



QMA Artist Collective 2026 OPEN CALL FOR PARTICIPATION



Since its foundation in 2019, the Viennese initiative QUESTION ME & ANSWER (QMA) has pursued the vision of a Vienna art scene where heterogeneity is the norm, a constant influx of new artistic perspectives is given and there is free access for all. The initiative implements several yearly programs aiming at proactive networking between newcomers and established members of Vienna's art and culture scene. Through close collaboration with Viennese art institutions, QMA offers guidance to international artists new to Vienna and curates regular events for the general public, showcasing artistic positions of artists still underrepresented in the city.

The QMA Artist Collective is one of our three yearly programs running since 2019. It aims at supporting artists new to Vienna to develop their career in this city. The program is constantly developed further to meet the current needs we see in the scene and foster sustained collaborations. In 2026, the changes are broader. The call is addressed only to artists new to Vienna. Selected artists will become part of a 8-month collective process, included in our freshly curated QMA Artist Database, invited to a Mini-Residency, and introduced to the city's important art and culture actors—including artists, curators, and gallerists. Read more on our motivation for our work in our [Mission Statement](#). More information about the programme and the participants of the last QMA Artist Collectives can be found on [our website](#).

The QMA Artist Collective programme offers:

- Exchange and dialogue with fellow artists - new to Vienna but also established in the scene
- Encounters and conversations with local curators
- Dedicated space and time to reflect on one's artistic practice
- Attentive peer review and constructive feedback from the project's curators
- Support in accessing and shaping new artistic networks in Vienna
- Access and contacts to renowned local art and cultural institutions and commercial galleries

The call is addressed to artists who moved to Vienna less than 6 years ago from the Global South or the CESEE* region and wish to get to know the art scene in Vienna. The programme lasts eight months (April - November 2026), with fewer events during the summer months.



The participation in the QMA Artist Collective involves several aspects:

1. Participation in one Mini-Residency

The QMA Artist Collective will meet for three days in a residency space on the outskirts of Vienna to learn more about the respective artistic practice and to exchange ideas. We will implement different formats such as the development of spontaneous joint performances, playful explorations of the practice of the other participants and plenty of time for intensive exchange. An important aspect is active networking with established stakeholders in the Austrian cultural scene, so you can expect portfolio reviews, artist-curators speed-dating and more. If you are selected you can participate either April 24th-26th or Sept 25-27th. Please keep these dates free in your calendar if you apply for this program.

2. Participation in the framework programme

Meetings with key players in the Viennese art scene will take place approximately once a month (except in summer). These include private tours of museums, studio visits or roundtable discussions that provide insider knowledge about the Viennese art scene. This is not only an opportunity to meet relevant stakeholders, but also to regularly meet the other artists who are part of the QMA Artist Collective.

3. Participation in a small group show

Out of all selected artists several will be invited to participate in shows with our partner galleries. The exhibitions will be jointly curated by the QMA curators and representatives of our partner galleries. These shows will be planned in close collaboration with the selected artists and QMA will cover artist fees, production costs as well as transport and marketing-related costs.

4. Creation of a profile in our new artist database

Our organisation has been supporting artists new to Vienna since 2019. We are regularly approached by Viennese institutions looking to include new perspectives in their program. Starting with 2026 we will put a strong emphasis on this part of our work. An online database will be created showcasing the work of artists who recently moved to Vienna. It can be accessed freely, but additionally we will be sending exclusive newsletters to selected local curators, presenting the new artists we're working with.

Additionally, we will be recording video-portraits of selected artists and proactively sharing their work with our institutional partners. Note that QMA curators will invite only 7 artists to have a video-portrait. The selection criteria prioritise artists who experience systemic marginalisation due to their identities and/or artistic practices.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

• Who can apply

Artists who moved to Vienna less than 6 years ago from the Global South or the CESEE* region (*Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Turkey, and Ukraine).



Citizens of the countries listed, who have lived in other regions of the world in the last 6 years, are also welcome to apply. Please note that in the framework of this program we do not put any importance on the notion of formal citizenship, but rely on self-definition. This means that of course stateless persons who identify with the listed regions or individuals, who never received the citizenship of the country they consider their home, are also welcome to apply.

- Format & Media

Unrestricted (interdisciplinary, digital, performance, painting, sculpture, etc)

- Every submission requires

A short biography of the artist, three examples (with photos/videos) of previous work with descriptions and a letter of motivation (max. A4 page). Please note that you should not send a complete portfolio.

- Language of the application

Preferably English or German, but all other languages are also possible. In these cases, the application will be translated with a translation programme, which may lead to misunderstandings.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications can be submitted until Tuesday, the 10th of March 2026, 23:59 (CET) via the application form on the website <https://www.questionmeandanswer.com/open-call-artist-collective> Should anything be unclear or the form not working for you, please write to us via Instagram or mail to contact@questionmeandanswer.com We will also host a zoom session about the open call, so you can ask your questions directly. It will take place on Friday, February 20th at 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CET). Please register for it [here](#) until February 19th at 09:30 AM and you will get the zoom link one day in advance.

SELECTION PROCESS

We make sure that this Open Call is advertised as broadly as possible in order to reach all target groups equally and to ensure that all possible applicants have the same chances to apply. The selection will be made by an external jury as well as the QMA team and will be based on a number of different criteria. By March 23rd 2026, all selected artists will be announced via email.