Artist profile that we are looking for

As part of the open call, we are looking for artists suitable for collaborative work in an environment outside the studio, since the locations of the entire biennial are determined by the characteristics of work in public space and spaces where the private and public spheres meet.

The invitation is open to artists from the fields of: music, sound, light, bio-art, ecological artistic practices, scientific disciplines.

2. RESIDENCY PROGRAM IMAGINING GARDENS – 20.7.-31.7.2023.

Mentors: **Anja Leko & Andrej Beštak** (HR), **Paula Pļavniece** (LV)

The residency program looks at the new, invisible dimensions of the kala space (the street in the grid of the Mediterranean city), the spaces of demarcation between the wild and the urban, the permeation of culture and nature – gardens hidden behind the street facades.

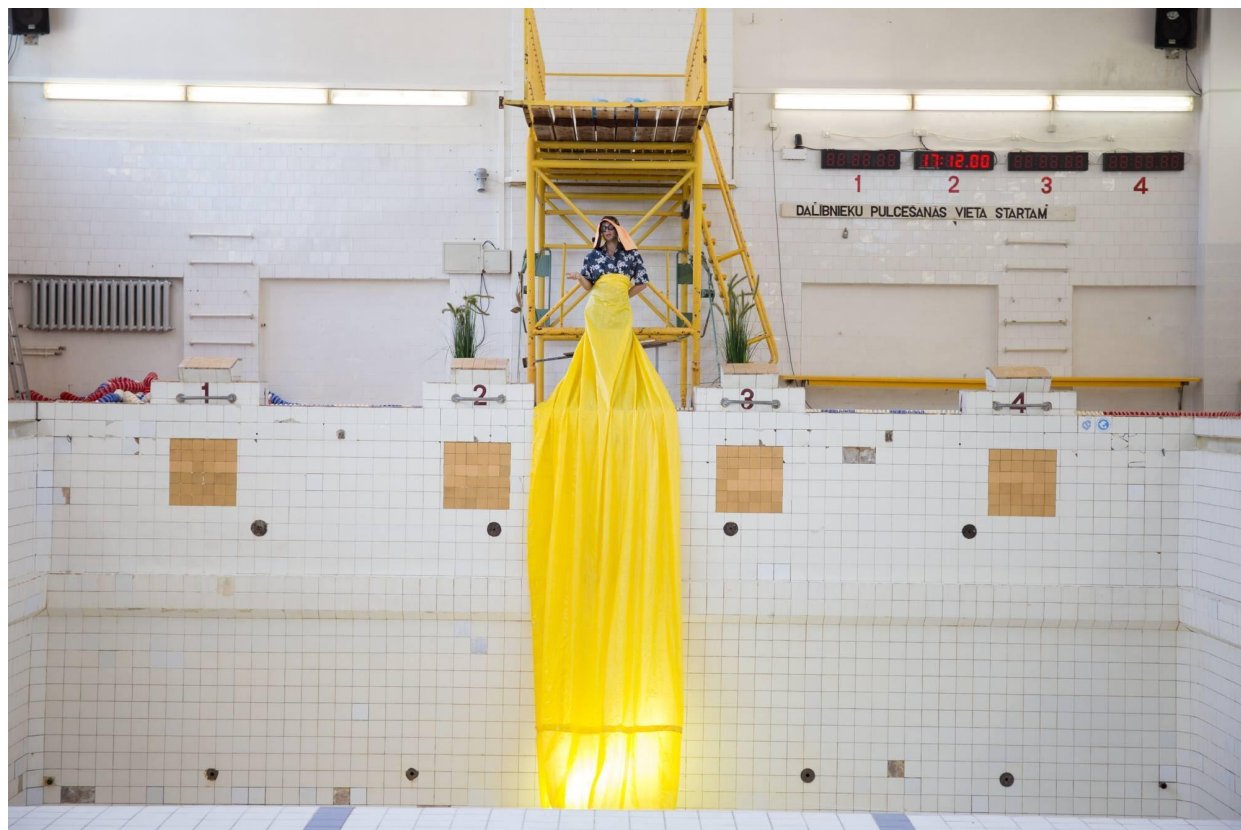
The garden is a symbol of the meeting of culture and technology, it represents nature, but also controlled conditions for the growth of plants. Individuals take care of it and select the development of the species that grow in it, and the idea of nurturing it is to keep human existence alive. The garden is not linear, there is a constant time of non-events, which is a condition for life to develop in it. Its space opens up time for thinking, rest, enjoyment and contemplation, but also a period of preparation for what is to come, a time of action. These hidden processes are often overlooked and dismissed, but they are a crucial part of life. The garden also offers a conscious decision about what to keep and what to leave behind. Constant transformation of existing forms in order to accumulate new ones, constant mutation of species to the point of unrecognizability. It shows us a world that is constantly moving and its traditions, and constantly challenges us with the question of what information we want to preserve.

The production is conceived as a **collaborative multimedia performance**, inspired by the opera format. The residential program will take place in a **hybrid format: online work development** in cooperation with mentors **from June 1-30** and **implementation of work in Jelsa** on the island of **Hvar** from **July 20 to 31 2023**.

Anja Leko & Andrej Beštak (HR) – Andrej Beštak and Anja Leko are an artistic duo from Zagreb, Croatia, currently living in Reykjavik, Iceland. Their artistic practice includes installations, performances and video works. They are mostly considered storytellers in spaces using visual language and sounds, rather than words, to create an emotional dialogue between the artwork and the audience.



Paula Pļavniece (LV) – Paula Pļavniece is a Latvian theater director who has been working in non-governmental and state theater projects since 2014, mostly as a director. In her artistic practice, the main fields of interest are socially and politically active topics and new drama, with a focus on aspects such as inclusion, ecology, integration, etc. Her works often include working with local communities and creating site-specific art projects.



Artist profiles that we are looking for

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The call is open to artists from the fields of: sound, multimedia, visual arts, dance/physical theater, literature/poetry, dramatic arts, music and various vocal practices.

WHAT DO WE OFFER?

- Mentoring support in the production of collaborative work
- Travel expenses coverage
- Camp accommodation
- Creation of artwork in the framework of the project
- Exhibition as part of Jelsa Art Biennial 2023
- Masterclass bio-art workshop with Francisca Rocha Goncalves/PT
- Masterclass workshop with theater director Paule Pļavniece/LV

WHERE TO APPLY:

Applicants can apply to one of two residency programs.

Applications are sent exclusively through email to the email address jabiennial@gmail.com until **11 May 2023**. (midnight)

The application should contain::

- Applicant's CV - max 1 A4 page
- Motivation letter - max 1 A4 page
- Applicant's artistic portfolio - max 15 A4 pages
- Note which of the 2 residency programs the applicant is applying for (in the title of the application.)
- Applications should be imported into one PDF document.

The results will be published on the **LAB852 website** by **May 30, 2023** (www.lab852.com).

The contact person is **Marija Kamber** (marija@lab852.com). If you do not receive a confirmation of receipt within 5 working days of sending the application, please contact us at **091 7500 127**.

Organization in co-production of LAB852, Odživi otok association, Kružok association

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