



IMAGINE OUR COMMON FUTURE!

Lisa Maria Baier and Alexandre Benetas-Ottobrini are selected for DIALOG CITY RESIDENCY in Aschaffenburg and in Montpellier 2025

DIALOG CITY ART FOR PUBLIC RESIDENCY PROGRAMME invites professional artists to develop ideas for urban interventions dealing with local or global topics that are of great significance for the respective urban society based on participatory approach. Participating European cities are Turin and Mondoví (IT) in 2023, Graz (AT) in 2024, Aschaffenburg (DE) and Montpellier (FR) in 2025.

The residency in Montpellier will start April 21, 2025, and the final presentation will be showcased at the **FUTURE FESTIVAL MONTPELLIER** in partnership with the Festival Des Architectures Vives, from 10 to 15 June 2025.

The residency in Aschaffenburg will commence May 2, 2025, and the results will be exhibited during at the **FUTURE FESTIVAL ASCHAFFENBURG** in close cooperation with the Cultural Days of Aschaffenburg, from July 3-5, 2025.

The project consortium of **DIALOG CITY** was impressed not only by the sheer number of 92 complete applications for the residency in Montpellier and 78 fully-fledged applications for Aschaffenburg but also by the high quality of the proposed projects. 53,6% of the applications were handed in by female artists and 37,6% by male artists while 8,8% preferred not to say.

When evaluating the submissions, the jury was primarily focusing on the participatory and dialogical approach. Feasibility of the project ideas was an additional important aspect taking into consideration language barrier and cultural translation within the given timeframe of the residency. The jury allowed itself to be guided by imagining the visibility of the final artwork in public space and its integration into the **DIALOG CITY FUTURE FESTIVAL** in Montpellier and Aschaffenburg. Aspects of sustainability and the ecological footprint were also considered and will play an important role in the further course of the project's implementation.

The variety of topics that are at the core of the **DIALOG CITY** project served as key indicators, but of course not all these aspects can be served equally in an artistic project idea. What are the cornerstones of a city's data infrastructure? What form of participation does the project idea include? How do the project convey the questions of digitalisation and combine them with a call for active participation? Is there an aspect of environmental protection in the proposal? How does the proposal fit to the idea of the development of a future literacy methodology? How does the proposal contribute to the development of the Citizen Archive Platform?

For **Montpellier**, the jury selected **Alexandre Benetas-Ottobrini**, a Paris-based food artist with a master's degree in design and culinary arts from the École Supérieure d'Art et de Design in Reims (FR).

His practice is rooted in critical and speculative design through proposals which often live in indeterminate futures, as part of a pedagogy and didactics through food. In his work, food is data being processed by bodies and becomes a living archive, it also is a binding force and a catalyst for debate. Seeking to minimize ecological impact while celebrating local resources, his work fosters a poetic dialogue about who we are and what we might become in a fictional reality.

During his residency, along with Montpellier's inhabitants' inputs collected through interviews and workshops, Benetas-Ottobrini will create an immersive narrative buffet exploring the future of the city through the scope of food and its metadata. In an era of climate change, new dishes may benefit humanity.

During the Future Festival, the outcome of the residency will incorporate digital means and will invite participants to engage with imagined eating rituals that reflect societal aspirations and ecological challenges of tomorrow's cities. Through taste, sound, and visual documentation, each participant will become a performer in a story that questions our present while anticipating our future. This shared sensory experience will resonate with the "gourmandise" theme of the Festival des Architecture by creating new memories for the participants and places where it occurs.

For more information, please see here: <https://www.bonjourbjrstudio.com/>

For **Aschaffenburg**, the jury selected **Lisa Maria Baier**, a contemporary visual artist. Lisa completed her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts Dresden and the University of Fine Arts Budapest and lives and works in Dresden.

Baier primarily uses video and photography to create collections that are documented in various forms. A particular focus of her work is on participatory practices, where third parties provide material for the creation of artistic archives through calls, requests, and commissions. Her artistic work so far has been exhibited in renowned institutions such as the Bundeskunsthalle Bonn, the German Hygiene Museum, and Kunsthaus Dresden.

Aschaffenburg is known as the "City of Coloured Papers", has a rich tradition in paper manufacturing and processing that is deeply intertwined with its cultural and economic identity. At the same time, the present demands a rethinking of how to handle paper as a resource, particularly regarding sustainability, recycling, and digital transformation.

During her residency, Baier will explore and visualize the historical, industrial, and social contexts of paper history in Aschaffenburg, while also addressing the ambivalences, discomforts, and uncertainties that today's younger generation feels towards cultural heritage. The goal of her project is to illuminate these traditions and contemporary challenges through a participatory and artistic approach, effectively bridging the gap between analogue history and digital innovation.

For more information, please see here: <https://www.lisamariabaier.de/>



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