



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2018

SEND US YOUR PROJECT IDEAS ON « SOLITUDE »!

The Festival Belluard Bollwerk International and Migros Culture Percentage are looking for new or nascent artistic projects on the theme of « Solitude».

Selected projects will show either in the festival's main venue - a medieval fortress - or in another appropriate venue. All forms of artistic expression will be considered. The more interdisciplinary the better! An international jury will select the projects that will receive a production grant of between CHF 2,000 and CHF 12,000. These will then be produced within the framework of the 35th Belluard Festival (28th June to 7th July 2018) in Fribourg, Switzerland.

Applications shall be accepted from interdisciplinary artists and practitioners from other fields – citizens of Fribourg or the rest of the world, individuals or groups – submitting performative or installative projects or interventions engaging with the festival's chosen theme.

Deadline for submissions: 10th December 2017.

THEME: SOLITUDE

The Belluard Festival invites artists from Fribourg, Switzerland and from all over the world to propose artistic projects that deal with the phenomenon of solitude. Solitude is ambivalent: on the one hand, individual isolation is a malfunction of today's society; on the other hand, self-chosen isolation can also be an act of resistance and self-empowerment.

Neoliberalism encourages competitive selfishness and extreme individualism. The lonely and isolated self-entrepreneur is presently a widespread mode of production. And numerous elderly people in the western world are experiencing the end of their days in solitude. But human beings are socially living mammals, who, as experiments have shown, chose even physical pain over isolation. It is not without reason that isolation is regarded as one of the most effective penal instruments in prisons, and social isolation undoubtedly provokes health problems too. So what is wrong in our society, which is constantly hysterizing individual intensities, at the expense of true communion and lasting relationships?

The need to be alone, however, is deeply rooted in the human psyche too. Hermits, misanthropists, ascetics, loners and mavericks have existed at all times in recorded history of all cultures. Many turn their backs on the world for religious reasons, looking for a closer bond with a higher power. Others are opposed to civilization because they reject the world as it is - wars, destruction of the environment, crime or excessive consumerism. And finally, there are those who want to be alone in search of artistic freedom, scientific knowledge or a deeper self-understanding. Is solitude an act of resistance against the established order?

In the specific context of Fribourg, solitude is also expressed in concrete places and practices: in the historical and contemporary isolation of the retreat to the monastery (of which there are three in Fribourg), or in the historical and contemporary seclusion of rural life (for example the alpine herdsman and dairymen).

Which space does today's society concede to those who do not want to follow the mainstream ideology of happy life within the consuming community? Does an event like a festival necessarily have to create a community, or are the most radical artistic experiences possibly the loneliest ones? Or is community a condition to be able to be alone in a fulfilling way?

Only complete applications submitted online will be accepted (see conditions of participation).

HOW TO APPLY?

Only applications completed online will be accepted.

Each proposal consists of the following documents:

1. The **application form**, completed in English directly online.
We strongly advise you to prepare all necessary documents beforehand as mentioned below. To facilitate your input, here are the various specific fields, with maximum number of characters, which will be asked of you. The form has to be completed in English: project proposal (max. 600 characters), topic/content of your proposal (max. 400 characters), what kind of venue/location do you need? (max. 400 characters), further project specifications (max. 500 characters), short CV (max. 1000 characters)
2. A **project outline** describing the artistic idea of the project, as well as the practical details.
This can be no longer than three A4 pages and should be written in German, French or English.
3. A **projected budget**.
4. **Biographies** of the key project members.
5. Where applicable, web links to **previous works**.

Please note that the data volume should not exceed 5 MB.

Applications are to be submitted no later than Sunday December 10th (23:00, Swiss time)

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

January 2018	The jury meets to select the projects
February 2018	The jury's decision is communicated to all participants
February/March 2018	Possible meetings in Fribourg with invited artists, incl. visit of the venue and on-site project development, where necessary
June 2018	Production of projects
28 th June – 7 th July 2018	35 th Festival Belluard Bollwerk International

FAQ

How much money is granted to each of the productions?

The selected projects will receive a production grant of between CHF 2,000 and CHF 12,000. The jury will decide on the exact amount based on the size of the project and the submitted budget. Funding permitting, Belluard Festival will additionally cover the costs of travel, transport and accommodation as well as technical expenses.

Can I submit an existing project?

No. The opening has to be at the 2018 Belluard Festival.

Is it possible to submit projects already existing to adapt them with local participants or to the Fribourg context?

Yes, provided that a creation part on site in the context of Fribourg is clearly visible.

Can I search for additional funding?

Yes. As soon as the projects have been selected, Belluard Festival shall endeavor, to the best of its ability, to obtain additional funding. However, this should not prevent the invited artist, from seeking out other sources of financial support.

When do I know if my project has been selected?

All participants will be informed of the jury's decision in February 2018.

Does the jury explain its decision?

No. The selected projects will be made public at the Festival's press conference in May. No comment will be issued on the project proposals that were not chosen.

Is the Belluard fortress the only venue?

Not necessarily. The Arsen'alt studios, the Nouveau Monde spaces, public areas or other spaces, depending on the specific requirements of the production, may be used too.

Does the project have to deal with all of the points set out in the theme description?

No. It is entirely sufficient to deal with one of the aspects referred to in the theme description, or even an aspect that we may have completely overlooked.

Is there a minimum/maximum running time?

No. Very short productions that could perhaps be repeated are as welcome as durational, rather installative forms or even classic performative formats.

Why do I have to fill out the form? The project outline explains everything!

Because of the large number of projects submitted, a pre-selection based solely on the form is made. Projects that do not meet all the required criteria are excluded right away.

Why do I have to fill out the form in English?

The jury members do not all necessarily speak French or German. For each member of the jury to have at least access to the basic information on each project, the form must be completed in English.

Is it possible to submit several projects?

No. Since the participation in the call for proposals is higher every year, we ask the participants to focus on a single project.