

Call for Submissions
Artist Residency at the Social Brain in Action Lab
1st June – 5th July 2020

The *Goethe-Institut Glasgow* (GIG), the *Alliance Française Glasgow* (AFG) and the *Institut Français d'Écosse* (IFE) will collaborate in order to create a sustainable and substantial interdisciplinary discourse between artists and partner institutions around the topic 'Artificial Intelligence'.

The GIG, AFG and IFE are inviting cultural producers based in Germany or in France to apply to take part in a 5-week residency with the *Social Brain in Action Lab* (SoBA Lab) in Glasgow. The outcome of this residency will be presented during work-in-progress showings throughout the residency. Additionally, the artist will be developing their artwork over the summer months with the perspective of presenting their finalised work in Scotland in autumn. Whilst not obligatory, the selected applicant will have the opportunity to share their research/work in an event based format at the *Centre for Contemporary Arts* in Glasgow.

“New Forms of Togetherness: Human-Robot Interaction”

The *Social Brain in Action Lab* in Glasgow explores how we perceive and interact with other agents in a social world. Its research falls within the domains of Social Cognition, Social Neuroscience and Cognitive Neuroscience, and has applications that range from social robotics to aesthetics. <https://www.soba-lab.com/>

AI technology is essential in robotics research and development: from computer vision, to natural language processing and the prediction of motion, many pieces come together to power social interaction with a robot. Already, artificially intelligent robots are used in social care settings and offer companionship for people who experience social exclusion and feelings of loneliness.

Research in the SoBA Lab investigates the neuroscientific and behavioural underpinnings of our social encounters with artificial agents, which is becoming especially salient in a time when technology intersects more and more with our daily lives. Important questions remain regarding the extent to which we are able to connect with humanoids or androids on a social level, or whether they might someday replace pets.

How is the increasing presence of robots in our social lives impacting our social behaviour?

The artist residency is directed at **contemporary performance artists** who work with Artificial Intelligence and spaces where social relations and our reactions and behaviour are under scrutiny. The particular interest of the practitioners should be centred around AI technology and their impact on our future social relations and behaviour, in regards to developments in robotic engineering.

The aim of the project is to contribute to the discussion around the use of Artificial Intelligence from an interdisciplinary perspective and to make the discourse around AI technology accessible to a wider public.

Fees and support

The residence is funded and the artist participating will receive a fee of 1.000€. Travel and

accommodation will be covered and working space and suitable production fees taken care of. The artist-in-residence will also receive mentorship from the research team at the SoBA Lab.

How to apply:

To apply, applicants must electronically submit **one PDF file (max. 5MB)** to applications@goethe.de by **25th March 2020, 11pm (GMT)**.
Please use the e-mail subject: **“Residence SoBA Lab (Surname)”**

The PDF file needs to include the following information:

1. **An up-to-date artist CV with contact details** including name, postal address, telephone, email and mobile number.
2. **Expression of Interest:** Why do you want to take part in the artistic residency at the *SoBA Lab*? How does AI feature in your artistic practice and/or critical thinking? What project do you propose to work on for the residency? How will your artistic practice benefit from working within a community of researchers? (max. 500 words)
3. **Supporting material:** Please include an **artist statement** and a **documentation** of your previous artistic work (max. up to 10 clearly titled images). If appropriate to your practice add up to three clearly labelled hyperlinks to moving image or sound listed within the PDF document.

Applicants should make it clear in the submissions if the residency work and artistic production would depend on technical or other provision.

General criteria:

- Creative practitioners will be selected based on the strength of their proposal, the originality of the AI applications suggested, and the proposal's contribution to their creative field, research, methods and/or tools.
- Artists, especially from the field of contemporary performance practices, based throughout France and Germany are eligible to apply.
- English will be the working language.
- Artists will be encouraged to share their work-in-progress in formats to be discussed with the partners, such as a talk, workshop or exhibition for a broader Scottish audience.
- We welcome applications from artists at any stage of their career and aim to ensure our residence programmes are open, inclusive and welcoming to all.

The overall selection aims to find a balance in gender, age, artistic content, contemporary discourse and media. The selection panel will include representatives from the *Goethe-Institut Glasgow*, the *Alliance Française Glasgow*, the *Institut Français d'Ecosse* and the *Social Brain in Action Lab*, Trustees and an external Visual Arts Advisor from the *Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow*. Applicants will be informed about the **outcome of their submission by 15th April 2020**.