



The sculptor Carlernst Kürten
in his studio

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Applications will be reviewed by an expert jury appointed by the Foundation's Board of Directors. Selection criteria include: quality of the applicant's artistic oeuvre; innovative character of the proposed project; relevance to Carlernst Kürten and his work; feasibility of the residency and exhibition concept.

Applicants will be informed of the jury's decision no later than autumn 2026.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Submission period: 15 July–15 September 2026, 24:00 midnight CEST (applications must be received by email). Please send your application to:

Email: info@carlernst-kuerten-stiftung.de

— ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Travel expenses to and from Unna are not covered by the fellowship grant.
- The fellowship may be combined with other residency grants.
- By submitting an application, applicants agree to the Foundation's general terms and conditions, including legal notice and data protection policies.
- The Foundation reserves the right to modify or cancel the fellowship in the event of unforeseen circumstances.
- Subject to change.

We look forward to receiving inspiring applications and hope that this fellowship will make a meaningful contribution to the ongoing artistic exploration and development of Carlernst Kürten's legacy.

Please find more information regarding the Carlernst Kürten Foundation here:

www.carlernst-kuerten-stiftung.de



Call for Applications

Carlernst Kürten Fellowship Unna
(Artist in Residence)

The Carlernst Kürten Foundation, in cooperation with the city of Unna, is proud to announce a new residential fellowship for artists.



Carlernst Kürten-Stiftung

OBJECTIVE

The fellowship aims to enable an intensive artistic engagement with the life and work of the sculptor Carlernst Kürten (1921–2000). Kürten was one of the most important representatives of concrete and constructivist sculpture in the province North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany. The Carlernst Kürten Foundation operates an exhibition and development centre in his former home and studio, carrying his artistic vision and legacy into the present day.

Artist residency programs offer valuable opportunities for artistic development. They not only encourage cultural exchanges across countries and disciplines but also support the creation of new networks in an increasingly interconnected world.

Artist-in-residence stays provide the opportunity to work outside one's familiar cultural environment. They bring artists into contact with people in new social and cultural contexts, fostering an understanding of different ways of life, perspectives, and modes of thinking.

— FELLOWSHIP BENEFITS

- Duration: 6–9 months of free accommodation in Unna at the Carlernst Kürten Foundation House.
- Free studio/workspace within the residential premises.
- Grant: EUR 6,000–9,000 (EUR 1,000 per month) as a contribution to living expenses throughout the fellowship period.
- Exhibition opportunity: During the residency, the fellow will have the opportunity to realise an exhibition of their work in the premises of the Carlernst Kürten Foundation for a period of 4–6 weeks.
- Unna offers a broad network of artists and cultural practitioners (e.g., art associations, cultural initiatives, and independent organisations). Fellows will have the opportunity to connect with the local cultural scene and, where appropriate, develop and implement joint activities.

— ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants must be visual artists. Applications from students are welcome.
2. The work developed during the residency must demonstrate an artistic engagement with Carlernst Kürten and/or his oeuvre—whether through form, material, concept, historical reflection, or future-oriented perspectives.
3. Artists from all countries are eligible to apply.
4. Applicants must submit a concept or project proposal for the residency period. This may be formulated openly, for example as a work phase with a research and/or development component.
5. A willingness to cooperate with the Foundation is required. This includes, among other responsibilities, occasional supervision duties on Sundays.
6. Fellows must provide their own working materials and equipment.

— OBLIGATIONS DURING THE FELLOWSHIP

- Primary residence and active artistic work must take place in Unna.
- Submission of an interim report.
- Participation in a public discussion or event organised by the Foundation.
- Engagement and collaboration with institutional and independent cultural actors in Unna.
- Submission of a final report documenting the artistic work and exhibition.
- Presentation of the resulting work in an exhibition at the Foundation's premises.

— APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Please submit a digital application package (PDF, maximum 10 pages) containing the following:

- Letter of motivation explaining your interest in the fellowship, your engagement with Carlernst Kürten, and the project you intend to pursue during the residency.
- Project proposal (maximum 4 pages) outlining the planned six-month working phase and providing preliminary ideas for the exhibition at the Foundation.
- Portfolio with a maximum of 10 images (jpg/png), including information on title, year, medium, and dimensions.
- Artistic CV (maximum 2 pages) including education, exhibitions, projects, and related experience.
- Preferred residency period (starting from January 2027).