

Schafhof – European Art Forum Upper Bavaria in Freising near Munich



Schafhof
Europäisches
Kunstforum
Oberbayern

bezirk  oberbayern

AIR | Mission Statement

The Artist-in-Residence program (AIR) of the Schafhof – European Art Forum Upper Bavaria is open to artists from across Europe. The values of a borderless, open and free continent, a Europe of regions, are reflected in the program's purpose and meaning. As a European art center we offer a platform for lively exchange and a network of ideas.

Europe of regions

Network of ideas

All fields of contemporary visual art are represented. Forming the main themes are the two poles of technology and nature as central pillars of a modern and sustainable community, which is fostered by the setting and facilities of the art center. The location in the midst of nature and the exceptional architecture create an atmosphere in which artists can concentrate on their work, while they can also integrate into the rich art scene of Munich and Upper Bavaria.

All art fields

Technology and nature

An equitable exchange with partner institutions in various countries leads to a multifaceted and sustainable network. Desired and envisaged is a broad integrating of participating artists within local structures on site and within regional art scenes.

Partner institutions

Local – international

Jure Markota (SLO): , exhibition *Transfer > Slovenia*, 2013



The Institution | District Council of Upper Bavaria

The Schafhof – European Art Forum Upper Bavaria is a public institution of the District Council of Upper Bavaria. The District Council of Upper Bavaria is a municipal regional authority anchored in the constitution of the Free State of Bavaria on the third communal level and is represented by district council president Josef Meder. The district council president also acts as the sponsoring body of the artist exchange outlined by the European Art Fellowship of the District Council of Upper Bavaria.

Communal institution

**District Council
president sponsorship**

The District Council of Upper Bavaria is responsible for the areas of social, health, education, environment, cultivation of the home region, and culture. In this context, the district council supports and promotes regional culture as well as various museums and cultural institutions throughout Upper Bavaria. The Schafhof – European Art Forum Upper Bavaria is a center for contemporary visual art with a focus on artist exchange within Europe as well as an international exhibition program.

**Regional cultural
promotion**

**Center for
contemporary art**



The Art Forum | Program

The Art Forum has a dual focus: the Artist-in-Residence program organized in collaboration with international partner institutions as part of the European Art Fellowship of the District Council of Upper Bavaria as well as an international exhibition program. Its function as a professional, locally, regionally and internationally networked art center is complemented by a highly extensive program of events under the rubric *Art Forum LIVE*, featuring lectures, workshops, and guided tours, traditional crafts markets, as well as the sculpture garden.

The diverse cultural program of the Schafhof defines the institution as a center for contemporary art that serves as a platform for regional and international cultural exchange. Situated in a natural setting in Freising, not far from Munich, the art center is a popular destination for day trips and excursions with its unique architecture and the Café Botanika.

Artist-in-Residence program

International exhibition program

Art Forum LIVE

Cultural exchange

Natural setting



Bjørn Melhus: *Nightwatch*, 2013

AIR | Life & Art

The artists and their personal and artistic needs form the focal point of the artist-in-residence program. The stipend and residency in the host countries are intended to provide artists the opportunity to devote themselves exclusively to their artistic work for this time period. This specifically includes conceptual work, networking and research; artists are not required to produce work.

The Art Forum organizes various activities and events for residents conducted in consultation with them, e.g. visiting regional art venues, the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich and exhibitions and openings in and around Munich.

It is possible to hold your own events and meetings with the support of the Art Forum. Get-togethers with guests and relaxing evening barbecues in the garden also add to the residency's appeal.

The artist's residency at the Schafhof includes a public presentation, an artist talk and a joint exhibition of all artists in the Art Forum's gallery spaces in the year following their stay.

Focus on the artists

Time for art

Various activities

Hold your own events

Get-togethers

**Open studio day
& exhibition**



Transfer > Ukraine II, 2015

AIR | Infrastructure

The Schafhof provides residents three comfortable live-work studios. Two of these spaces feature living and work areas on two levels; the third space divides the living area and studio into two separate rooms.

Each unit has a kitchenette, equipped with an oven and refrigerator, as well as integrated bathroom/shower wall modules. All rooms are centrally heated and can be used year round. Wi-Fi is available in all rooms.

The *Lounge & Library Gaffron* on the ground floor is open to residents for meet-ups and getting together with invited guests or perusing the art library's English- and German-language holdings.

Computer, camera, projector and other audiovisual equipment are available to residents as well as a small workshop with tools for working with wood and metal, all free-of-charge. The outdoor garden area can be used for artistic purposes by arrangement.

Comfortable live-work studios

Integrated kitchens

Wireless internet access

Lounge & library

Video technology

Workshop and garden



AIR | Conditions

The Schafhof Artist-in-Residence program generally takes place on a collaborative basis with partner organizations from European countries. Artists apply to the institution in their respective country for their residency in the partner country.

Each year, 1-3 participants per country live and work for 1-3 months in the respective partner country. The number of participants and length of residency are the same at both institutions. The partner institutions are responsible for providing the artists free live/work opportunities in their respective country, a monthly stipend, one-time travel costs, and professional on-site support. Conditions are negotiable according to situation.

A residency requirement exists for the residency period but travel to and projects in other locations for a limited number of days are possible during this time and also desirable for artistic development.

Collaborative basis

Flexible time periods

Free live/work opportunities

Stipend and support

**Residency requirement
Travel and projects**



The Schafhof | Building

The “Schafhof” royal sheep farm in Freising was established in 1820 by order of King Max I Joseph as a model farm for his valuable heard of Merino sheep. Following acquisition and renovation by the District Council of Upper Bavaria in the 1990s, it was reopened in 2015 as a European center for art.

Established in 1820 as a royal sheep farm

Art center since 2015

The unique architecture of the complex features residential buildings flanking the stables as well as a barrel-vaulted roof. Located in the west wing are three comfortable live/work studios available to recipients of the European Art Fellowship of the District Council of Upper Bavaria. The east wing houses offices, storage rooms and the café’s kitchen.

Exceptional architecture

The art center’s ground-floor gallery and second-floor exhibition hall are located in the center section of the building and offer nearly 450-square meters of regular exhibition space. The unusual barrel vault roof makes for a unique atmosphere in the region and beyond.

Unique atmosphere



Exhibitions | Concept

Exhibitions at the Schafhof throughout the year present international and local contemporary art positions. Featured are all art forms including painting, video art, sculpture, photography, drawing, conceptual art, and installation. Themed group exhibitions, solo exhibitions with internationally recognized artists and the Artist-in-Residence program presentation are shown in alternation.

Annual themes serve as common threads that tie the exhibition program together and facilitate access to contemporary art by presenting a range of viewpoints on a particular theme, creating greater understanding and fun for viewers when experiencing art. Some themes focus on a particular aspect of formal artistic language (e.g., 2013: Color, 2015: Structure, 2017: Sound), while other themes take up current issues (e.g., 2014: Illusion, 2016: Identity, 2018: Art & Science).

The program is complemented by a professional supporting program featuring guided tours, lectures, artist talks, symposia, workshops, and events organized by external partners.

Contemporary art

All visual art forms

Annual themes

Understand and have fun

Professional supporting program



Sculpture Garden | Café Botanika

The garden and grounds of the Schafhof are used for presenting sculptures and installations created for the exhibitions or international artist-exchange projects. These public space art interventions have been developed over the course of a longer and more intensive study of the surroundings and the natural setting and history of the Schafhof. The sculpture garden is intimately tied to the building and the art center's function, providing visitors both changing exhibitions as well as added offerings of contemporary art.

The Café Botanika at Schafhof pampers visitors with homemade cakes and coffee specialties as well as seasonal dishes, set within a creative atmosphere. The terrace offers a picturesque view of the garden and the city of Freising and Weihenstephan.

Art interventions

Added artistic offerings

Relaxed atmosphere

Picturesque view



Beate Engl: Lonebase, kinetic installation, 2013

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