

CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR EUROPEAN ART INSTITUTIONS

**France – Belgium – Switzerland – Luxembourg –
Monaco**



Edition 9 – 2026-2028

**Applications open from
1st September to 15th October 2026**

PREAMBLE

The **Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation** is a Portuguese institution working for humanity as a whole. It seeks to promote knowledge and improve quality of life through

Values

Independence

We can only take action and bear witness if we have freedom of movement and freedom of conscience.

Transparency

Confidently shedding light on the future obliges us to be transparent in all of our actions.

Integrity

Honesty and the sense of justice enable us to be useful while remaining true to ourselves.

Responsibility

Taking daily action obliges us to gauge the impacts of our choices for ourselves and for others.

the arts, charitable endeavours, knowledge and science, **for a fairer, sustainable, pluralistic world.**

The **French Delegation** is the European branch of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, and focuses its activities on the **co-production of exhibitions**, an **annual call for projects aimed at French-speaking European art institutions wishing to include Portuguese** visual artists in their programming, the **Prix Art Ensemble** for artists working in the participatory arts, the organisation of **meetings and debates** throughout the year, **partnerships with civil society organizations**, and the provision of a large **Portuguese-language library.**

Since its creation, the **French Delegation** has always supported the presence of **artists from the Portuguese art scene** in international institutions. Over the years, it has contributed to the **circulation** and **internationalisation** of hundreds of artists through various schemes to support creation and production, as well as training and professional development abroad. This call for applications aims to support exhibition projects that contribute to the visibility of Portuguese creation in the field of visual arts in Europe.

Open until 15 October 2026, this call for projects is aimed at art institutions (museums, art centres, foundations, associations, biennales, festivals, etc.) operating in **France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg** and **Monaco** wishing to present artists from the Portuguese art scene, as part of their programming. As we enter this 9th edition, we have 76 institutions, 239 artists and over 650,000 visitors.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 - Purpose and scope

1. The Foundation's French Delegation awards grants for exhibition projects that contribute to the **visibility of the Portuguese visual arts scene**.
2. The grants will be awarded to **museums, FRACs, art centres, associations** and other **institutions** of recognised merit, as well as to major visual arts events such as **festivals** and **biennales**.
3. Institutions can submit projects with **artists from the Portuguese art scene**, including **international artists living in Portugal** whose work has a strong connection with Portugal.
4. Exhibition projects should involve the following disciplines: painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, photography, video art, performance, dance in an exhibition context, and any cross-over between these disciplines. Architecture and design are not eligible for this programme.
5. The scope of this programme covers the following countries: France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Monaco.

Article 2 - Objectives

1. Contribute to the international recognition of Portuguese artistic creation in the visual arts.
2. Promote the visibility of Portuguese artists in Europe, not only to French institutions, but also to the public, journalists, art critics and the art market.
3. Stimulate scientific research by encouraging the production of original works and innovative critical thinking on artists from the Portuguese art scene and on the history of Portuguese art and its themes

Article 3 - Exhibitions

The term "exhibition" refers to projects presenting visual artists in the disciplines mentioned in paragraph 3 of article 1 in the following formats:

- a) solo monographic exhibition by Portuguese artist(s);
- b) anthological or retrospective solo show by Portuguese artist(s);
- c) group show with the participation of one or more Portuguese artists;
- d) regular visual arts event involving one or more Portuguese artists.

Article 4 - Deadlines and competitions

1. Applications are open from 1st September to 15th October 2026.
2. The competition announcement and rules are available online on the Fondation's website gulbenkian.pt/paris

ACCESS CONDITIONS

Article 5 - Eligible institutions

1. Museums, art centres and other public or private not-for-profit institutions, such as associations or foundations, whose headquarters are located in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Monaco, and which operate at national, regional or local level, are eligible for this program, as are leading visual arts events held on a regular basis, such as festivals and biennials, and which wish to present Portuguese artists as part of their program of activities. No grants will be awarded directly to the artists.
2. Institutions planning projects involving Portuguese artists will be able to apply for several grants under this programme.

APPLICATIONS

Article 6 - Submission of applications

1. Candidate institutions must complete the online form on the Foundation's website: gulbenkian.pt/paris/appel-a-projets/
2. Applications must be submitted in French.
3. To apply, institutions must fill in the following information on the online form:
 - a) description of the exhibition project;
 - b) artist biography;
 - c) Proof of involvement of the Portuguese artist(s) in the exhibition (letter of confirmation from the artist confirming their participation in the project);
 - d) a brief description of the institution and an explanation of its mission, objectives and artistic programme;
 - e) exhibition dates;
 - f) presentation of total estimate and cost breakdown;
 - g) amount of financing required;
 - h) Facility report including photos of showroom(s) and floor space;
 - i) presentation of the curatorial team;
 - j) objectives to be achieved by the curatorial team;
 - k) production schedule and catalogue publication date;
 - l) the partners involved, including other entities providing funding, where applicable;
 - m) touring project for the proposal, if applicable;
 - n) description of the publication project;
 - o) communication strategy;
 - o) description of the educational project;
 - p) programming in parallel with the exhibition;
 - q) estimated number of visitors.
4. Once the application has been submitted, candidate institutions will no longer be able to modify it.

Article 7 - Criteria for selecting applications

1. The application will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- a) ambition and quality of the artistic project;
- b) objectives and desired impact;
- c) suitability of the artist's profile and background to the institution's mission;
- d) target audience;
- e) distribution and visibility strategy;
- f) innovative publication project to ensure the sustainability of the project and its research;
- g) fair remuneration for the artist (exhibition rights, etc.);
- h) project sustainability;
- i) the project's compatibility with the Gulbenkian Foundation's values.

2. Priority will be given to exhibition projects with a known list of artists.

Article 8 - Project implementation

Depending on the ambition of the project, it should be completed within 14 months of the announcement of the results, in line with the proposed timetable. The project must be completed within 14 months of the results of the call for projects. The earliest starting date is November 2026, the latest January 2028.

Article 9 - Exclusions

Applications will not be accepted:

- a) from private individuals;
- b) which offer online exhibitions;
- c) which offer projects of an academic, school or non-professional nature;

- e) from institutions that are in unjustified default vis-à-vis the Foundation, with regard to the submission of material and/or financial performance reports or reimbursements.

Article 10 - Approval of applications

1. Entries will be assessed by a jury comprising a representative of the Gulbenkian Foundation's French Delegation and two leading international figures from the art world.
2. Applications will first be evaluated by the French Delegation team, in order to confirm compliance with the conditions required by these rules.
3. The jury meets twice a year to select the candidates and draw up a proposal for the Board of Directors of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, which is responsible for the final decision.
4. If necessary, the Foundation and the jury may request additional information from the applicant institutions, or propose adjustments to the content of the applications.
5. The final decision will be notified to the applicant institutions within 60 days of the final date for receipt of applications.
6. Validation of funding is subject to signature of the grant acceptance conditions by the institution's legal representative.
7. The results may not be appealed.

Financing and eligibility

Article 11 - Financing

1. The amount of financial support for the projects mentioned in Article 1 will be determined by the Foundation, but may not exceed 40% of the total cost of the project.
2. The Foundation's support is granted as a co-participation.
3. No grants will be awarded directly to the artists.
4. The financial support granted will be paid by bank transfer in two instalments, 60% on award of support and 40% on final delivery of the project, following submission of a final project implementation report.

Article 12 - Non-eligible expenditure

The following expenses are not eligible for support under this program:

- a) expenses covered by another entity or program;
- b) expenditure on materials and equipment;
- c) expenses to finance the regular activities of the applicant institution, and its day-to-day logistical and administrative support;
- d) pre-project expenses.

Article 13 - Suspension and cancellation of grant

1. The Foundation may suspend the institution's funding in the event of:
 - a) non-compliance with this regulation or refusal to provide the relevant information requested;
 - b) change in the nature of the project receiving funding;
 - c) misconduct, by action or omission, on the part of the institution, the seriousness of which could break the relationship of trust on which the execution of the funded project is based.
2. The decision to suspend funding is communicated to the institution by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt. A period of time is allowed to rectify any defects detected, or to provide proof of any alterations reported.
3. The financing of the institution may be subject to revocation:
 - a) if, after the deadline set out in the letter referred to in the previous paragraph, the institution fails to submit the supporting documents requested or to remedy the irregularities that led to the suspension of funding;
 - b) in the event of proven misrepresentation.
4. The decision to revoke funding is communicated to the subsidized institution by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt;
5. In the event of revocation of funding, the institution is obliged to return the amounts received within 90 days of the date of receipt of the notification.

Obligations of the institution

Article 14 - Communication

1. The funded institution is obliged to ensure the Gulbenkian Foundation's institutional visibility, by placing the words "With the support of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation - French Delegation" followed by the Foundation's logo, in a visible place, on all publicity documents, including digital communication materials, press initiatives, publications or other information products produced in connection with the exhibition.
2. The wording and logo indicated in the previous paragraph must also be visible at the entrance to the exhibition, in compliance with the institution's usual operating standards.

Article 15 - Final report

1. The subsidised institution is required to submit a final report (see appendix for structure) no later than 30 days after the close of the exhibition.
2. The following documents must be attached to the final report:
 - a) A press review of the exhibition;
 - b) A digital file of a selection of photographs from the exhibition;
 - c) A folder containing all the graphics produced for the exhibition;
 - d) Ten copies of the publication produced for the exhibition.

Article 16 - Data protection

All personal data provided by Holders in the context of applications will be processed exclusively for the purposes of managing the award of the grant by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, as the entity responsible for data processing.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation may be contacted for any questions relating to data processing in this context, and for these purposes by e-mail (privacidade@gulbenkian.pt).

Holders' personal data will be kept for the period necessary to award and manage this grant, except in cases where another period is required by applicable legislation. Certain data (i.e. the name of the person responsible for the application, the date of the application and the personal data potentially included in the works and publications submitted, as well as the data collected during the grant award ceremony) will be

kept for an indefinite period by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, as part of its activities to manage and preserve cultural, intellectual and artistic heritage.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation guarantees to Holders the exercise of rights related to their data, such as the rights of access, rectification, deletion, opposition, limitation of processing and portability, in accordance with applicable legislation.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation implements all necessary and appropriate security measures to protect the personal data of the Holders, whether the data is processed directly by the FCG or when it is processed by entities subcontracted by the FCG.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation may process the personal data collected in this context directly and/or through subcontractors

for this purpose, appropriate contracts being concluded with these subcontractors, in accordance with the applicable legislation. In the context of and for the purposes of awarding this grant, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation may communicate applicants' data to partner entities for the purpose of managing publications and institutional communications. These entities may be based inside or outside the European Union, where appropriate mechanisms will be used at all times, within the framework of applicable legislation, to guarantee the security of personal data.

Appendix 1 – Final report

The final report submitted to the Gulbenkian Foundation at the end of the exhibition project supported by our institution should take stock of the following elements:

- a) The objectives of the artistic project, in particular the impact of the subsidised action in the context in which it takes place;
- b) Objectives achieved by the curatorial team;
- c) Publication project;
- d) Communication strategy and its impact;
- e) Educational project;
- f) Parallel program to the exhibition;
- g) Number of visitors (including origin, department, age, gender, number of guided tours) if possible;
- h) Impact of the exhibition on the artist's career (questionnaire/interview with the artist)
- i) Update on the assistance provided by the Gulbenkian Foundation - Paris (how useful has the assistance been? recommendations and areas for improvement);
- j) Report on the financial execution of the project, giving details of expenditure covered by the grant awarded.

The following items must be attached to the report:

- A press review of the exhibition;
- A list, including the respective links, of advertising measures and means of dissemination (press, radio, television, social networks, promotional material, dissemination actions) where the support of the FCG is mentioned;
- A selection of photographs from the exhibition;
- A folder containing all the graphic elements produced for the exhibition;
- 10 copies of the publication produced for the exhibition, featuring the FCG name.