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ARTIST@MAUTHAUSEN

Scholarship and Mentoring Programme for Students of the University of Arts Linz

A cooperation between the Mauthausen Memorial and Co.Lab Remembrance work • aesthetic-political practices of the University of Arts Linz

Open call 2026

“Reflecting on Dimensions of Sexualised Violence”

The Mauthausen Memorial and Co.Lab Remembrance work • aesthetic-political practices of the University of Arts Linz are jointly announcing the “Artist@Mauthausen. Scholarship and Mentoring Programme for Students of the University of Arts Linz” for the first time. The programme aims to promote artistic forms of engagement with the sites and history of the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp complex. It focuses on a reflective examination of the historical context and the social responsibility, particularly regarding the politics of remembrance.

The theme this year is “**Reflecting on Dimensions of Sexualised Violence**”. The programme is aimed at students of the University of Arts Linz who wish to engage with this field from an artistic perspective and develop a corresponding project.

BACKGROUND

Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial

From 1938 to 1945, the Mauthausen concentration camp was at the centre of a system of over 40 subcamps and was the main site of political, social and racist persecution by the National Socialist regime on Austrian territory. From a total of around 190,000 people imprisoned here, at least 90,000 were murdered. The Mauthausen Memorial is a former crime scene, a place of memory, a cemetery for the mortal remains of thousands of those murdered here and, increasingly, a site of political and historical education. Its aim is to embed the history of the Mauthausen concentration camp and its subcamps, the memory of its victims and the responsibility of the perpetrators and bystanders in public awareness. It is also designed to help promote public discussion of history in light of its significance for the present and the future.

University of Arts Linz

The two buildings used by the University of Arts Linz at Hauptplatz 6 and 8 were built as part of Adolf Hitler's prestige project to transform the city of Linz into a "Führer city". Construction began in 1940, but the buildings were not completed until after 1945. With a view to carrying out the project, expropriations were conducted, including of Jewish residents. The tool of forced labour was also employed. After World War Two, the buildings served various purposes and were renovated from 2017 to 2019. Today, the two bridgehead buildings are a place dedicated to art, education, diversity, discussion, solidarity and reflection.

Co.Lab Remembrance work • aesthetic-political practices has set itself the task of addressing the remembrance of the victims of the Nazi regime at the University of Arts Linz, researching the processes, persons, structures, institutions and continuities of National Socialism from the perspective of art and cultural studies, and critically examining and discussing practices of commemoration. In the Co.Lab Remembrance work, experimental and artistic practices of commemoration and exhibition, as well as formats, are tested, reflected upon and developed, for example Wild Commemoration, Queer Commemoration, Gender and Remembrance, Landscape and Gardens of Remembrance, buildings with a burdened history, monuments, etc.

ARTISTIC REMEMBRANCE WORK AND THEME: "REFLECTING ON DIMENSIONS OF SEXUALISED VIOLENCE"

In view of the growing temporal, and therefore emotional, distance from the historical events, the post-witness era, multidirectional memory, the spread of AI-generated and AI-manipulated Holocaust images, and the international shift to the right, questions are becoming increasingly

important in the discourse on remembrance. These include how history is made present through media and materials, how historical knowledge and historical awareness are conveyed, and how they relate to the present. Artistic engagements also have an important role to play here. They can contribute to a lively, critical, reflective and inclusive discourse.

Art rarely gives clear-cut answers. Rather, it opens up new questions and perspectives, makes forgotten or ignored subjects visible, and enables diverse cognitive, emotional and sensory approaches to history and remembrance. At the same time, artistic work at the sites of former concentration camps requires a reflective, context-aware and responsible engagement with the historical conditions, the forms of remembrance, and their significance for the present.

Against this background, the current call is directed at artistic project ideas that engage with the theme of **“Reflecting on Dimensions of Sexualised Violence”**:

Sexualised violence was omnipresent in the concentration camps. It took on many forms: survivors report of verbal assaults, systematic stripping, being exposed to the gaze of others and unwanted touching, up to the most severe physical and sexual violence. It was inflicted by the SS as an instrument of dehumanisation, but, encouraged by the camp system, it also manifested itself in power hierarchies among the prisoners themselves. From 1942, sexualised violence took on a further dimension of instrumentalisation when women were forced into sex work in the so-called camp brothel.

All these forms were visible and known in the camp, and often remained ignored in the post-war period. Shame, stigmatisation and social taboos meant that those affected stayed silent or were not listened to. A dignified remembrance of the victims of National Socialism must therefore also include remembering sexualised violence.



Mauthausen Memorial, Feminist Women's Commemoration as part of the international Liberation Ceremony, 5 May 2024.

© Mauthausen Memorial / Nathalie Patricia Soursos

PROGRAMME

Course of the programme

The two-semester programme begins in March 2027 with a three-day introduction and orientation phase at the sites in Mauthausen, Gusen and Vienna. Staff from the Education, Exhibitions and Communications departments of the Mauthausen Memorial will provide insights into the history of the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp system, the programme's theme and the current permanent exhibitions. In addition, various possibilities for research and engagement on site will be presented.

For a more in-depth engagement with the aesthetic and political dimensions of remembrance work, participation in a seminar on a relevant topic at the University of Arts Linz is also planned.

Two semesters are available for the artistic project submitted as part of the application. During this time, the development process is accompanied and communicated to the public by the Communications Department of the Mauthausen Memorial and the University of Arts Linz. The programme will conclude with a presentation of the resulting artistic work at the Mauthausen

Memorial as part of an exhibition. The exhibition will be complemented by an accompanying educational and public programme.

Mentoring

The development process of the project will be continuously supported by Thari Jungen and Angela Koch of the University of Arts Linz and by Sabrina Kern of the Exhibitions Department of the Mauthausen Memorial. This support includes, among other things, jointly agreed feedback sessions and interim presentations.

The mentoring explicitly also serves as a space for critical reflection, in which ethical, historical and artistic questions are continuously debated together. The focus is on engaging with the interplay between artistic freedom, social responsibility and the demands of the politics of remembrance.

Scholarship

The scholarship amounts to **EUR 3,000** for the production and realisation of the project (including material costs). The sum is understood as a flat-rate expense allowance. Costs of living, meals, health insurance and travel must be covered from the scholarship budget. Travel costs for the introduction phase at the Mauthausen and Gusen memorials and the site in Vienna (collections and research departments) will be covered. In consultation with the Mauthausen Memorial and the University of Arts Linz, the scholarship recipient is free to raise further funding independently. To implement the exhibition, the Mauthausen Memorial will cover the resulting costs up to an amount of **EUR 1,200**.

Presentation/Exhibition

Exhibition space with an area of 67 m² is available in the museum building of the Mauthausen Memorial for the presentation of the artistic work. By arrangement, it is also possible to implement works on the outdoor grounds of the Memorial. If the work is realised outside the designated exhibition space, a corresponding reference to the project, for example in the form of project documentation, should be presented in the exhibition rooms. In coordination with the participating institutions, the University of Arts Linz may also be included as a further presentation venue. A bilingual exhibition brochure in German and English will be produced to accompany the exhibition.

APPLICATION

Who can apply?

Applications are open to all students enrolled at the University of Arts Linz. Applications may be submitted as an individual artist or as a collective.

Note: The scholarship amount does not change if applying as a collective.

Accessibility

All information on the accessibility of the Mauthausen Memorial is available on the Memorial's website at: <https://www.mauthausen-memorial.org/de/Besuchen/Besuchsinformation/Barrierefreiheit>

What can be submitted?

There are essentially no constrictions on the form of the artistic work. However, a reflective, critical and responsible engagement with the place, its historical context and its history is required. The submitted projects should help to make historical violence and its social dimensions visible, prompt reflection, and remain open to different perspectives and forms of engagement. Sensationalising, trivialising or disrespectful approaches are expressly excluded.

Submissions may include, among others, installation, photographic, film, sculptural, digital, painting and drawing, and textile works, as well as artistic interventions and performances. Cross-media and experimental forms are also expressly welcome.

Theme of the submission

Submitted works must show a content-related connection to this year's theme of **"Reflecting on Dimensions of Sexualised Violence"**.

Where can I submit my application?

Application documents may only be submitted via the submission system of the University of Arts Linz by **31 December 2026**: <https://calls.kunstuni-linz.at/calls/MAUT2026/>. Applications by email or post will not be accepted. Submitted application materials will not be returned. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

By submitting the application documents, applicants consent to the processing of their data by the Mauthausen Memorial and the University of Arts Linz, and to the terms of participation.

Application documents

- Short letter of motivation including contact information (name, address, email address, telephone number, website, if available) (PDF format, max. 1 page)
- Artistic CV and/or meaningful portfolio (PDF format, roughly 2-15 pages)
- Concept for the planned project (max. 3 pages)

Application information session

On 18 November 2026 at 6:00 pm, an information session on the open call will take place at the University of Arts Linz. Thari Jungen, Angela Koch and Sabrina Kern will provide information on the programme, the theme and the terms of the call, and will be available to answer questions.

Binding advance registration is required and should be sent to sabrina.kern@mauthausen-memorial.org

Theme tour of the Mauthausen Memorial

For interested applicants, students and staff of the University of Arts Linz, the theme tour “Facetten sexualisierter Gewalt im KZ” (the tour will be in German), developed and led by Silke Umdasch, will be offered during the open call period. The tour offers the opportunity to engage with the theme of the call.

Date: 26 November 2026, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Binding advance registration is required and should be sent to medienaessthetik@kunstuni-linz.at

A shuttle bus from Linz to Mauthausen and back is available. Departure: at 9:15 am at the Old Town Hall, Hauptplatz 1–5.

Selection criteria

- A comprehensible concept related to the topic of the call
- Artistic quality and originality
- Sensitivity to the culture of remembrance

Application interview

Projects are selected in a two-stage process. In the first stage, the jury makes a preselection based on the submitted applications. The selected candidates are then invited to a personal application interview.

Jury

DDr. Barbara Glück (Director of the Mauthausen Memorial)

Mag. Gudrun Blohberger (Educational Manager of the Mauthausen Memorial)

Mag. Sabrina Kern, MA (Exhibition Curator at the Mauthausen Memorial)

Silke Umdasch, MA (Educator and staff member of the Collections at the Mauthausen Memorial)

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Angela Koch (Head of Co.Lab Remembrance work • aesthetic-political practices at the University of Arts Linz)

Univ.-Ass. Dr. Thari Jungen (Co.Lab Remembrance work • aesthetic-political practices at the University of Arts Linz)

Sen.Art. MMag. Moritz Matschke, PhD (Artistic Practice, University of Arts Linz)

Announcement of award

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of the call by email during February.

Dates	
Application information session	25 November 2026, 6:00 pm, University of Arts Linz (binding advance registration to sabrina.kern@mauthausen-memorial.org required!)
Theme tour on “Facetten sexualisierter Gewalt im KZ”	26 November 2026, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm (binding advance registration to medienasthetik@kunstuni-linz.at required!) A shuttle bus from Linz to Mauthausen and back is available. Departure: at 9:15 am at the Old Town Hall, Hauptplatz 1–5.
Deadline for the Open Call	31 December 2026
Review of submissions, jury meeting, application interviews and decision	January/February 2027
Duration of the scholarship and mentoring programme	March 2027 to April 2028
Introduction phase at the Mauthausen Memorial (Mauthausen, Gusen and Vienna)	March 2027 (3 days)
Exhibition installation	April 2028
Exhibition opening	April 2028
Exhibition run	April to December 2028
Educational and public programme	April to December 2028