

neutopica
la selva



OPEN CALL 2022
deadline June 29

Neutopica is a project born in 2019 with the aim of activating collaborative transdisciplinary artistic residency in unused domestic spaces, thanks to a hospitality pact between artists and citizens.

For the 2022 summer edition, Neutopica follows its nomadic tension and moves away from the place where it all began, Velo d'Astico and the Venetian pre-Alps, to explore a new territory, that of the Tuscan-Emilian and Casentinese Apennines, thanks to the invitation of Annalisa Malerba, an expert in phytoalimurgy and Neutopica collaborator since 2019, to realize this edition at Casa La Selva.

The Open Call 2022 is a new invitation to broaden the Neutopica community, cross different trajectories and continue the choral research on the possible utopia: nomadic, ephemeral, but situated and concrete, made of encounters, interwoven relationships and alliances.



Open Call 2022

An invitation to participate in 8 days of residency and sharing of artistic practices at Casa La Selva, a house immersed in the Tuscan countryside, located in the municipality of Talla (Ar). The dates of the residency are from 30/7 to 6/8 (arrival on 29/7 and departure on 6/8 afternoon or 7/8 morning).

The call is for 12 people* who are interested in sharing a process of co-habitation and collaboration, based on the sharing of practices and aimed at co-creating an act of hospitality open to the public.

The temporary community of participants will co-habit in the spaces of the house, sleeping in tents in the large garden, using the available outdoor and indoor spaces as workplaces, and collaborating in the management of different aspects of daily life.

Given the transdisciplinary approach of the project, we extend an invitation to people from different creative fields or disciplines (e.g. artists, architects, sound designers, performers, researchers, curators etc.), who share an affinity with the themes of the proposal and an interest in critical work on landscape, dwelling, wilderness and relationship with the Other.

* 5 places will be allocated giving priority to people living or active in neighboring areas

THE RESIDENCY

NEUTOPICA LA SELVA is an invitation to listen to the specificities of a landscape and experiment with methods of cohabitation and collaboration with a view to mutual learning and enrichment. The residency is an opportunity for a shared inquiry into techniques of world-making, of building intimacy with things, including the other-than-human and the wild.

The theme of the residency is the “Selva”, the forest, understood as openness, as an entrance on the world: the possibility to rethink the point of view, multiply perspectives. Thematizing the forest is an invitation to rethink dualisms, the separation between inside and outside, wilderness and home, wild and domestic.

What then does it mean to inhabit the forest together?

Starting from this question, Neutopica offers the initial conditions to activate a critical inquiry, which will be articulated through sharing practices that can provide us with research tools. The program of the residency will be only partially structured and will emerge from the meeting on site and the proposals of the participants.

Neutopica offers itself as an open and potentially unproductive space: in fact, the production of an artwork is not required. Participants will decline their research as a practice, both in individual and shared form, and will search for a posture, a mode of interaction, that contributes to the common research, also with a view to its becoming public

ARCHIVE

Neutopica, starting from research on practices, works on various methodologies for the creation of reactivatable archives, which are presented to the public in various formats (exhibitions, publications etc.). During the residency, materials will be collected that will then go on to form a publishing project and a podcast, produced in collaboration with FANGO RADIO.

STATEMENT / how to make the present utopian?

Neutopica stands as an alternative to the dichotomy between dystopian narratives and illusions, which crowd the current imagination, opposing the frenzy, the compulsion to produce, to take care of the present time. A possibility of re-enchantment of the world, in which to invent utopian and concrete relationships and with the Otherness.

Neutopica is a place that we cross according to individual needs, concerting the participants' proposals, putting at the center of curatorial practice the search for a balance between project and spontaneity. In this sense, the residency is composed as a plural drawing: an embroidery made of individual crossings.

How we will inhabit, how we will regulate living will be the basic tools to work on the quality and modulation of our presence, on its performative sense, starting from a scansion of time in collective and individual practices, using the languages of artistic research for a choral rewriting of the imaginary of Casa La Selva.

THE PHASES

- 0 Beginning ritual: meeting in the woods with Annalisa Malerba. Followed by setting the logistics and poetics of the kitchen by Annalisa Malerba and Nicolò Pagnanelli, forager and founder of Spontaneus Lab.
- 1 Desiderata: calendaring of proposals and practices.
- 2 Materialization: creation of working groups and scheduling, based on the research proposals, implementation of projects or sharing formats. At this stage we will imagine the form that the public opening will take.
- 3 Celebration: realization of a hospitality action addressed to an external audience and eventual sharing of individual or collective projects.

CASA LA SELVA

Neutopica is necessarily intertwined with the stories and lives connected to the places it passes through. Casa La Selva has been the center of Annalisa Malerba's family life for several years. As of summer 2022, Annalisa and her family move to a new house and leave Casa La Selva, which is put up for sale. Neutopica intervenes by celebrating this moment of transition; N. is hosted and, in turn, imagines a new format of hospitality.

GUIDES TO FORAGING AND COOKING

Nicolò Pagnanelli astronomer, forager and founder of Spontaneus Lab. He works in ethnobotany and traditional conservation techniques, working in the boundary space between the world of plants and that of microorganisms.

Annalisa Malerba farmer, author and translator. Alongside her academic training in medicine and surgery, she has worked as a lecturer and chef of natural cooking. For 20 years she has been involved in teaching and experimentation in phytoalimurgy. She collaborates on foraging and traveling educational sessions with Nicolò Pagnanelli and the Spontaneus Lab project, whose operational pantry and microorganism cultures he hosts in the Apennines.

Neutopica la selva is realized in collaboration with **PHYSALIA**: a project conceived by Alice Consigli, which nurtures relationships between artists, collectives and spaces operating in Tuscany in the field of contemporary arts (visual art, dance, music, performance, new media art, design). PHYSALIA fosters the sharing of knowledge among artist from different disciplines, with the intention of generating a collective and transdisciplinary reflection within the independent art sector, as well as developing activities and pathways that put the focus on deepening artistic research.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Send by **June 29, 2022** a pdf document to info.neutopica@gmail.com, answering the following questions

- a short bio and your motivation to participate.
max 200 words
- Send us a short text, short video or audio track that tells what or how is for you a neutopian forest

Selection results will be announced by July 7, 2022.

Confirmation of participation by July 10, 2022.

For any questions you can write to info.neutopica@gmail.com by June 25, 2022.

CONDITIONS

The participation fee* is 150 euros and includes:

- food (breakfast/lunch/dinner) based on organic products provided by local realities
- insurance coverage
- basic working materials.

*Neutopica this year is a self-funded project. Fees are used to cover basic expenses to make the residency possible.-

Selected participants will be asked:

- to participate in the entire residency period (July 30–Aug. 6) with arrival on July 29 and departure on August 6 or 7.
- to bring along the necessities for sleeping outside (tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, etc.).
- adaptability to limited services and amenities.

Participants will pay their own travel expenses.

**Neotopica is realized in
collaboration with PHYSALIA**

Project realized under the patronage
of the Municipality of Talla

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