



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Directorate A – Strategy, Work Programme and Resources  
**Scientific Development Unit**

## Open Call for Expression of Interest



Resonances IV SciArt Summer School @ JRC

20-24 June 2022

### Introduction

Artists across creative disciplines, countries and at any stage of their career are invited to submit an application to participate in the Resonances IV Summer School at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy. As a melting pot of perspectives and disciplines, the Summer School will be a fertile ground for fermenting ideas on the theme of ***NaturArchy: Towards a Natural Contract***. The programme is targeted at artists producing work in the rich lands between art and science, whose work engages diverse audiences, and who show strong interest in scientific inquiry.

The purpose of the Summer School is to invite artists to explore and be inspired by the challenges of doing science for policy. JRC scientists and policy-makers will be part of this group, jointly discussing and discovering the theme of *NaturArchy* in its contexts and perspectives. Through this process, we wish to create a safe haven where artists and JRC scientists have the possibility to engage in high-quality pioneering collaborations. We hope these exchanges will lead to inspiring projects and works of art at the intersection of the arts, sciences, and society. Of greatest interest are works that spill over from art and research enclaves into the streets.

A maximum of 20 artists will be selected and invited as experts, according to European Commission rules, to participate actively to a summer school workshop (see details below). At the end of the summer school, they will be invited to submit a project proposal that combines research and production in view of a more extensive residency at one of the [JRC sites in Europe](#). If selected, the proposal will be produced and showcased at the JRC, with the possibility to exhibit, subsequently, in a major European venue.

## Theme / Curatorial Statement

*NaturArchy: Towards a Natural Contract* aims to explore – through artistic, scientific and legal expressions – how providing nature and its phenomena with a contract that integrates her juridically into our society can redefine our anthropocentric relationship with her.

Pushing beyond Rousseau’s social contract, *NaturArchy* calls for a more inclusive and equitable contract with our environment and its non-human inhabitants. To free nature from the onslaught of human activities, we need to rearticulate her immanent sovereignty and decentre the human. But how can we do this without impairing our own development? Decolonise our most intimate takes on nature? If we could ensure legally enforceable rights for natural entities, how do we decide what is right or wrong for these sovereign entities? How much are we disposed to hand in if decisions no longer hinge solely on human concerns?

Trees, planets, clouds and roots: we also want to investigate how the material world matters, and develop ways to understand the languages of nature and their legitimacy. Moulds, yeasts, grains, herbs: we want to deepen our collective awareness of the tremendous legacy of human intercourse with nature, and develop ways of living with her by reinforcing, not merely exploiting her.

Intersecting science and law, reason and style, art and judgment, policy and imagination, *NaturArchy* wants to re-imagine the western relation between the human and the non-human, in an attempt to ensure juridical persona to Nature’s many wonders, be they stardust or DNA.

Topics may include (but are not limited to)

- Law and Nature: Ecocide, Environmental crime, Parliament of Beings
- Climate Heritage, Equity, Human Rights & Indigenous Peoples
- Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure, & Nature-based Solutions
- Languages & Codes of Nature
- One Health, Planetary Health, Resilience & Post-Covid recovery
- Green Deal, New European Bauhaus
- Natural Resources, Sustainable Agriculture, Water, Soil, Forests, Air, Atmosphere
- Identity, Meanings and Values in our relationship with the non-human

## Selection Criteria

All submitted applications will be evaluated on the basis of:

- Reflection on the theme of 'NaturArchy', drawing on one or more specific topics (see above) in the personal statement;
- Openness and capacity to confront contrasting ideas and traditional forms of collaboration into the realization of works of artistic excellence;
- Show novelty of ideas and realisation, combine unexpected viewpoints and straddle/bridge disciplines;
- Demonstrate their capacity to envision scientific knowledge and insights;
- Show competence to realise works of exceptional artistic quality, that provoke wonder and interest, and create strong experiences;
- Demonstrate their ability to incorporate societal relevance of current scientific debates into their artistic works (e.g. as seen in previous works in the portfolio).

We look forward to applications from artists who recognise the value of creative resources in probing and bridging ways of knowing and engaging. Their work and approaches may encompass research-based, place-based, embodied and social forms of artistic practice, contaminated by science, or interested in the cultural significance of scientific research in support of policy.

We believe that art and artists have a very important role in imagining, representing and realising a sustainable future. Ever more so when coupled to scientific research and policy-making. We are interested in probing questions that lie at the heart of contemporary debates over what kind of world we want to live in, push forward the boundaries of our imagination of our desirable futures and connect with people in relation to our environment.

The Selection Committee reserves the right to invite other artists based on their expertise on the topic, societal relevance and/or prowess in combining art and science.

## What to Expect

### **Process - Resonances IV Summer School leading to Resonances IV exhibition and events**

The Resonances Summer School is a week of inspirational and exploratory meetings, serendipity and cross-breeding around the topic of *NaturArchy*. Researchers, scientists, policy-makers and artists come together for 5 days of formal and informal exchanges, short talks, conferences, presentations, speed dates, walks and more, to explore, connect, challenge and envision. Some sow their first ideas for a work of art.

Up to 20 selected artists, in their capacity as experts in their field, will have the opportunity to explore the JRC site in Ispra and exchange with a group of 30 scientists and policy-makers, who have expressed their interest in attending.

The summer school gives attendees the possibility to meet the people behind the JRC research projects that support EU policies, as well as to explore the facilities of the Ispra site. After the summer school, with deadline of 31 August 2022, all attendees are invited to develop and submit a project proposal for research and production of an artwork. Proposals for projects will be subject to another evaluation by a jury and, if selected, participants will be invited for longer residencies at the JRC during the first months of 2023.

### **Expectations**

Participating artists are expected to:

- Give a short presentation of their own work;
- Establish dialogues and actively participate in discussions, exploring research themes within the JRC and the perspectives of scientists and policy-makers;
- Be present throughout the 5 days of the Summer School;
- Deliver a report on experiences and impressions with suggestions and ideas.

### **Optional**

We hope that some dialogues can culminate in a co-conceived proposal for research and production of an artwork that exemplifies the subjects discussed, addresses public concerns inherent to *NaturArchy*, straddles disciplines and sensibilities.

### **Venue**

The Summer School is hosted at the JRC in Ispra, in via Enrico Fermi 2749, Ispra (VA), Italia.

The Summer School is structured in two parts:

- A two-day Convening, **20-21 June 2022**, on the topic of Art, Science and Naturarchy, is open to all people interested in the subject and willing to participate to the discussions;
- A three-day workshop, **22-24 June 2022**, is open on invitation only.

### **Allowance, accommodation and transport**

Artists winning the selection on the basis of this Open Call are invited to both the Convening session and the workshop. For the Convening session, they will receive daily allowance, accommodation and reimbursement of travel; for the workshop, in addition to the daily allowance and accommodation, they will also receive an expert fee according to the European Commission (more information [here](#)).

## Application procedure

All applications should be submitted through the online [APPLICATION FORM](#), no later than February 15th 2022. You will be asked to upload a CV and a portfolio. To access the form, you might be asked to create an ECAS account.

### **Language**

Applications can be made in English or French. During the Summer School, the working language will be English.

### **Contacts**

For any inquiries, or problems, please contact [JRC-Resonances@ec.europa.eu](mailto:JRC-Resonances@ec.europa.eu)

### **Jury**

A jury composed of members of the SciArt Team and external SciArt experts of clear reputation will evaluate the applications.

### **Privacy Statement**

The SciArt project is part of the JRC's Centre for Advanced Studies. The privacy statement can be found [here](#).

For more information about the JRC SciArt project and past Resonances editions, please visit [our temporary SciArt webpage](#).