

Practice-based PhD in Arts Call for applications 2023



Situated on Saint-Barthélémy hill in Nice and listed as a remarkable building of 20th century architecture, the Villa Arson belongs to a network of ten public national schools of higher education in the arts under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture in the field of visual arts. Approximately 230 students are enrolled in an “Arts” department encompassing a wide range of techniques. Villa Arson is also an establishment for artistic production and circulation through its international program of exhibitions and residencies.

A legal entity of Université Côte d'Azur, Villa Arson is a platform for production, experimentation and knowledge. It offers several approaches to research in partnership with various players of academia and other schools of art and universities in France and abroad. Its collaborations with reputed venues (museums, foundations, art centers, festivals, biennial contemporary art shows, etc) promote interactions with the professional network and connections with the artistic scene. Villa Arson offers two degrees: the Diplôme National d'Art (DNA), equivalent of a Bachelor degree (three years of studies) and the Diplôme National Supérieur d'Expression Plastique (DNSEP), equivalent of a Master degree (five years of studies). Since 2019, it has been implementing a practice-based PhD in Arts in collaboration with Université Côte d'Azur.

I. The Practice-based PhD in Arts

Practice-based research in arts aims to establish the artistic project as a matrix for research, structured around both an analytical reflection and a production of art works.

This doctoral program is addressed specifically to candidates with an original and innovative production in their field of artistic expression and theoretical research, and who master the theory, history and current agenda in the fields of art and social sciences.

The candidate will prove to have a new and experimental approach to artistic creation and its restitution, as well as an ongoing research activity (with works produced while participating in a master's degree program or the equivalent). All forms of research are accepted, nonetheless it is desirable for the candidate to show a particular interest in Villa Arson's specific activities.

The goals to be reached during the doctoral program are the following:

- Conceiving and organizing a research program through projects, based on an interaction between theory and the practical and technical aspects of creation;
- Contextualizing this research at the heart of an interdisciplinary environment (fine arts, photography, film, theater, dance and performance, sound, immersive and digital arts, practices involving text, curatorial practices, etc.);
- Developing methodologies and specific tools (in relation with the subject of research) which can be generalized and/or transferred to other disciplines, forms of artistic expression or skills.

It is expected from the candidate to have sufficient technical and/or technological skills to be self-sufficient in the workshops and studios in order to participate actively in the research and development projects at Villa Arson (workshops, exhibitions, supervision, participation in the activities, etc.).

II. Expected activities during the three-year doctoral program

The prospective PhD student shall provide an active artistic and intellectual production during the entire duration of the doctoral program (3 years).

In conformity with the means provided by Villa Arson, the perspective PhD student will be asked to:

- Present at least once a year their work through the organization of conferences or talks;
- Publish at least once a year in specialized revues;
- During the second or third year of the doctoral program, organize 24 hours of classes or seminars closely linked to their subject matter and addressed to Villa Arson's students.
- At the end of the three-year doctoral program, and after their dissertation defense, conceive a public restitution in the context of Villa Arson's artistic program and within its exhibition spaces.

The candidate is also expected to participate actively in the organization of Villa Arson's research laboratory and its activities (meetings, seminars, publications, applications). They will be encouraged to develop partnerships and residencies abroad, and to organize seminars and conferences. They will also take advantage of Villa Arson's

partnership with Laval university in Quebec, within a joint research program linked to artistic creation.

III. The dissertation

The dissertation will consist in one or several works, completed by a hybrid document in which written text coexists with other forms of expression.

This text will regroup, organize and present - in the form of a portfolio or logbook - all the activities (experiences, sources, interactions with other artistic or scientific practices, etc.) which have supported and nourished the artistic production. The aim of the dissertation is to produce new knowledge on a specific subject or in a specific field by presenting reasoned arguments and a clear vision of the questions at hand, in a form which should be beforehand agreed with the PhD advisers.

The dissertation advisers will be:

- One of Villa Arson's [Faculty members](#), teaching either fine arts or theory
- An external faculty member, entitled to supervise research in the French system (i.e., possessing a *habilitation à diriger des recherches* - HDR) and a member of a research laboratory belonging to a Doctoral School. They can for instance be one the [entitled supervisors](#) at the [École Doctorale SHAL](#) (Université Côte d'Azur), or be a member of any other Doctoral School in France, or of a research entity abroad allowed to deliver PhDs.

N.B. In order to submit an application, each candidate must first have formulated a research project with a professor-researcher entitled to supervise doctoral research, and have received the professor's approval for the project. It is also necessary that each candidate inquires in advance about the calendar and deadlines of the doctoral school to which they will be affiliated (in the perspective of a 2023/2024 enrollment).

IV. Grant and support

Once the candidate has enrolled in the doctoral program, an annual grant of 10 000€ in support of production will be provided by Villa Arson, together with an accommodation on campus and an access to the workshops and tools available on site.

V. Application, shortlist, admission

Candidates are invited to send an application file which will be examined by a selection committee, and will be potentially invited for an interview with a jury including Villa Arson's faculty members and [EUR CREATES](#) (UCA) faculty members.

The application files should be sent **exclusively by e-mail**, in **one single PDF document** (as an attached file or as a link to Google Drive, WeTransfer, etc.), by **Friday April 14 2023**, to the following e-mail address: programme.doctoral@villa-arson.org

The application file shall be titled *LAST NAME.First name* and shall include:

- A detailed Curriculum Vitae ;
- A recommendation letter from a professor-researcher entitled to be a research supervisor, and who is a member of a doctoral school in France or of a foreign research institution;
- A detailed description of the candidate's research-creation project, explaining the research issues and methodology, the specifics of the conception, production and formal realization, as well as a bibliography (maximum 10 000 characters including spaces);
- A portfolio of previous works;
- A copy of the candidate's Master's degree or equivalent.

N.B. Applications can be submitted either in English or French.

Contacts:

Vittorio Parisi, Director of studies and research

vittorio.parsi@villa-arson.org

Justine Meyer, Administrator for studies and research

Justine.meyer@villa-arson.fr