

Challenge #8

S+T+ARTS SCHELDT VALLEY. CROSS-CULTURAL COLLABORATIONS WITH AND FOR WATER

COUNTRY

Belgium

RESIDENCY HOSTING INSTITUTION

GLUON

KEYWORDS

In Situ, Performance, Open Air
Rituals and Myths, Cultural
traditions, River

RELATED INNOVATION AREAS

Water management, Science and Sound Waves,
Experimental Music, XR

PROBLEM STATEMENT OF LOCAL CHALLENGE

We are inviting a curious and multi-faceted artist, interested in interweaving different cultural lines of thought and (art) practices in the Scheldt Valley National Park. Negotiate our relationship to science, nature and water, as well as to arts as sacred and related, equally providing spiritually meaningful and revealing experiences which in themselves can be aesthetic and transformative, as our relationship with the world defines the values with which we encounter it.

DESCRIPTION

The beautiful Valley around the river Scheldt engaging 24 communities between the cities of Oudenaarde and Antwerp and passing Ghent was announced a National Park only half a year ago. The Flemish-Dutch Scheldt Delta, which the Valley is a major part of, was nominated as UNESCO Geopark. A recognition reserved for areas of unique international geological significance. The area hence holds unique value to engage different publics to the beauty and relevance of clean water – and the (scientific) efforts which sustain it.



Supported by the Arts Council Korea (ARKO) Brussels' artistic research hub GLUON offers a 9-months residency in Belgium that facilitates a production through guided exchange and mentoring with environmentalists, experts and scientists in bio and water management such as VITO, Vlakwa, Blue Bridge and Ghent University, as well as the initiative Drinkable Rivers. The residency further connects the artist to relevant cultural producers, who can familiarize the artist with the area. Cooperating with Festival STROOM, a young annual nomadic music open air event about sustainability and climate, the artist can present their work on site in summer 2025. Artists from all disciplines (installation, music, intermedia, design, sculpture, performance, visual arts, game design, sound engineering etc.) developing a collaborative work for the area can apply. A vision for engagement with the river with a view on overall enhancement of water sustainability or science literacy is needed. Making meaningful links to relevant angles from non-European cultures is encouraged.

RESIDENCY CHARACTERISTICS

INFO ON THE REGION

A collaborative approach ensures a deeper connection to local issues. The artist could e.g. utilize the natural landscape and waterways of the Scheldt Valley as canvas for site-specific installations or performances raising awareness about water conservation. Artworks could be made from sustainable materials or incorporate elements that highlight the fragile beauty of the ecosystem. Workshops and activities could engage locals and festival visitors in water sustainability themes. Multimedia projects such as documentaries, mixed reality exhibitions, or digital art installations that document the interconnectedness of water, ecosystems, and human activities in the area are possible too. Finally exploring the cultural significance of water in e.g. Asian and Belgian contexts through artistic expression could involve creating artworks that reflect on shared experiences of water stewardship, cultural rituals involving water, or traditional knowledge systems related to water conservation.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

GLUON's facilities and connections offers expertise on new technologies. Further support will be facilitated based on the individual proposals, background, interests, and needs.

During the 9-months residency the artist needs to be present in Belgium at least intermittently for field research during the period of January to July 2025. Accommodation in Belgium for a maximum of 6 months can be covered. Travel budget needs to be assigned within the budget. The artist needs to present the work during the UN Ocean Conference beginning of June 2025 in Nice (France) and from 20. June at STROOM Festival in West Flanders, Belgium. It might further be featured at Ars Electronica 2025 a/o the Love Tomorrow Conference. The artist is also invited to the 4WATERII summer school in Croatia (travel costs granted).

Jury day: The jury day will take place between 15th and 19th July and might take place online. The jury day will offer the possibility for a project pitch by the three short-listed artists.

USEFUL LINKS

[Gluon Art&Reserach](#)

[Korean Arts Council, ARKO](#)

<https://www.festivalstroom.be/en/>

<https://www.rivierparkscheldevallei.be>

<https://vito.be/en>

[Vlakwa](#)

[VOKA](#)

[Bluebridge: https://ostendsciencepark.be/what-we-do-2/](https://ostendsciencepark.be/what-we-do-2/)

[Blue Cluster](#)

[Drinkable Rivers](#)