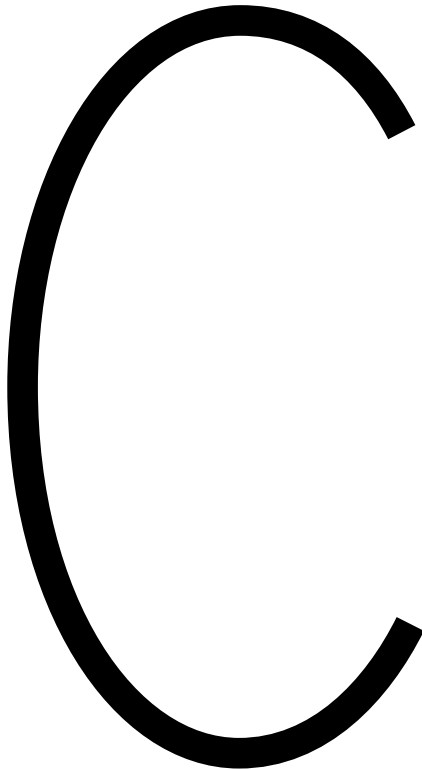


Open Call Arita/Saga Residency 2025



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The Creative Industries Fund NL and the Mondriaan Fund are offering two work periods in Arita, in the Japanese ceramics region of Saga in the summer of 2025 and the autumn of 2025. If you are a designer or artist and would like to be considered, we invite you to submit a proposal to the Creative Industries Fund NL or the Mondriaan Fund by 12 September 2024.

The work period in Japan offers designers and artists opportunity to carry out research in the artistic and technical fields and to develop their own work through intensive interaction with participating porcelain producers in Saga. The porcelain industry and the tradition of porcelain painting have existed since 1616. Typical Arita porcelain is known for its high quality and hand-painting as its central feature.

Open Call Arita/Saga Residency 2025

- number of grants: 2 of € 11,000
- deadline submission: Thursday 12 September 2023
- work periods: 1 June 2025 – 31 August 2025, 15 September 2025 – 15 December 2025

goal

Creative Residency Arita (CRA) is an international artist-in-residence programme run jointly by the city of Arita and the Saga prefecture. In collaboration with the Creative Industries Fund NL and the Mondriaan Fund, this residency was set up to stimulate crossovers and experiments and to initiate new exchanges and collaborations between Dutch designers and artists and local porcelain producers and craftsmen. An important starting point for this residency is to learn special techniques within Japan's oldest ceramics industry and for designers and artists to apply these in their own work. The residency offers opportunities to delve into the local context of the Saga region, which can contribute to new insights or applications in existing design practices. Read [more](#) about the porcelain industry in Saga.

Previously, several artists and designers stayed in Arita for three months each, including Shahar Livne, Simone Post, Sigrid Calon, Afra Eisma and Lisa Konno. See an overview of the former residents [here](#).

who is this open call for?

Applications can only be submitted by individual designers (via the Creative Industries Fund NL) or visual artists (via the [Mondriaan Fund](#)). It is not possible to apply as a duo, collective or cooperative venture.

The designers and artists are not required to have a knowledge of working with ceramics, but they do need to be willing to learn about it. A practical attitude to working with porcelain is important. Affinity with the Japanese context of the residency is also expected.

budget and work period

The work periods that are offered are:

- 1 June 2025 – 31 August 2025 (summer)
- 15 September 2025 – 15 December 2025 (autumn)

Please indicate your preferred period in your application. We will try to take this into account as far as possible. Please note you are expected to be present on the location during the workperiod from the beginning until the end.

You will receive a grant of € 11,000 for the work period, intended to cover travel, material and transport costs and to contribute to living expenses. The rent for accommodation, the working space and the costs for guidance will be paid directly by the Fund to the Creative Residency Arita.

practical information about the residency

Two artists or designers work in Arita per residency period. The residents live together in a house, each with their own bedroom. The living room, bathroom and kitchen are shared. A bicycle is available for daily transport. Each resident has his/her own studio space in the Saga Ceramics Research Laboratory, one of the best-equipped and leading research institutes in the field of porcelain, where specialists are available for technical advice.

At the beginning of the work period, the [Saga Potters Association](#) will link the residents to one of the potteries in Arita. These potteries will provide technical support and help with baking of the creations. Residents also discuss development plans with the director and coordinators. They link the residents to partner organisations in the Saga ceramics region such as Hizen, Imari and Ureshino.

Assistants/translators will be on site to support the residents a few days a week with meetings with the potteries and other practical questions. This assistant will also help the participants in finding their way in and around Arita/Saga. The experiences and results of the residency will be shared in Arita/Saga and/or the Netherlands through lectures and/or exhibitions.

what is assessed?

The assessment of this open call is similar to a tender – this means that a number of proposals will be preferred over other ones. The assessment based on the criteria will lead to a ranking of the proposals submitted. This means that the two available work periods will be awarded to the applicants whose applications score highest on the ranking list. Only positively assessed projects will be supported.

In assessing the submitted proposals, the Fund seeks advice from external advisors with relevant expertise in the field of product and ceramic design and the international context. The advisors assess the extent to which the proposal matches this open call's goal. They base their opinion on the following criteria:

a. The artistic quality of the work

The committee reviews the applicant's portfolio and CV and the applicant's position within the area of expertise.

b. The quality of the development plan

The committee assesses the description of the intended development and whether the plan meets the applicant's objectives.

c. The motivation in relation to the residency's objective and mission

The committee assesses whether the development plan is in line with the residency's objective and/or mission. It also considers the contribution the applicant can make to strengthening cooperation and exchange in Saga prefecture.

The above criteria contribute equally to the final score per application. The advisers apply the assessment method as described in the [Advisory Committee Procedure](#).

submitting the application

Your proposal can be submitted **until Thursday 12 September 2024 at the latest** via the Creative Industries Fund NL's [application platform](#). Select the 'Open Call' grant scheme and then the 'Open Call Residency Arita/Saga 2025' round.

The proposal consists of:

- A development plan for the work period in Arita (3 pages at most, A4 format in PDF). Include at least the following points:

- What do you want to develop or research during the residency?
- How does the residency fit into a long-term vision of your design practice?
- What is your take on the local context in which the residency is based and the specific craft in which people specialise in Arita?
- What is your vision of the international exchange that the residency could bring about?
- A brief CV (2 pages at most, A4 format);
- Relevant visual material/portfolio that gives insight into your work and practice (10 pages at most, A4 format in PDF);
- An extract from the register of the Chamber of Commerce (issued no longer than one year ago);
- A representative image of the work or intended development plan, free to use for communication purposes by the Fund, the necessary rights to which are held by the applicant.

If the entry does not meet the description above, no substantive assessment can take place.

Please note: Make sure you create an account for the [application platform](#) in good time. It takes one working day to activate a new account.

grant procedure

This open call has a legal basis in the Fund's [Open Call Grant Scheme](#). Please read this scheme carefully before submitting an application. Applications are processed and assessed on the basis of this scheme and any grant will be awarded on that basis. This scheme describes the general conditions, grounds for rejection, manner of publication, submission procedure, assessment, awarding and grant obligations in more detail.

acknowledgement of receipt and announcement of selection

The applicant will be informed about the processing of the application no later than two weeks after the closing date. You will receive a message from the Fund no later than ten weeks after the closing date, containing the board's advice and the selection report. This report will announce which applicants have been selected for the residency periods and the committee's general findings on the projects that were not selected. The selection report will not give individual reasons for the rejection of projects that were not selected.

want to know more?

For more information about the residency in Arita/Saga and the selection process for designers, please contact Roxanne da Graça at r.dagraca@stimuleringsfonds.nl or call +31(0)010-4361600.