

Our people are our mountains, *and other conditions of life*

Housed in the Breezeblock building in the suburb of Brixton, Johannesburg, LAPA is a place to gather, for collaboration, experimentation and developing new trajectories in artistic practice. LAPA makes its connection with communities and asks what kind of potential could we encourage when we are housed together. Enacting the term LAPA, the residency becomes a space of communing to explore themes of home, family and place.

In 2023 the open call extends within Africa to expand on the continental network and establish necessary travel and connection.

The residency ideates on borderless states of being as a way to consider new pan-africanism and African states. This is beyond language but underpinned by modes of speaking through the visual, sonic, digital and more.

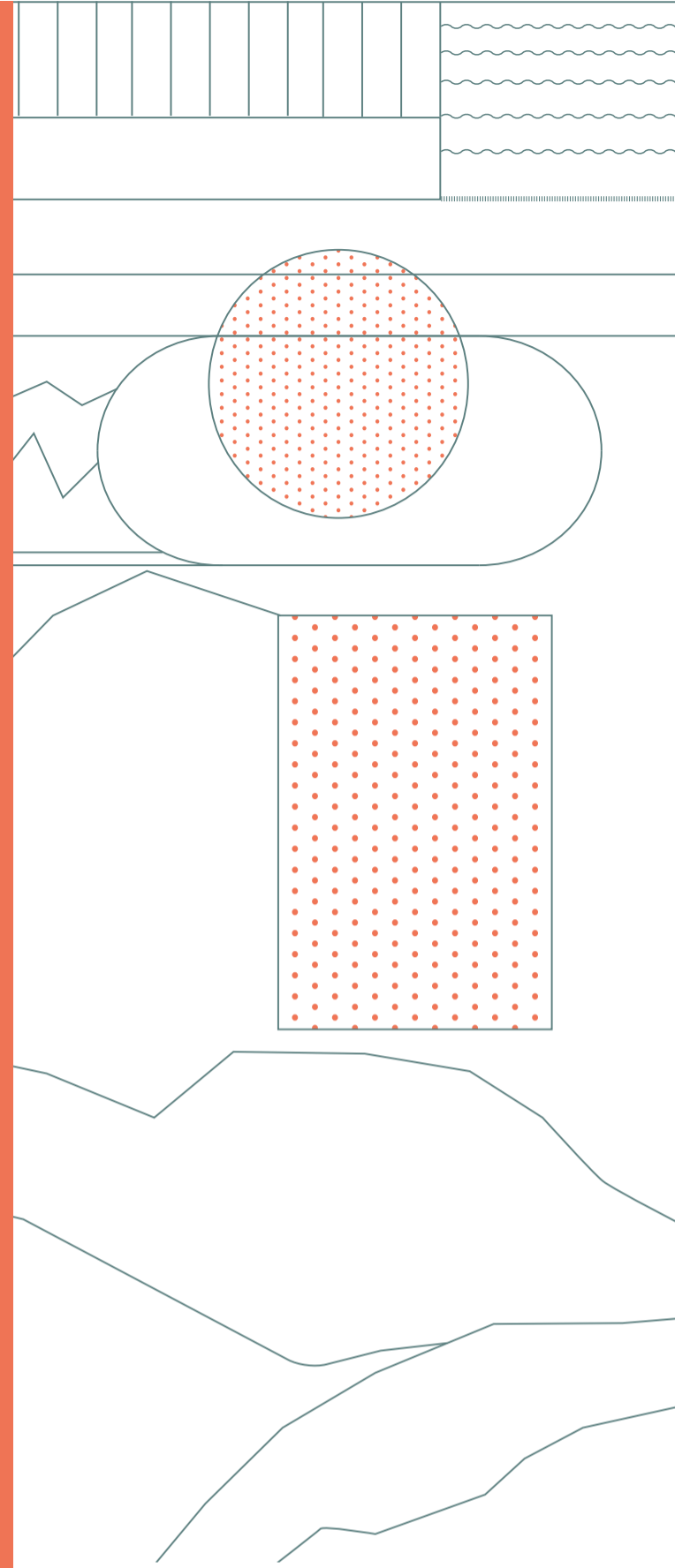
Taken from a text by Amilcar Cabral who prefaced ideas of unity and struggle within the African agenda, his phrase '*Our people are our mountains*' illustrates the landscape and its metaphors as a condition of life: what is tied and coded between people into land and how it writes many other conditions of living.

You may be considering planetary exhaustion, landscapes as routes, pre-colonial maps as future making, economies of regeneration, collaboration as memory work.

Artists will apply to one of the three residency sessions as modes of working; *the voice, imbibe, context*.

More broadly, the residency wonders on theories and practices of collectivity, third spaces, shared inquiry and co-citizenship to consider art as a social practice. You might be working on communities of place and non-place, black radical imagination, post-independence histories and cultural memory as a form to reclaim and redefine inherent values.

Artists are welcome to use existing material and projects of interest through LAPA to build their research. Rather than be prescriptive, this invites challenges and redefinitions.



RESIDENCY SEASON III:

**Open Call : Thursday, 6 April 2023
– Wednesday, 31 May 2023**

Duo Residency 1: Saturday, 9 September
2023 – Friday, 1 December 2023

Duo Residency 2: Monday, 5 February 2024 –
Saturday, 27 April 2024

Duo Residency 3: Monday, 2 September 2024
– Saturday 23 November 2024



LAPA Residency Structure

Residencies are critical support structures for artists and art professionals which prioritizes processes of thinking and being. In 2023 the open call extends within and without Africa to expand on the continental network and establish necessary travel and connection. Each artist spends time at LAPA in a self-managed research process, the resident artists will be provided with accommodation, working space, a modest stipend for living, travel and production expenses. They will work alongside other artists and professionals to develop their research.

To reinitiate the space for Season III, LAPA invites artistic duo's, acknowledging that great things come in pairs and more can be done when we work alongside each other.

By inviting artists who work in a variety of mediums, we emphasize experimentation over medium and process over product, 'Only experimentation can build theories of reality' (Simon Njami, Dakar Biennale: A New Humanity. 2018). As a process-based residency for artistic research, artists have the space to determine their method and work-plan as motivated by the demands of their research. LAPA commits to facilitate this by offering a welcome, working space, supportive programme of discussions, and connections to other art professionals. The residency will be supported by an organiser and mentors who will share resources with moments of reflection and critical feedback.



LAPA Resident; Dudu Lamola Studio Visit, Photo credit: Jess Wright

Session 1: *Friday, 1 September 2023 – Saturday, 25 November 2023

Enunciation: Voicing in many forms

This residency investigates the voice as a mode of multiplying, reconstituting and reconfiguring, a practice that highlights the multivocal or polyvocal. The voice is material and invokes the many languages, tonalities and multiplicities of meanings.

Considering the vocal, the multiplicity of meanings and the unfurling of meanings. It invites perspectives on the voice as a carrier of languages and ideas, the voice as a means through which we express our reality and the mechanism of carrying others realities. Artists invited will have the opportunity to work with several Johannesburg based collaborators and should have a keen interest in working collaboratively and amongst others.

Session 2: *Monday, 5 February 2024 – Saturday, 27 April 2024

Imbibe earthen processes

This residency is hyper focused on food and food systems as a mode of time keeping and sharing, it links the earth processes with the gut processes to negotiate the politics and practices of food as a mechanism of locating oneself.

BRIEF: The selected residents will prepare a 1 week programme, to prepare meals as an invitation to consider the role of food as a system of education and knowledge, time keeping and resource.

This should negotiate multiple cultural and political contexts of food systems to discuss the ethics and practices of radical movements in relation to food histories, food production, distribution and consumption.

This talking/eating programme should have manifestations across practices and forms: visual arts, performances, architectures, cooking sessions, thematic meals, screenings, interdisciplinary dialogues, workshops, cultivation, open access food library and more. Consider the people in relation to food systems: artists, activists, agronomists, artisans, bakers, butchers, chefs, economists, farmers, fermenters, foragers, historians, scientists, policy makers, nutritionists and more related practitioners.

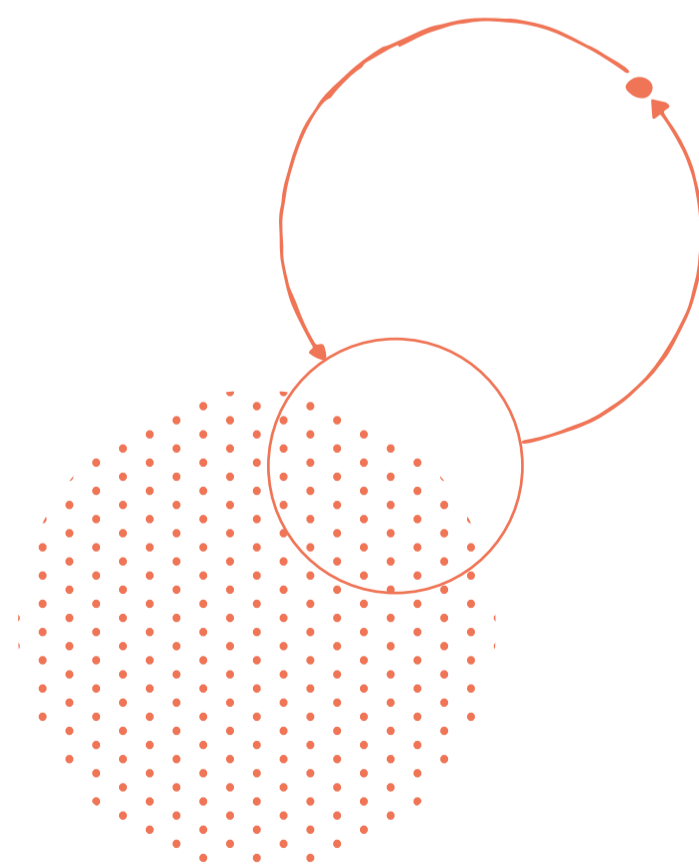
Session 3: *Monday, 2 September 2024 – Saturday 23 November 2024

Contextual landings

How does our context define our reading, how does geography divide and focus our attention? How is it still possible to speak of a 'here' and a 'there' at the same time?

This session explores and works against concepts of migration as apolitical but demands this homing to provide context and its set of terms, it is unconcerned with geographies but concerned with the principles of homing oneself.

(*Final dates to be confirmed with residents dependent on inter-continental travel schedules and visa details)



About Your Application

Artists working together, in tandem and in pairs or collectives are welcomed to submit a joint research application. We encourage applications which are collaborative, communal, public-facing or deal in public space.

Applicants are encouraged to submit a proposal that addresses their current explorations, and obsessions. Proposals should clearly state the main focus, aims, and the socio-economic, nature-cultural, and political context in which they are based. Your proposal may contain the sprouts or fossils for future projects and generations while providing things we are yet to know and understand.

All applications will be reviewed based on their connection with contemporary challenges, the depth of investigation, and connection to LAPA as a many-meaning word. Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate forward thinking criticality, situatedness and a distinctive research theme and methodology.

As the name LAPA reflects the residency's manifesto, the core principles relate to neighbourliness, conviviality, community, healing, environment and home. Artists are encouraged to critically engage with ideas and metaphors of community through their work and time at LAPA. The artist should consider their trace and impact in the community of LAPA and Brixton.



LAPA Season I resident presentation: Tino Zhou, Photo credit: Thabo Mthombeni

Outcome(s)?

The duo will be expected to present their work, during or in concluding the residency, in any format they choose; public discussion, screening, workshop or other kind of translatable programme for audiences. They should consider research material as the embers of future work, and to consider a plan of documenting and tracing their research while at LAPA.

LAPA hosts a 'function-first' public space on the ground floor of Breezeblock which is a library and co-working space. This, amongst other possible spaces may be used for the artists engagement and presentation.

Who Can Apply?

LAPA is developed for artists across all disciplines, based in Africa. Priority will be given to pairings working on the continent or between the continent and the diaspora, understanding that these links exist in dynamic and political ways. The duo/pair/collective seek to expand their working relationship to continue developing their artistic language and research. The residency can accommodate up to two representatives from an artist collective.

Applications are open to all (with or without formal art education) who have been professionally active for at least 6 years.



LAPA Housewarming library, Photo credit: Jodi Windvogel

We ask you to prepare the following for your application:

- An outline/proposal of the intended research and project work. Please make sure to incorporate your other systems of reference, schools of critical thought and transdisciplinary practices, and non-academic references, as well as different forms of engagement and co-creation that influence the work so we can see your approach and thinking (max 800 words)
- For us to better understand your use of the residency time, please provide a work plan or outline with a distinctive research method, process and documentation plan. This should include an outline on what form your presentation will take, this will be developed and confirmed with the LAPA team after arrival (max 700 words)
- A portfolio of prior and existing work for both artists which relate to the proposal/work plan, including a biography of each individual or as a pair/collective (Max 4 pages)
- One page CV
- A video introducing yourselves and your work (max 3 minutes)

Note: The programme is run in English but applicants are welcome to develop and present bi-lingual/multi-lingual approaches.

Location - Brixton

LAPA Residency is situated in Brixton, Johannesburg in the Breezeblock complex. Living in the community of Brixton, we believe that it is crucial to understand the significance of the community and history of the suburb. Once farmland under the Braamfontein farm, in 1902 it was named by Horace Collins (General Manager of the Paarl central old Mining Company) after Brixton in South London. Marked by workers strikes, in 1913 and 1920, we wonder about our name as a site of colonial history and a reimagining of a suburb. As a residential community, it is timed by the everyday commotion of life.

@LAPA we consider radical hospitality, each resident is welcomed to expand on what home and neighborliness may mean in the Brixton area.



LAPA Breakfast Sessions with Day Mthembu in artist apartment, Photo credit: Thabo Mthombeni



LAPA Library



Brixton Walking Tour with Roving Bantu, Sifiso Ntuli 2021, Photo credit: Jodi Windvogel

Accommodation and studio information

The artists will live on the third floor in the LAPA apartment: 2 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, open plan kitchen, dining and living area which can also accommodate a small studio space. Please note, the kitchen area is a communal area for the team's use.

Should the residents have specific studio based needs, this must be clearly outlined in their application. Artists will have access to a communal workspace on the ground floor, at its heart you'll find a well-equipped, cozy office space, a courtyard we share at Breezeblock, and a slowly expanding archive and library.



LAPA Apartment commons

What is Covered by LAPA:

Travel to and from LAPA (Return flight and ground travel from OR Tambo Intl. Airport to Brixton, Johannesburg) and monthly living/subsistence costs.

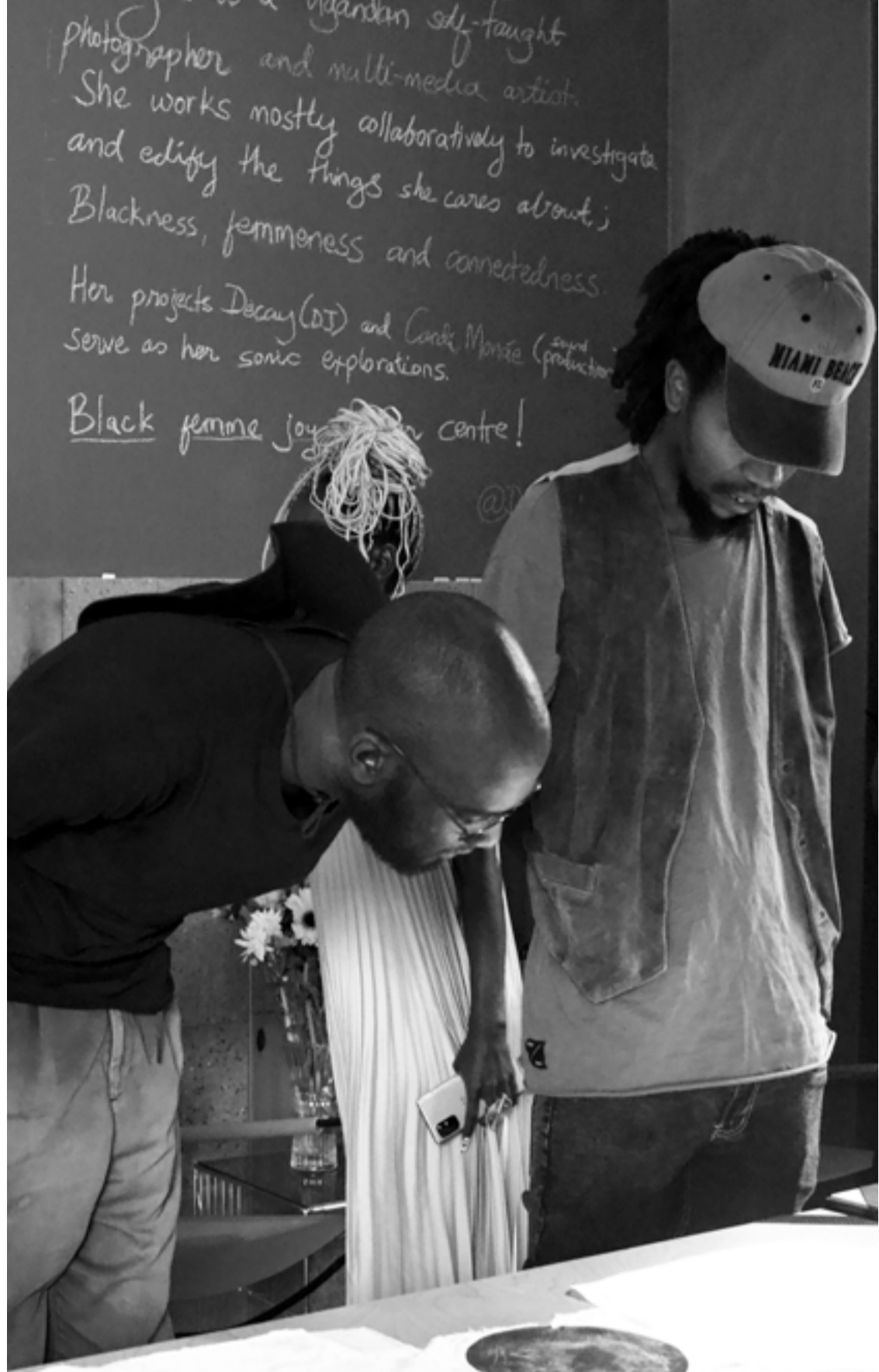
Fee: 6 000.00 ZAR/month (each) to cover basic living expenses and materials and resources. A separate budget allocation is made for the artist's production budget and public moment.



In the Midst residency presentation with Liz Kobusinge and Darlyne Komukama. Image credit: Andy Mkosi



Lumbung.jozi programme. Image courtesy of MADEYOULOOK



In the Midst artist presentation. Image credit: Andy Mkosi

Submissions:

Applications should be submitted by midnight SAST, Wednesday, **31 May 2023** through the following [LAPA Google form](#).

If you have any questions or need clarity, please email tammy.langtry.extern@goethe.de before 15 May 2023. Please note the deadline, as late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

All applicants will receive a response by 30 June 2023.

The artistic duo selected will be contacted timeously in order to best prepare for their residency period. Artists will receive a letter of invitation and itinerary and will be expected to apply in advance for VISA's in order to secure all travel arrangements.

LAPA is a project of
the Goethe-Institut
Johannesburg

