

■ Deliberation Statement for the 2025 ARKO Art Studio Residency

- Program Division : 2025 ARKO Art Studio
- Meeting Dates : (Round 1) April 30, 2025, (Round 2) May 7, 2025
- Meeting Venue : (Round 1) Committee Room, ARKO Art Center, (Round 2) Committee Room, ARKO Art Center & Online (via ZOOM)
- Deliberation Committee Members : Heonki Jeong, Jieon Shim, Jungju Ahn, Kyungmin Lee, Seewon Hyun

A significant number of highly accomplished artists, both from Korea and abroad, applied to the first cohort of ARKO Art Studio 2025. The committee extends its sincere appreciation to all applicants and expresses regret that not all of the outstanding candidates could be invited to participate in this inaugural edition. Launched in 2025, ARKO Art Studio seeks not only to support the development of individual artists' practices but also to foster the sustainable growth of both the Korean and international art ecosystems. The residency is designed to foster long-term artistic exchange between the Korean art scene and its international contemporaries. Through this selection process, the committee has named ten artists—five for each term in 2025—as the inaugural residents of the ARKO Art Studio. As the first cohort of residents, the selected artists will pursue their individual practices while also participating in curated exhibitions and a range of network programs organized by ARKO Art Studio.

The selection process was conducted in two stages: a first-round evaluation of submitted documents, followed by second-round interviews. As the inaugural edition of ARKO's inbound Art Studio program, this first cycle involved a rigorous and thoughtful deliberation process, allowing the committee to closely examine the specific plans proposed by both Korean and international applicants. The number of residency applications submitted for the 2025 first and second terms far exceeded the available ten slots, reflecting the high level of interest in the Korean art scene among artists from around the world. This overwhelming response underscores how essential publicly supported residency programs are for contemporary artists—not only in Korea, but globally—as foundational infrastructures for sustaining their practices. Applications came from artists of diverse cultural backgrounds, including those based in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. Across the proposals, the committee observed a remarkable depth of artistic engagement and a high degree of conceptual clarity regarding the critical issues the artists sought to address in their ongoing work.

The document-based evaluation was conducted according to three primary criteria. First, the committee evaluated each applicant's professional experience and achievements to determine their capacity to carry out the program successfully. Second, the proposed activity plans were reviewed for their clarity, specificity, and alignment with the goals of the residency. Third, the committee considered whether participation in the program would support the applicant's artistic development and facilitate meaningful networks across local and international art scenes. Following a comprehensive review, the artists shortlisted for further consideration demonstrated a wide spectrum of experimental approaches, spanning installation, media art, painting, digital-based practices, design, and research-based projects. Notably, several international applicants demonstrated a clear interest in the Korean art scene and presented concrete plans to connect this context with their own artistic practice. Submissions from domestic applicants also reflected a wide range of artistic practices, with proposals received from artists working across multiple disciplines.

The second-round interviews focused on evaluating why participation in the ARKO Art Studio would be meaningful for each artist at this particular point in their practice. Additional attention was given to the applicants' proposals and how they envisioned their artistic activities within the residency period. The committee also inquired about the specificity and feasibility of their proposals, as well as their expectations regarding the ARKO Art Studio. Notably, several international applicants presented highly detailed research and carefully constructed artistic proposals that reflected a sharp understanding of Korea's geopolitical conditions and socio-cultural landscape.

ARKO Art Studio provides not only individual residency for artists but also prioritizes participation in domestic and international networks and cultural exchange programs as a core component of its vision. Accordingly, the committee placed emphasis on applicants whose proposals demonstrated the potential to expand their artistic practice across multiple dimensions, and whose experience and working methods reflected a capacity to contribute meaningfully to the formation of a shared creative environment. While many applicants exhibited a high level of artistic excellence, the selection of ten artists was the result of in-depth and focused deliberation. The committee also considered the potential synergy among the residents, evaluating the diversity of artistic media—

including painting, installation, and video—as an essential factor in the composition of the group. Given the five-month residency period, particular attention was paid to the feasibility of each applicant’s proposed activities. Following this rigorous selection process, ten artists—both from Korea and abroad—were selected as ARKO Art Studio residents.

ARKO Art Studio aspires to be more than a platform for artistic practice and research; it aims to serve as a space where artists take initiative in their inquiries, engage in artistic experimentation, and cultivate joy in creativity through active participation in both domestic and international networks. We envision the studio as a vital site where experimental values and intergenerational artistic dialogue can flourish—anchored by a spirit of mutual care and support within the broader art ecosystem. Through the presence of pioneering contemporary artists from Korea and abroad, ARKO Art Studio hopes to foster a resilient and collaborative creative environment that will continue to expand the horizon of contemporary art.

ARKO Art Studio positions itself as a vital foundation for artistic practice and research, and further aspires to become a site where artists take initiative in their creative inquiries, experience the joy of artistic engagement, and cultivate experimental values to be carried forward by the next generation through both domestic and international networks. As a vital site for the creation of experimental and innovative work by contemporary artists from Korea and abroad, ARKO Art Studio is envisioned to foster a spirit of mutual care and solidarity within the broader art ecosystem.