

LekArt Air

at Werk aan het Spoel



LekArt Air is located in the lower left floor of the fort keeper's house.

1. Preface

LekArt offers an 'artist in residence' (Air), located in the outskirts of Culemborg, at Werk aan het Spoel. This location is part of the 'Nieuwe Hollandse Waterlinie'. Werk aan het Spoel is an impressive natural environment where young, starting artists get the opportunity to develop. The young artists are supported with knowledge and experience, specific to their needs in (talent)development. This support is offered by experts from the field of the artist.

The LekArt Foundation wants to offer young and promising artists a podium, which can also function as a bridge towards a future of a professional artist.

Characteristics:

- A selected upcoming artist in the Air, every month.
- Availability of living/working area and studio and access to the entire Werk aan het Spoel terrain.
- Artistic and organisational coaching (materials, communication, planning, financials) by curator-coach.
- The Air-period will be rounded off with a public event. For example, a workshop, lecture, film, exposure, etcetera.
- The result of the process will be presented to the public, at the end of their stay. In consultation with the artists, there will also be various public activities (like workshops) to attend.

2. Principles LekArt Air

The programme of LekArt Air consists of the ongoing use of the 'artist in residence' area and the studio. Every 4 weeks/month a new artist will take its residence in the Air. These are mostly young and upcoming artists. The artist will be coached by a 'master' and will receive support in the field in which they would like to develop. The guidance and learning trajectory are individually tailored with each artist depending on their needs. During their work period, the artist will be present at prearranged times and can be visited by the public. At the end of their work period the artist will present their work. This presentation will be done in a way that is fitting to the artist, the type of work and the learning/research trajectory.

During the work period of an artist, there will be one or more activities with the public. How many, when and where these activities will take place will be consulted with the artist. For example, the activities can be a lecture or a workshop.

The studio (Bomvrij Noord) is available as a workplace and an exhibition space. Occasionally, the studio can also be used for lectures or workshops, whether or not linked to LekArt.



3. The development process

Young, upcoming artist can qualify for LekArt Air in various ways. There is a workgroup that scouts new talent and also keeps close contact with various art courses. If an artist registers by themselves, they will be asked to provide references. After this, they will be placed on a longlist. The selection committee will then make a choice out of the different artists.

After this process, the coordinator of LekArt Air will have an exploratory conversation with the selected artists. In this conversation, the development needs of the artist are leading, given that these are a requirement for LekArt Air. In addition, the artist must be able to indicate the added value of the location (Werk aan het Spool) to their work. For example, this can be a performance inspired by the location, an artwork made of materials from the location or art that can be added to the location.

Artists who fit into the vision and objectives of LekArt Air will then be invited to take place in the 'artist in residence'. A master, preferably from the local region, will be appointed to the artist. In this way, a student-master kind of relationship is created that will have an inspiring and reinforcing effect on both of them.

In the field of the artists learning need, further support will be sought out. For example, this can be some sessions with someone who can provide support and information on the business-side of artistry, or someone who can teach the artist a certain ability.

After the work period, the accomplished result and the development need of the artist are evaluated.



4. Selection criteria

LekArt Air mainly focusses on young, upcoming artists. LekArt sees young talent as students in their last year of an art course or people who graduated from an art course no more than 3 years ago. For 4th year students there is an additional condition, which states that they will need to have permanent and approachable internship supervision (under mentorship). The young talents are scouted by a professional, versatile workgroup with member from different fields. The scouting is done in collaboration with the different art courses.

The selection criteria for the individual artists are:

- The artist and its work/performance meet the core values of the LekArt Foundation; connecting, interactive, characteristic, innovative and professional.
- The artist wants to experience a specific development, in a certain field, during the work period.
- The approach of the artist is appropriate to the location.
- In regard to the quality level, LekArt opts for originality and professional craftsmanship (finishing).
- The subjective criteria are:
 - o Does is 'hit'?
 - o Is it experimental?
 - o Does the artist dare to 'draw outside of the lines'?



5. The artists

LekArt Air is an in-depth learning trajectory located on a beautiful, tranquil location. In order to use this location, there are a few expectations from the artists.

Need for development/motivation

The artist wants to develop in a field that is related to their artistry. This relation can be substantive, but also organisational or financial. There is a clear vision of the intended added value of the work period, on the development of the artist.

Plan of approach

The artist knows what they want to achieve as an end result of the work period and how they want to achieve this. This consists of a few components.

- A clear view on the intended end product as an artwork/performance.
- The (practical) help needed to achieve the goals.

If necessary:

- A clear budget including production costs, travel and transport costs and (extra) material.
- Attempt(s) to acquire financing through, for example, fund applications.

Presence

It is agreed in advance when the artist will (at least) be present on location and when the studio or workspace are open for the public to visit. The 'artist in residence' period is an interactive public-open process in which the artist is open to dialogue with the visitors. These 'visiting hours' will be communicated on the LekArt website and social media and the website of Werk aan het Spoel. The artist will of course be present at the presentation of the end results.

Practical

LekArt expects the artist to deliver information in advance. This includes a resume, good photos and contact information. These will also be used for other communication and PR. During the work process, the artist is expected to deliver photos and videos to use for communication and PR.

Communication

During the work process, the artist will deliver photos, videos and other information to the communication employee of the LekArt Foundation. This information will be used on the website and social media, so visitors will become and/or stay interested. LekArt also expects the artists to promote the location, the process, etc. themselves, via social media. A 'take-over' of the LekArt Instagram is also possible.

Closing

The end product must have a relationship with the location where it was developed and must be publicly accessible. The artist will evaluate the work period and the result with the coordinator from LekArt Air. They will also make a work and evaluation report, including photos of the end presentation, in consultation with the coordinator.

5.1. The result

The artist will communicate the intended result of the work period to the workgroup in advance. This can be a physical artwork, a performance or something of this sort. It can also be an elaborated concept or philosophy that is being developed. It is important that the intended result is clear in advance. This way the expectations are realistic and the process can be properly guided. Only then can the evaluation with the artist focus on the expected result and the actual result of the work period.

The result of the work period will always be presented. The way that this is done depends on the type of artwork/performance. The presentation is a publicly accessible presentation in which the artist will explain the process and the results of their period in the 'artist in residence'.



6. Location Werk aan het Spoeel

Werk aan het Spoeel is located just west of the city limits of Culemborg; a centrally located 'average' small city in The Netherlands. Werk aan het Spoeel is imbedded in the polders of the river lands and the floodplains of the Lek. The 'Forthuis', amphitheatre, 'Genieloods', 'Kogelvanger' and the 'Bomvrije' buildings remind you of the place that the 'Fort' occupies in the history of the 'Nieuwe Hollandse Waterlinie'. This unique system of defences and fortifications has been nominated for the UNESCO World Heritage List. Nowadays, Werk aan het Spoeel is managed by the Werk aan het Spoeel Foundation and is the homebase for cultural events.

The three most important values that characterise Culemborg are hospitable, enterprising and characteristic. These match the LekArt Air perfectly.



6.1. The history of Werk aan het Spoel

Werk aan het Spoel was built between 1816 and 1824 with the purpose to protect the near impeller lock. Together with the inundation facilities of Fort Everdingen, the polder between Culemborg and the Diefdijk could be flooded to defend the land against the enemy. In 2001, Werk aan het Spoel came into the possession of Culemborg.

In 2007, the site underwent a full metamorphoses, based on an idea of the Werk aan het Spoel Foundation. Landscape artist Ronald Rietveld and artist Erick de Lyon visualized the original form of the fortress in a different way. The design consists of a grass sculpture in which both historical and new elements have a part.

6.2. Interior of the Air

