

Sonnenbers

Artist in Residence – Call for applications 2027

Villa Sonnenberg

At Villa Sonnenberg in Lenzburg, we live hospitality and culture – *honestly, heartfelt, and reciprocally.*

Sponsor

The sponsor of the Villa Sonnenberg is the «Villa Sonnenberg Foundation», which is committed to preserving and revitalising the listed property. This also includes art and cultural projects as well as *an Artist-in-Residence programme for professional artists.* Through the residencies, the foundation promotes intercultural exchange and international networking. The artistic work of the studio guests should experience new impulses and find time to develop further at Villa Sonnenberg.

Annual theme

As an artist in residence, you will have the opportunity *to realise a project related to the annual theme* and to participate in everyday life at Villa Sonnenberg. The estate with its historic buildings and picturesque garden has been recently renovated and is open for events, conferences, and overnight guests. Your stay will conclude with a public exhibition or presentation of your work.





Villa Sonnenberg

Annual theme 2027:
Myths

Myths speak of origins and order. They help us interpret natural phenomena and liminal experiences, condensing fears, hopes, and images that resonate across generations. They emerge in times of uncertainty as much as in moments of departure and change – as explanations, as consolation, or as projections for that which resists rational resolution.

Myths are present in all cultures. At the same time, they are never static: they are retold and, in the process, transformed. This is precisely where their power lies. They adapt to new realities and therefore remain effective.

The present, too, has its myths. They appear in political narratives as much as in biographical self-images, media worlds, role models, and in the meanings ascribed to places, landscapes, or bodies. Myths can create meaning and shape identity, but they can also exclude and manipulate.

For the *Artist in Residence Programme 2027*, we are seeking artistic works that engage with myths in their social, personal, or political dimensions. Future-oriented approaches are equally welcome: What myths might be told a hundred years from now – in a world shaped by changing climate zones, technologies, body images, and ways of living? And which myths are already emerging today in digital publics, gaming cultures, or AI-generated visual worlds?

We are also interested in projects that take the site and its surroundings into account: Villa Sonnenberg, Lenzburg, the canton of Aargau, local stories, cultural imprints, landscapes, or social narratives. We look forward to receiving many international submissions.

Villa Sonnenberg offers inspiring spaces for living and working, as well as a range of possibilities for presentation and public engagement – through exhibitions, concerts, readings, talks, workshops, or other formats.

The *Open Call «Myths»* by the Villa Sonnenberg Foundation is addressed to professional artists working in the fields of visual art and music who wish to apply with a project proposal.

Only individual applications can be considered. Applications from artist duos or collectives are not eligible.

The Foundation only hosts one artist at a time. Therefore, the selected artist will be the sole artist in residence at Villa Sonnenberg during their stay.

Residencies 2027

Studio residencies at Villa Sonnenberg usually last three months (=12 weeks):

- Mid-January to mid-April 2027
- Mid-May to mid-August 2027
- Mid-September to mid-December 2027

Please indicate all time slots that are possible for you in your application. Attendance of at least 80 % is a prerequisite.

The place

Villa Sonnenberg is in Lenzburg, a small town between Zurich and Bern with a rich cultural life. The property is a 10-minute walk from the old town and shopping facilities, with a view of Lenzburg Castle, and is surrounded by a picturesque garden and features a natural water source.

Living and working

You will stay in a modern studio on the top floor of the main house with a small, equipped kitchen and private bathroom. Bed linen, bath towels and cleaning materials are provided. You are responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of the studio and the infrastructure used. The studio has a WIFI connection.

Smoking is prohibited in the entire house and all outbuildings. We cannot accept pets. The studio is for single use.

As an artist in residence, you may use *the studio house* which offers a workshop (20m²), a music rehearsal room (20m²) and the garden.

Contributions

You are responsible for your *own meals*. The foundation pays a contribution of CHF 20 per day (CHF 600 per month).

Return journey incl. entry visa

You are responsible for organising your own travel to and from the Foundation as well as any necessary entry visa. The foundation offers organisational support. If possible, the journey should be made by train.

Personal contribution

During your stay, you will contribute in the form of high-profile events (workshop, exhibition, reading, concert, etc.).

The Foundation also enables you to bring in your interests and skills to the daily life of the Sonnenberg, for example in the form of a cooking event, gardening, or similar. We look forward to receiving your written proposal (optional).

Language skills

Good knowledge of German or English or French is required for the stay.

Application documents

- CV with photo & career as an artist
- Project outline with reference to the annual theme incl. motivation for the stay (max. 2 pages)
- Proposal for your contribution to the daily operations of Villa Sonnenberg (optional)
- Examples of your work (including current work)
- Proof of insurance in case of illness or accident (at the latest upon acceptance or agreement)



Application deadline for 2027 residencies

The application deadline for *all residencies in 2027 is 31 May 2026*. There is no entry or application fee.

Please send your documents electronically to: artist@villasonnenberg.ch

The selection is made by members of the Board of the Villa Sonnenberg Foundation. Applicants will be informed of the decision; however, individual feedback cannot be provided.

After an initial round of selection, shortlisted applicants will be invited to a personal interview via Zoom. The final decision will be communicated by the *end of August 2026*.

Contact

Your questions can be directed to the President of the Foundation Board Ms Christine von Arx: artist@villasonnenberg.ch

We look forward to receiving your application!

Address:

Stiftung Villa Sonnenberg
Schlossgasse 50
CH-5600 Lenzburg
villasonnenberg.ch

Studio in the attic



Workshop in the Studio House

