

Cité internationale des arts

Shtëpi

**National Gallery of Kosovo - NGK
x Cité internationale des arts**

The laureates 2026

The National Gallery of Kosovo (NGK) and the Cité internationale des arts are delighted to announce the laureates of their joint residency programme, and to unveil the forthcoming exhibition project at NGK QAFA.

Launched in September 2025, Shtëpi is an innovative residency programme for artists of all disciplines living and working in Kosovo. Aimed at fostering international mobility, expanding professional and artistic networks, and strengthening artistic practices through dedicated support in research, production, and visibility, the programme offers a three-month residency in Paris (3 September – 27 November 2026) and group exhibition opening in December 2026 at the National Gallery of Kosovo QAFA.

The residency includes tailored professional support, networking with artists and art professionals based in France, and integration into the Cité's diverse community of international creators.

This collaboration embodies a shared commitment to cross-cultural dialogue, emerging artistic practices, and the global circulation of ideas. The combined exhibition and residency structure enables artists to realize ambitious new works, reach new audiences, and establish sustainable artistic trajectories.

"A residency experience such as this often marks a pivotal moment in an artist's career: it provides dedicated time and space for experimentation, exchange, and reflection. At the Cité, artists from all over the globe become part of an extraordinary community of creators, working across disciplines and cultures. This environment encourages collaboration, dialogue, and new perspectives, fostering both personal and artistic growth. We are proud to welcome artists from Kosovo into this dynamic and ambitious project."

**— Vincent Gonzalvez, Director of Residencies,
Arts and Culture Programme and Communication,
Cité internationale des arts**

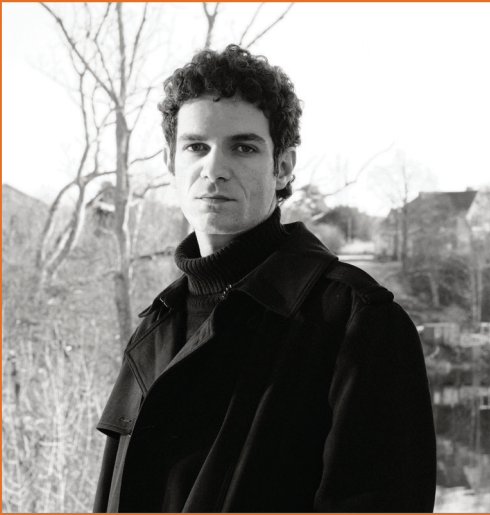
"Through the partnership between the Cité internationale des arts and the residency programme Shtëpi, the National Gallery of Kosovo continues to think about its role not only as a site of presentation but as an active context for making and exchange. The programme seeks to support artistic production and offers artists time and space to expand their practices while opening pathways for dialogue and collaboration across geographies. Realized within the framework of the Cité, renowned for its long-standing commitment to supporting artistic research and international exchange, this initiative is an exceptional opportunity to situate Kosovar artists within a broader network of global contemporary practices."

— Hana Halilaj, Curator, The National Gallery of Kosovo

Following a selection process by a jury of contemporary art professionals, Arrita Katona, Ermir Zhinipotoku, and Luiza Thaqi are the 2026 laureates of the second edition of Shtëpi.



Arrita Katona is an artist from Gjakova, Kosovo, working across photography, installation, and sound. She studied Graphic Design at the University of Prishtina and holds an MFA in Photography from FAMU in Prague. Her research-based practice explores how photography and archives shape the representation of women, examining memory, gender, surveillance, and the politics of visibility. Combining image-making, installation, sound, and archival research, she investigates the ways historical and contemporary systems of representation construct, suppress, and preserve lived experience. Her work has been exhibited at Adlergasse Gallery (Dresden), MeetFactory and Teleport Gallery (Prague), and MuseumsQuartier (Vienna).



Ermir Zhinipotoku (b. 1997, Martigny, Switzerland) is a visual artist based in Prishtina, Kosovo, where he received his BA in Painting from the Faculty of Arts, University of Prishtina, in 2019. His practice focuses primarily on painting, while also extending to drawing, printmaking, and installation. His works move between figuration and abstraction, where animals, landscapes, and everyday elements take on psychological and symbolic meanings. His paintings create spaces in which the real and the imaginary come together, exploring intimacy and existential uncertainty. The animal world serves as a mirror for human states, while meticulous mark-making and fluid contours give the surfaces a particular density and presence.

His work has been shown in *Silent Threads* at Galleria Continua, Paris (2025), and in solo presentations including *Ephemeral Echoes* at LambdaLambdaLambda, Prishtina, and *Prej Studios* at the National Historical Museum, Tirana (both 2024). He was a finalist for the Artists of Tomorrow Award at Stacion — Center for Contemporary Art, Prishtina (2025).



Luiza Thaqi is a visual artist who lives and works in Kosovo. Her practice encompasses painting, installation, and sculpture, addressing themes related to society, gender, urbanisation, built environments, and environmental issues. These interests focus on the relationships that are formed between social and ecological systems, explored through collaborative and non-hierarchical approaches.

Thaqi has presented her work in exhibitions including *Flushing: What We Discard Does Not Disappear* at Kurshullus Studio (2025), *Garden of Hybrids: Cultivating Realities* at Galeria 17 (2025), and *Interwoven – Between Roots and Skylines* at Europe House Kosovo (2023). In 2024, she was a finalist for the *Artist of Tomorrow Awards*, organised by Stacion – Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina, among others.

The National Gallery of Kosovo

The National Gallery of Kosovo, founded in 1979, is the country's leading institution dedicated to modern and contemporary art. Its mission is to support artistic production, foster critical discourse, and provide a platform for both emerging and established artists from Kosovo and beyond. Through rotating exhibitions, public programmes, and publishing initiatives, the Gallery engages diverse audiences and plays a vital role in shaping the cultural landscape of the region. The institution holds a collection of more than 1,200 works, including painting, graphics, sculpture, video, photography, and other.

In 2025, the Gallery expanded with the opening of the National Gallery of Kosova QAFA, a secondary venue conceived as an experimental platform for contemporary art. NGK QAFA focuses on supporting emerging artists, commissioning new works, and organizing first solo exhibitions, while also encouraging avant-garde practices.

In recent years, the Gallery has broadened its curatorial vision, increasingly hosting regional and international artists while remaining firmly committed to nurturing the local scene. It also serves as the commissioning institution of the Pavilion of the Republic of Kosovo at La Biennale di Venezia, both for the International Art and Architecture Exhibitions.



The Cité internationale des arts

The Cité internationale des arts is the world's largest artist in residence centre simultaneously bringing together more than 300 artists and cultural professionals of all backgrounds and generations.

Since 1965, it has been giving residents from all disciplines (the visual and performing arts, music, film, architecture, writing, etc.) the opportunity to work on a creative or research project in the heart of Paris.

Over periods of two months to a year, the Cité internationale des arts (a recognised public utility foundation) welcomes residents in the Marais district or Montmartre in an environment that fosters creativity, while also providing opportunities for meeting and exchanging with other arts and culture professionals and the general public. The Cité also ensures each artist receives the support they need during their stay.

In collaboration with its many partners, it issues several calls for applications every year on specific themes and/or for specific projects, while developing targeted residency programmes.

Throughout the year, the Cité organises a rich, multidisciplinary and protean arts programme (open workshops, exhibitions, concerts, performances, debates, etc.), promoting the work of current or former residents and affirming the role of residency as a time for dialogue and experimentation.



Cité internationale des arts

→ Marais Site

18, rue de l'Hôtel de Ville
75004 Paris

Cité internationale des arts
www.citedesartsparis.fr

Shantal Menéndez Argüello
Communications Manager
[shantal.menendezarguello@
citedesartsparis.fr](mailto:shantal.menendezarguello@citedesartsparis.fr)

The National Gallery of Kosovo
www.galeriakombetare-rks.co

Elsa Morina, Administration
info@galeriakombetare-rks.com

Shtëpi

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