

Pour Que l'Esprit Vive

www.pourquelespritvive.org



The Artist-in-Residence Center of L'Abbaye de la Prée

Located in the center of France, in the heart of the province of Berry, the domain of La Prée shelters an old Cistercian abbey founded in 1141 by Saint Bernard. The abbey served as a monastery until the French Revolution after which it was privately owned for a century and a half. In 1954, it was donated to the charitable foundation Les petits frères des Pauvres. The abbey has since then been used as a summer residence for the elderly who are cared for by the foundation, and also as a refuge for elderly and isolated people in the surrounding area during the winter months.

The estate, bordered by a stream, includes approximately 100 acres of lush meadows and forest. The buildings are located in a 12 acre park, enclosed by stone walls. This development includes the abbey, the old mill (today known as the "hostelry"), and a number of annexes and barns.

In 1992, the associations Les petits frères des Pauvres and Pour Que l'Esprit Vive engaged in a joint project to maximize the use of the two most important buildings of the estate.

— The "hostelry" welcomes the elderly under the care of Les petits frères des Pauvres.

— The abbey serves as accommodations for an artist residency program, administered by Pour Que l'Esprit Vive, to help artists of all disciplines in their research and creation.

The idea to establish an artist residency was born from the need, expressed by many artists, for a place where they could spend a long period of time devoted exclusively to their art; a place where they could escape the constraints of urban environments, the demands of everyday life, and the noise and distractions of the city.

There is an important theme linking the elements of this project that is reinforced not only by its setting, but also by a **social vision and the question of the purpose of art, and that is humanism.**

Seven individual residences have been allocated for artists. Each is comprised of two rooms, a kitchen, and bathroom. There are also a number of study rooms, a library, two pianos at the disposition of the composers, and three workshops, one of which is devoted to engraving.

Since 1992 more than fifty artists have held residency. Music holds a special place in La Prée, due in part to the important role played by musicians in the conception of the artist-in-residence program, and in particular to the cellist Dominique de Williencourt and the composer Nicolas Bacri who were the first artists in residence in 1992.

In the spirit of the importance of musicians and composers to the artist-in-residence program, the Abbaye de La Prée organizes and hosts several musical events throughout the year. This includes four to six concerts, and its own annual music festival — **Rencontres Musicales autour de La Prée** — which is held each spring during the weekend of Ascension. For four days, current and former composers and musicians joined by world renowned artists and ensembles perform new works by the residents as well as major works from the standard repertory. The emphasis has been on chamber music and small ensembles. During these Musical Encounters the Abbey, its restaurant, and its surroundings are open to the public.

Since 2002, the Académie des Beaux-Arts (Academy of Fine Arts) in Paris has been a supporter of the residency program by showing recognition of the enduring value of the work at La Prée and as a pledge for the continuation of the project.

Abbaye de la Prée
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- 2010 / 2011

Application Guidelines for Artist Residency at La Prée

Candidates must either have a university degree in the arts or have had their portfolio reviewed and approved by the residency's selection committee. The residency is open to candidates of all nationalities, but requires that the applicant have a strong understanding of the French language.

Selected artists will be welcomed for an eleven-month residency which may be extended for an additional year if the quality of the candidate's work and their contribution to the life at La Prée justifies such renewal.

Each candidate must submit both an administrative application and a portfolio.

The Administrative Application

The administrative application must be sent to the President of *Pour Que l'Esprit Vive* association **before April 1, 2010** (postmarked on or before March 31, 2010). Dossiers sent after the deadline will be returned to the candidates.

Requirements for the Administrative Application:

- An Application Form (see next page).
- A photocopy of a valid picture ID or passport
- A curriculum vitae, which includes higher studies, degrees, prizes and distinctions, exhibitions, and any publications
- An official copy of any degrees listed
- A photocopy of your driver's license (La Prée is in a secluded location, a driver's license is necessary for daily life)
- A signed statement that the candidate has never been tried or convicted for any crime, or, if tried a copy of the court decision
- A medical certificate attesting that the candidate has no illness or disability that might interfere with his/her ability to fulfil the residency if chosen

Portfolio

The portfolio must be submitted **before April 15, 2010**, following the steps to be outlined to each candidate from whom an administrative application has been received.

Portfolio Requirements:

- A typed statement explaining the candidate's interest in applying for residency including a project statement outlining the research or work envisioned during the residency
Outlining the research or work he/she expects to execute in this time
- For **visual artists** (painters, sculptors, engravers, photographers) a portfolio of your work (drawings, gouaches, photographs) showing the evolution of your work;
- For **architects**, original copies or photographic reproductions of past projects;
- For **composers**, a work of chamber music and a composition for orchestra, accompanied by a score and a CD or tape for each work, indicating title, length, and date of composition;
- For **filmmakers** (cinema or television), two recent films of your choice in 35 mm, 16 mm, DVD video Umatic, VH) with title, length, and date of filming
- For **writers**, a copy of a published work or a manuscript of a work in progress with indication of publisher and anticipated date of publication.
- A declaration that all works submitted to the Selection Committee are solely those of the candidate. In the case of collaboration, the first and last name, title, address, and a description of the other artist(s) contribution to the work in question must be provided.

- A list of people authorized to present and to remove works included in the artist's

After the study of these personal files by the artistic committee, those artists and architects chosen for interviews will be asked to submit a supplement to their dossiers of a selection of original works following the instructions to be spelled out for each candidate.

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee, which meets in May, is made up of members from the Académie des Beaux-Arts and the *Pour Que l'Esprit Vive* association.

Candidates will be informed without delay of the decision of the Committee.

Further information may be obtained from: contact@pqev.org

Application Form for Residence at La Prée, 2010/ 2011

Please complete in capital letters and submit before the 1st of april 2010.

Last name:

First name:

Date of birth:

Family status:

Number of children:

Personal address:

Telephone:

Cell phone:

Email:

Website:

I, the undersigned, request a residency at La Prée as a (choose by checking only one of the specialties below)

Architect

Composer

Filmmaker

Visual artist (painter, sculptor, engraver, photographer...)

Writer

Signed at

on

Your signature

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Regulations for the Artistic Residence of La Prée

The Residence of La Prée is open to professionals in the following seven disciplines:

1) painting, 2) sculpture, 3) architecture, 4) engraving, 5) musical composition, 6) photography, cinema, and audio-visual media, 7) literature.

La Prée's residency program is administered by the President and the Director of the association *Pour Que l'Esprit Vive*, assisted by the resident director of La Prée for matters of lodging, as well as by various artistic administrators.

Residency

The duration of the residency is eleven months: **from October 1st until August 31st** of the following year. It is possible to request one twelve month extension. A request for renewal may be made with *Pour que l'Esprit Vive* **before May 15th of the first year of residence.**

Conditions of the Residency

La Prée provides living quarters for the artists in residence, but does not provide meals or other amenities. Supplies and materials are not provided and are the responsibility of each resident, with the exception of a piano which is available to composers.

Each resident is responsible for the organization of his or her daily life including transportation, food, and cleaning.

The rooms and apartments granted to the residents are furnished and equipped with dishes and cutlery as well as the necessary bedding and towels.

Depending on the needs of the artist, a separate work space can be arranged.

All public spaces, reception areas, library, wireless internet connection, car, work spaces, gardens and grounds, are open for use to all residents on the condition that the spaces and equipment are treated respectfully and returned to their previous state after use.

A contract drawn up by the Association is submitted to each resident before his/her arrival at La Prée, to be signed jointly by the artist and the President of the Association.

The contract specifies the conditions of residency including the dates of the stay, the nature of lodging provided, and stipulates certain regulations, procedures, codes of behaviour to guarantee a certain quality of life and work specific to the place.

The contract specifies the conditions of the residency including the dates, details of the accommodations, and a the standards for personal conduct necessary in order to maintain the quality of life and the positive work environment that are so unique to the location.

Terms of the Residency

A minimum of 183 days within the eleven months must be spent at La Prée.

In order to maintain organization within La Prée, residents are asked to notify the appropriate administrator in the event of his/her absence from the Abbey.

The spouse and/or children (a maximum of two family members) of the residents are welcome through the duration of the residency as long as their presence is in accordance with the rules of the community. Their stay may be long term or temporary.

If residents wish to invite guests to stay at La Prée, they must inform the appropriate administrator in order to secure an apartment or extra room for such guests. Reservations will be made according to availability at the Abbey. Such visits can be no longer than one week.

The Work

The work executed by the artists in residence must comply with his/her original proposal as presented in the application. The work should not depart from this original proposal without appropriate justification.

At the end of their stay, residents must submit concrete examples (drawings, films, texts, CDs, scores etc) representing the process of the work they have accomplished.

A designated member of the Commission of Selection offers support and follows the progress of each resident.

It is appreciated that each artist consider leaving one of his/her works to the Association at the end of his or her residence.

The Association *Pour Que l'Esprit Vive* requires that residents and former residents mention their stay at La Prée as the place of creation of their works, and routinely in their curriculum vitae.

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Participants in the Artist-in-Residence Program of La Prée (1992-2009/2010)

Chronological order by year of residency

1992

Dominique de Williencourt,
cellist-composer

Guillemette de Williencourt,
sculptor

1993

Nicolas Bacri, composer

Jean-Louis Florentz, composer

Hélène Thiébault, musicologist

1994

Jean-Louis Florentz, composer

Hélène Garin, painter - sculptor

1995

Christophe Beau, cellist

Bruno Dewaele, photographer

Anne Gratadour, scenographer

Arnaud Hofmarcher, writer

Thierry Lancino, composer

Bernard Yannotta, clarinetist

1996

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1997

Mûza Rubackyté, pianist

Mathieu Schmitt, painter –
sculptor

1998

Quatuor Arpeggione, string
quartet

Olivier Greif, composer

Laurent de Troil, engraver

1999

Françoise Choveaux, composer

Mûza Rubackyté, pianist

Pierre Thilloy, composer

Etienne Yver, painter -sculptor

2000

François Cayol, drawer -
engraver

Alexandre Gasparov, pianist –
composer

Tatiana Smelova, pianist

2001

Chengbi-Seungpil An, composer

Frank Denon, engraver

Philippe Forget, composer

Stéphane Héaume, writer

Pierre Thilloy, composer

Etienne Yver, painter-sculptor

2002

Quatuor Gaudi, string quartet

2003

Gilles Silvestrini, composer

Jean-Louis Courtinat,
photographer

Sylvie Berry, sculptor

Estelle Courtois, drawer -painter

Béatrice Bonnafous, painter

2004

Françoise Grandcolin, writer

Jean Demélier, writer

Mauricio Gomes, painter

Vincent Guyot, composer

2005

Coralie Nadaud, engraver

Ahmed K. Abbas Al Safy,
painter-sculptor

Jacques Duron, film-maker

Vincent Guyot, composer

2006

Yann Kassile, film-maker

Jean-Claude Wolff, composer

2007

Benoît Menut, composer

Vartan Tovmasian, painter

Mohamadou N'Doye , “Douts”,
painter

2008

Gabriel Attic, writer

Fabienne Morel, film-maker

2009

Anne Bramard-Blagny, film-
maker

Gabriel Foussard, painter

Olivier Pénard, composer

Jean-Bernard Collès, composer

Marie-Clémentine Marès,
engraver

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