

Guidelines for Quinta da Bufala AIR Program

Quinta da Bufala runs its own International Residency Program, that offers artists not residing in Portugal or Sintra the opportunity to live and work on the Quinta da Bufala property for a period of one month. The program aims to promote creativity, solitude, and engagement with the nature and environment offered at Quinta da Bufala and Sintra.

1. Exchange

Artists in residence stay for one month and work independently in a secluded forest setting. While there are no structured group activities or formal networking expectations, QdB AIR fosters an introspective form of exchange—one grounded in stillness, environment, and material inquiry. The residency is designed for those seeking solitude, spaciousness, and a deeper connection with their own creative process.

2. Artistic Practice

Beyond the usual constraints of employment, commissions, and deadlines, residencies offer artists the time, space, and resources to experiment with new approaches to their work. Within the context of the mystical poetic environment of Quinta da Bufala and Sintra, artists can gather new ideas and perspectives that influence the development of their artistic practice.

5. Facilities

The Residency Program is open to a wide range of visual artists, writers, and researchers who are mindful of QdB AIR's intentionally limited facilities and equipment. Currently, QdB AIR offers artists lodging in the **Forest Pavilion**—a quiet, fully furnished cabin in the hills of Sintra—with access to a studio in an adjacent building. The Pavilion includes a private bathroom, kitchen, indoor living area, outdoor balcony, air conditioning, a heating thermostat, and a laundry machine for personal use.

A common dining area in the **Farm House** provides organic lunches Monday through Friday (included in the residency). A pantry with minimal appliances is also available for residents to prepare simple meals or tea.

No specialized studio equipment is provided, though QdB AIR offers basic art supplies and a dedicated workspace with a table and chair. Internet access is available 24/7. Access to office equipment (printer, computer for email, etc.) may be arranged upon request during business hours.

6. Applications

Selection is made by direct invitation or through an open call (with proposal and portfolio evaluation by a jury). QdB AIR accepts unsolicited applications, which are evaluated by a jury, and the artist is responsible for all residency financing.

Year Founded: 2025

Context: Rural (25-minute drive from Lisbon)

Residency Structure: Stand-alone, Embedded in historic site

Residency Program Type: Studio-based (with housing), Research

Duration of Residency: 1 month

Languages: English, Portuguese

Number of Artists in Residence at a Time: 1

Residency Months: November, January and upon special request

Collaborative Residency: Must apply and be accepted as a team. May apply as a team.

Discipline: Visual Arts (high priority: painters, drawing, printmaking, sculptors; digital art);

Companionship: Pets are not allowed

Country of Residence: Open to artists based anywhere in the world.

Family Friendly: Spouses/partners allowed for full stay.

Stage of Career: Mid-career, Established

Additional Expectations/Opportunities:

Donate a work of art

Participate in open studio

Give artist talk or presentation

Lead workshop for the public

How Does This Residency Program Support Artists?

- Opportunity to be in another context
- Opportunity to travel
- Immersion in new culture
- Unstructured time
- Access to studio space to create new work
- 55 acres (22 hectares) of nature to inspire and integrate into the creative process
- Opportunities to exhibit new work

Application Information

Additional Eligibility Information:

Collaborative applications welcomed, maximum 2 residents/studio. Complete one application.

Alumni residents are not eligible to reapply (please contact residency director for off-season options)

Artist applicants submit 5 examples of work made in the last 5 years.

Number of Artists Accepted Per Year: 2-4

Residency Fee: 3,000 Euro (includes lunch meals, 20 meals/month on working days)

Fee Details:

The residency funding includes: 24/7 studio access, 2 meals/day Monday-Friday, wifi, a beautiful house of 115m2, access to gym, dining area, bicycle paths, nature, farm work.

Scholarship:

We offer one scholarship per year. Young, talented, emerging artists can enjoy one month of scholarship provided they have been accepted by the AIR jury.

Transportation is supported by the artist, the artist can choose to leave a work, nevertheless, it is totally optional. Included in the scholarship: accommodation. To apply, write an email at connect@quintadabufala.com

Application Dates for November Residency: June 1st - August 1st

Application Dates for January Residency: October 1st - December 1st

Accessibility

What does your program provide during the residency experience?

- Pre-orientation
- Manual/handbook before arrival
- Communication before arrival to discuss accommodations, medical conditions, or other health needs (NEED TO HAVE MEDICAL INSURANCE DURING THEIR TRIP)
- Orientation upon arrival
- Contact information for local destinations (e.g., grocery stores, sites, etc.)

Is the residency wheelchair accessible: Inaccessible

Additional accessibility information: Only the first floor of the main building is ADA compliant. The residency studio space and living quarters are accessible by staircase.

For more information, please contact the QdB AIR team at connect@quintadabufala.com

