

Invitation to artistic collaboration

I Saw Our Leaders. Reinterpreting Hungarian Poems Via Contemporary Art Practices

The European Alliance of Academies offers a new project of artistic research and collaboration, based on a collection of nine poems by a young generation of Hungarian poets, all members of the Szépirók Társasága (Society of Hungarian Authors).

The narrative structure of literary works was historically a platform of the continuous Double Act: words and images/objects were interfering with each other and image/objects were used to illustrate or interpret literary works. In that sense, visual artists could react to author's texts or could create their own. William Blake, for example, British artist and poet, obsessively interpreted John Milton's *Paradise Lost* (1667), producing pencil sketches, paintings and three sets of illustrations.

In contemporary art practice we can witness a radical change of positions between artists and authors, language (in a form of literary work) and image/object. Tangible objects and images as well as immaterial language are present simultaneously in the cultural space, creating new ways of expression, tools and meaning. Turkish writer Orhan Pamuk transformed the novel *Museum of Innocence* (2008) into a real museum of objects through documentary fiction strategy, displaying an imaginary collection of objects which existed only in the novel. American artist Barbara Kruger deconstructed political power, gender, identity and modern consumerism by transforming random photographs through texts, later transferring these new images into printed images of various sizes. These contemporary art examples can mark a possible direction in new artistic production based on literature, text and more specifically, the transformation of the language.

Dealing with social and political phenomena of today's life in Hungary, the selected **poems should serve as a starting point for further artistic reactions, comments and reflections from across Europe**, adding another layer of meaning to them and creating a European artwork in itself.

The nine poems address issues such as identity and otherness, migration and longing for homeland, and the political authority through a grotesque depiction of their privileged place. The shadow of Hungarian past is present in the turmoil of an anthropocentric landscape. Different imaginaries of homeland are infused by personal memories of and the desire to reconnect with nature.

Conditions

Members of Working Group 5 invite the institutions of the European Alliance of Academies to propose artist(s) associated with the institution that would react in their own artistic language to one of the poems.

The proposal should describe the artistic idea (max. 1 page) linked to the selected poem of Szépirók Társaságá (please name author and title) and can include all artistic disciplines such as visual arts, photography, sound/music files, and/or texts.

Members of Working Group 5 will select nine proposals and coordinate the artistic process.

An allowance of 750 EUR (including taxes) will be paid to the artists; the associated institution should be able to provide technical equipment and/or working material for production, if possible.

The results will be displayed on the digital platform *LOOM – Interweaving the Arts in Europe* that has been created for artistic collaboration among the institutions of the Alliance: www.loom.allianceofacademies.eu

The extended deadline for institutions to submit artists and a first proposal is **Wednesday, 31 May 2023.**

Please send your proposal via e-mail to: allianceofacademies@adk.de