

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, which marks the beginning of their collaboration, and to unveil the forthcoming exhibition project.

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 both a three-month residency in Paris (3 March – 28 May 2026). and the opportunity to participate in a group exhibition at the National Gallery of Kosovo – QAFA, curated by Hana Halilaj (11 December 2025 – 19 February 2026).

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, Kreshnik Arifi, Lumturie Krasniqi, and Renea Begolli are the 2026 laureates of the first edition of Shtëpi.



Lumturie Krasniqi (b. 1997) is a visual artist based in Prishtina, Kosovo. Holding a degree in Painting from the Academy of Arts in Prishtina, she primarily works in painting but also explores photography, installation, and digital art. Her practice delves into often overlooked aspects of contemporary life, posing existential questions and exploring the interplay of opposites —connection and separation, spirit and matter, fear and love, humanity and nature. Krasniqi has exhibited her work in numerous shows, including *Silent Threads*, *Resounding Kosova*, *GALLERIA CONTINUA / Paris Marais* (2025); *Awakening—the 14th Biennial of Young Artists*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Skopje (2023); and *MANIFESTA 14 Biennale*, Pristina (2022).



Kreshnik Arifi (b. 2000) is a visual artist based in Prishtina, Kosovo. He completed his Bachelor's studies at the Faculty of Arts, Department of Conceptual Art and New Media, where he is currently pursuing his Master's degree. Arifi's practice connects visual art, music, and architecture, exploring the communicative potential of sound through unconventional and "naive" sources. These sounds, freed from linguistic structure, become tools for constructing new forms of communication. In this process, he intertwines sound with moving image and architectural elements to guide and restructure narrative flow. He recently presented *Something's about to happen, Brick Factory, Prishtina* (2025, and *The Bridge of the City Without a Bridge (as a vision)*, Kino Armata (2024).



Renea Begolli (b. 1998) is a visual artist and researcher based in Prishtina, Kosovo. Her practice spans painting, video, installation, drawing, sound, and archival research, exploring intersections of gender, memory, ecology, and the body. Drawing on feminist and ecofeminist perspectives, she examines politics of visibility, embodiment, and digital mediation. She completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Painting at the University of Prishtina and is the recipient of the 2023 Artists of Tomorrow Award, organized by Stacion – Center for Contemporary Art. Begolli has exhibited her work in *All this time, becoming*, Hajde! Foundation, Prishtina (2025); *What Are You Waiting For?* New York (2024); and *Pragu*, Qahili Gallery, Prishtina (2023).

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, textile, and others. In 2025, the Gallery expanded with the opening of the National Gallery of Kosova QAFA, a secondary venue conceived as an experimental and avantgarde platform for contemporary art, with a focus on supporting emerging artists, commissioning new work and organizing first solo exhibitions amongst others; creating new opportunities for the development and presentation of diverse artistic practices. In recent years, the Gallery has broadened its curatorial vision, increasingly hosting regional and international artists while remaining 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

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