

GENERAL INFORMATION

ON APPLYING FOR THE ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE STUDIO POMPGEMAAL DEN HELDER

In April 2008, the former water pumping station at Den Helder was officially opened as the BKVB Fund's first permanent 'Binnenlandatelier', or Homeland Studio. Utilizing its national and international network, the Fund plans to make the studio available for shorter or longer periods of time to international artists as well as students at academies and workshops.

In cooperation with the city of Den Helder, the BKVB Fund has restored a typical early 20th-century water pumping station – a provincial monument located in a scenic area in the dunes – and turned it into a suitable work space and residence for artists. The Fund's aim in creating the guest studio is to provide work facilities at special locations in the Netherlands in addition to the existing network of studios abroad. This is based on the idea that artists who are seeking inspiration or a quiet place to work do not necessarily have to travel to faraway places: spending time in their own country can also be very productive, both for the artist and for the place or region. The pumping station is a powerful example of such a choice.

To make the pumping station a place of significance, efforts are underway to set up a continuous programme. The studio will be made available to a broad range of visual artists, designers, architects and mediators, as well as to students at academies and workshops and to professionals from the international and domestic art world. This might include shorter or longer work periods, temporary presentations, public workshops or study periods. Opening the building to the public at regular intervals and displaying the work being made there should be an indispensable part of the use of the guest studio.

The guest studio is located on the edge of a vast, protected dune area, about 15 minutes from both the centre of the city and the Den Helder seaside. The living/working space measures approximately 220 m² and is about 5 metres in height. The apartment is supplied with basic facilities and furniture and consists of a large living area with a double bedroom. The studio can be used by several people at once, depending on the plan and the use of the work area and in consultation with the Fund. The fixed charges attached to the studio and living area are paid directly by the BKVB Fund. In some cases, extra project costs may be added for travel, accommodations and materials.

In 2008 the artists Klaar van der Lippe and Bart Stuart were the first to stay in the studio. By way of cultural exploration, they investigated the various ways in which the site of the former pumping station can be expressly linked with the environment and the population of Den Helder.

Selection procedure

A special advisory committee is responsible for selecting the candidates for a particular work period in the Pumping Station. The advisory committee's selection is based primarily on a qualitative assessment of the applicant's work. The motivation behind the applicant's decision to spend time working in the guest studio also plays an important role, as does the way in which these plans are being made public. But the various disciplines that are to be represented in the list of candidates are also given due weight in the selection process. This selection procedure is different from the procedure for incentive subsidies. The pre-selection is carried out by means of a process of elimination. In all cases, an assessment of the quality of the work is given first of all. The motivation or the plans are then judged in connection with this assessment.

In the exceptional case of the Pumping Station, applications will also be accepted from students at academies and workshops, and from professionals in the international art world.

No application can be submitted by members of the board, or members (or deputy members) of the committees for work abroad, or members (or deputy members) of the incentive subsidy committee.

In its advice on subsidies for working abroad, the committee may include these aspects in its assessment (following its assessment of the applicant's artistic performance):

- the plans or project proposal with regard to the stay in Den Helder.
- the motivation with regard to the stay in Den Helder
- the effect that the stay will have on the applicant's artistry
- the effect that the stay will have on the art climate, local and otherwise
- the composition of the list of candidates

Because in the past it was not always possible to make a varied pre-selection from all the applications, the advisory committee is authorized to make its own nominations. The advisory committee consists of four members, including the chairman. The final choice must be made by a majority of votes.

In the case of an ordinary application for an incentive subsidy, if an application is not accepted, the applicant may submit another application within twelve months of the incentive subsidy committee's decision. A rejection of an application for the Den Helder Pumping Station, however, does not affect any later subsidy application.

Nationality

The subsidies of the BKVB Fund fall under 'resources from the public funds'. To qualify for a subsidy you should in principle be a resident of the Netherlands; if you do not have Dutch nationality, you should possess the kind of residence permit that, under the Aliens Act, allows you to apply for public funding without jeopardizing your residence permit as a result. If you do not have Dutch nationality or a valid residence permit you should explain what contribution your working period will be to the visual arts in the Netherlands

Other subsidy possibilities

Because only a limited number of applications can be accepted for a stay at the Den Helder Pumping Station, the BKVB Fund will undoubtedly have to disappoint a great many applicants. The BKVB Fund would like to suggest another way to subsidize a stay in the Netherlands or abroad, and that is to apply for a contribution to one's working budget through the incentive subsidies.

The Trans Artists bureau in Amsterdam provides information on possible studios, schooling and 'artist-in-residence' openings; tel 020 6266740 / www.transartists.nl

The Fund for visual arts, design and architecture (Fonds voor beeldende kunsten, vormgeving en bouwkunst: Fonds BKVB)

The BKVB Fund is the national institution charged with providing subsidies to individual artists, designers and architects. By means of a financial contribution, these professionals are given the opportunity to concentrate all their energies on their work during a specified period of time or to develop special activities that are important to their artistic careers.

For information on subsidy possibilities offered by the BKVB Fund, please call 020 5231523 or e-mail post@fondsbkvb.nl. Also see www.fondsbkvb.nl

Further information

For further information on the Den Helder Pumping Station and the selection procedure, contact Steven van Teeseling, tel: 020 5231522, e-mail: svt@fondsbkvb.nl.