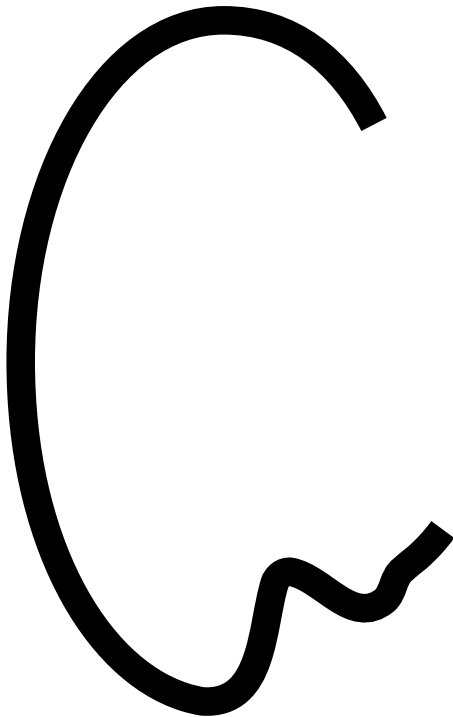


# Open Call Residency Arita/Saga 2026

This document is a descriptive translation of the original Dutch Open Oproep Residency Arita/Saga 2026. The English translation is provided for reference purposes only, and in all instances the original Dutch text takes precedence. If you would like to report a translation error or inaccuracy, we encourage you to contact the Creative Industries Fund NL.



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**The Creative Industries Fund NL and the Mondriaan Fund are both offering two work periods in Arita, in the Japanese ceramics region of Saga in the summer of 2026 and the autumn of 2026. If you are a designer and would like to be considered for this, please submit a proposal to the Creative Industries Fund NL by 24 September 16:00 CEST at the latest. Visual artists can submit a proposal to the Mondriaan Fund by 11 September 2025 at the latest.**

The work period in Japan offers designers and artists the opportunity to conduct artistic and technical research and develop their own work through intensive interaction with the participating porcelain producers in Saga. The porcelain industry in this region and the tradition of porcelain painting have existed since 1616. The specific Arita porcelain is of high quality and centres on hand-painting work.

## in short

- **Number of grants:** two at the Creative Industries Fund NL
- **Grant amount:** €11,000 per work period per designer
- **Residency periods:** 1 June 2026 – 31 August 2026 (summer) or 15 September 2026 – 15 December 2026 (autumn)
- **Deadline:** 24 September 2025, 16:00 CEST

## what is the objective?

Creative Residency Arita (CRA) is an international artist-in-residence programme of Saga prefecture and the city of Arita. The work period has been set up in collaboration with the Creative Industries Fund NL and the Mondriaan Fund to stimulate crossovers and experiments. Through this open call, the funds aim to initiate new exchanges between Dutch designers and artists and local porcelain producers and craftsmen. This enables participants to learn techniques within Japan's oldest porcelain industry and apply these in their own work. The work period offers opportunities for deepening understanding of the local context of the Saga region, which can subsequently contribute to new insights or applications for existing design practices. Since exchange is central to the objectives of the residency programme, the programme expects selected designers and artists to bring new perspectives and create opportunities for future collaboration with local porcelain producers and craftsmen.

Read more about the porcelain industry in Saga. Artists and designers who previously spent three months in Arita include Marlou Breuls, Bas Kusters, Afra Eisma and Lisa Konno. View an overview of the former residents here.

## who is this open call for?

- You are an individual designer, architect, spatial practitioner or maker.
- You are established in the Netherlands or the Caribbean territories of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten).
- You are willing to engage with ceramics and porcelain. Practical knowledge of this is not a requirement, but is recommended.
- You have an affinity with the specific context of the Saga region.

This open call is not for:

- duos, collectives or cooperative ventures;
- makers who receive grants in 2026 via the Talent Development Grant Scheme, the Open Call Emerging Design Practices ABCSSS and the Open Call Self-taught Designer.

*Please note:* If you receive support for a work period in 2026, you cannot submit an application that year under the aforementioned Talent Development Grant Scheme, the Open Call Emerging Design Practices ABCSSS or the Open Call Self-taught Designer.

Visual artists can submit an application via the Mondriaan Fund.

## amount and work period

The work periods take place from 1 June 2026 to 31 August 2026 (summer) and from 15 September 2026 to 15 December 2026 (autumn). Please indicate in your application which period you prefer. We will try to take this into account as much as possible. Please note that you are expected to be present at the location from the beginning to the end of the work period.

For a work period you will receive a grant of €11,000, intended for:

- travel expenses;
- insurance policies;
- transport expenses;
- material costs;
- necessities related to your research;
- contribution to living expenses.

The rent for accommodation, workspace and guidance costs will be paid directly by the Creative Industries Fund NL to Creative Residency Arita.

## practical information about the residency

**Accommodation:** Two artists or designers work in Arita per period. The residents stay together in a house where each has their own bedroom available. The living room, bathroom and kitchen are shared. There is also a small work studio at the residence, equipped with additional facilities such as a simple 3D printer. A bicycle is available for daily transport. Each resident has their 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.

**Guidance:** At the beginning of the work period, the residents are linked by the Saga Ceramic Industry Association to one of the potteries in Arita. These potteries will help with technical support and firing the works. The residents also discuss their plans with the director and coordinators. They link the residents to partner organisations in the Saga ceramics region such as Hizen, Imari and Ureshino.

English-speaking, local coordination staff are present to help residents a few days a week with discussions with the potteries and other practical questions. The staff also assist participants in finding their way in and around Arita/Saga.

**Results:** The experiences and results of the work period are shared through lectures and/or exhibitions in Arita/Saga and/or the Netherlands.

## what is assessed?

The assessment of this open call takes the form of a tender: this means that a number of proposals will be preferred over others. The assessment based on the criteria leads to a ranking of the submitted proposals. This means that the two available work periods will be awarded to the applicants whose applications scored highest on the ranking list. Only positively assessed projects can be supported.

The Creative Industries Fund NL seeks advice from external advisers with relevant expertise in the field of product and ceramic design and the international context when assessing submitted proposals. The advisers assess the extent to which the proposal matches the objective of this open call. 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 their position within the field. They assess the quality and development of the applicant's work in relation to the location and theme.

**b. The quality of the project plan**

The committee assesses the project plan and whether it meets the applicant's objectives. They assess the extent to which the proposed activities contribute to their artistic and professional development. The committee also looks at the proposed creative approach for the chosen theme in the plan for the work period.

**c. The motivation in relation to the objective and mission of the residency**

The committee assesses whether the plan matches the objective and/or mission of the Arita residency. They also consider the contribution the applicant can make to strengthening collaboration and long-term 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 of the Creative Industries Fund NL](#).

If two applications end up with the same final score, priority will be given to the proposal with the highest score on criterion c. The motivation in relation to the objective of the residency.

**how do you submit an application?**

Applications from designers for a work period in Arita can be submitted until Wednesday **24 September 2025 16:00 CEST** via the Creative Industries Fund NL's [application platform](#). Select the 'Open Call Residency Arita 2026' round.

An application consists of a fully completed application form and the following attachments:

- A plan for the work period in Arita (max. 3 A4, 8MB, PDF). Include at least the following aspects:
  - What do you want to develop or research during the work period?
  - How does the work period fit within a long-term vision of your design practice?
  - What is your vision of the local context in which the work period is based and the specific craft that people specialise in in Arita?
  - How do you view the potential international exchange that the work period could bring about?
- A brief CV (max. 2 A4, 4MB, PDF);
- Relevant visual material/portfolio that provides insight into your work and practice (max. 10 A4, 10MB, PDF);
- An extract from the register of the Chamber of Commerce (max. 1 year old);
- A representative image of the work or intended plan (free to use by the Fund for communication purposes, and of which the necessary rights to the image lie with the applicant).

If the submission does not meet the above description, no substantive assessment can take place. *Please note:* Create an account for the application platform in good time. It takes one working day to activate this.

**grant procedure**

This open call has a legal basis in the [Open Call Grant Scheme](#) of the Creative Industries Fund NL. Please read this scheme carefully before submitting an application. The processing and assessment of applications and any provision of grants take place on the basis of this scheme. The scheme describes the general conditions, grounds for rejection, manner of publication, submission procedure, assessment, award and grant obligations in more detail.

**acknowledgement of receipt and announcement of selection**

You will receive a message about the processing of the application no later than two weeks after the closing date. The Fund will inform you of the decision no later than ten weeks after

the closing date. You will receive a brief motivation on the extent to which your application matches the various criteria of this open call.

**contact**

For more information about the residency in Arita and the selection procedure for designers, you can contact [internationalisering@stimuleringsfonds.nl](mailto:internationalisering@stimuleringsfonds.nl) or call +31(0)10-4361600.

**context**

This open call is part of the Design Sector Internationalisation Programme, implemented by the Creative Industries Fund NL with support from the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This programme supports, among other things, worldwide residencies at various cultural organisations. Keep an eye on the Creative Industries Fund NL's website and newsletter for more international opportunities.