

OPEN CALL – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE AT OPENART, SWEDEN

How to apply?

Email to: openart@orebro.se, mark subject line with: AiR Magic Carpets

What to include: CV + Portfolio + A short text about possible artwork you would like to develop during the residency and how you would like to work with the community.

About OPENART:

OPENART is a public art biennial that takes place in Örebro, Sweden. During twelve summer weeks contemporary art from all over the world is showcased in the public space. The exhibition has artists with different backgrounds, art mediums and expressions to fill the city with art. The tenth edition of the biennial is to take place 2026.

OPENART is based on a conviction that a creative society builds bridges and not walls. It is a unique event that turns the city upside down with unconventional art, encouraging bold ideas and promoting unusual expressions. OPENART invites a broad and curious audience to experience the art regardless of if they are acquainted with art or not.

We have an archive on our website from previous exhibitions:

<https://openart.se/openart/arkivopenart.4.69c6f29a184148a181556c3.html>



Summary of the residency brief 2025:

OpenArt welcomes one international artist to take part in the residency 2025 with the residency period: 1 – 30 September (2025).

The residency has its emphasis on practical work, but a small part of the time could be dedicated to research. The artist will work together with a community to explore the themes of the residency with the aim of creating an artwork that can be exhibited at OpenArt Biennial 2026. Since OpenArt is an outdoor exhibition using the public space as its arena we welcome artists to the residency who has previous experience working in the public space or artists who has always been interested in working in the public space but never got the chance.

Theme of the residency:

OpenArt Biennial is taking place 13 June – 6 September 2026, just before the Swedish national election that will take place 13 September 2026. With the residency we are searching for artists who wants to explore subjects such as collective processes, democracy and/or sustainable change. It can be art practices that engage and activates the inhabitants of Örebro by creating an interactive artwork. Or it can be art practices that reflects on current world politics and or/climate crisis and invite people to imagine a new possible future. It can be art practices that uses the public space as its starting point and what it means for people sharing spaces or how a society is shaped by its people.

Community:

In the residency the artist will work with a local community called Ung Arena (Young Arena) here in Örebro. Ung Arena is an operation within the Municipality of Örebro aiming to create meaningful activities for young people below 20 years of age who is not in school or working. Ung Arena is helping young people to break isolation and find a way forward, either back to school or another path that suits them better. Ung Arena is helping them to maintain routines and social contacts. People are in the program for different reasons, having difficulties staying school, living with an NPF-diagnosis or having difficulties coming out into working life and finding employment. The artist will have support from leaders in Ung Arena, OpenArt's two EU-volunteers and the OpenArt Team when working with the community.

The artist chooses how they want to work with the community, but it is preferable if the work is implemented some way in the artwork created in the residency. It can be through interviews, dialogues or creative workshops.

When working with the community it is important for the artist to be respectful, have patience and being open minded to unexpected things happening. The purpose is not for the artist to teach or lead the community but rather learning and exploring both ways. The artist can grow and learn from the community and the community can grow and learn from the artist. The team of OpenArt is very dedicated to creating a safe working process for both the artist and the community with focus on joy and curiosity when collaborating.

The majority of the participators in Ung Arena can speak English but the artist should be prepared that some only wants to speak Swedish. In those cases, OpenArt will help to translate.

Location, facilities and organisation:

The OpenArt organisation is located in the city Örebro. Here lives 128 000 inhabitants. The OpenArt Team is small but warm-hearted and ambitious. OpenArt can offer technical guidance, support and some assistance throughout the process. At the OpenArt office we have a wood workshop, metal workshop, printers and other facilities such as kitchen and social spaces. The OpenArt team work hard and expect the artist to work hard as well and to be a project leader of their own work with us as support. When working with the community the artist will have two EU-volunteer as support.



Characteristics of the artist:

- Knows their way around a wood and metal workshop, knows the craft of the material the artist chooses to work with.
- Open for the use of materials that are less permanent or may be reusable. (OpenArt can be supportive in looking for this kind of material.)
- Having worked with art that is to be placed outside is desirable (but not mandatory).
- Understanding that artworks placed in public needs to be durable to withstand both wind, rain and curious hands.

Final event

In the residency period there will be a final event in the form of an artist talk where the artist is talking about their art practice, their process in their residency and the community they have worked with. If the artist chooses, the community can also take part in the artist talk. The final event will be shaped together with the curator. It can be either open to the public or for a closed group.

Timeline for residency: 1 – 30 September 2025

Beginning of April: Open Call

14 - 25 April 2025: Selection of artists

May/June 2025: Possibility for visiting Örebro for research ahead of residency (3-5 days)

1 – 30 September: Residency period (can be shortened if artists choose to have a research visit)

June 2026: Possibility for artist to take part in installation of artwork

13 June 2026: Opening of OpenArt 2026, artist is invited to attend the opening

Artist expenses that will be covered:

Confirmed artists will receive an artist fee of 2 255 Euro.

OpenArt provides production support according to an agreed production budget (1 000 Euro). OpenArt in dialogue with the artist should find the most appropriate, time-efficient, and cost-effective solutions.

OpenArt books and pays for the transport of artworks to and from the exhibition.

OpenArt books and pays for travel and accommodation during residency and installation and opening of the exhibition 2026.

OpenArt covers costs related to the installation period 2026 such as permits, cranes, wheel loaders, lifts, electricity, and technical staff.

OpenArt provides the artist with the documentation (photo) after (or during) the exhibition 2026.