

26 August 2026
Press information

Salzburg International Summer Academy of Fine Arts
Résumé 2026
20 July–29 August 2026
++++++SAVE THE DATE++++++
Friday, 28 August 2026, 4–8 pm, Open Studios
Hohensalzburg Fortress

In 2026, a total of **296 students** from **53 different countries** were accepted for courses, including **133 places for scholarship holders**. There were **319 regular applications** for Summer Academy courses and **841 scholarship applications**. Some **3,400 visitors** participated in public events.

This year's motto, *Common Ground*, was reflected in the courses, showing the essential connective climate of the Summer Academy.
For the first time since 2017, a course in jewellery art was offered, taught by **Stephie Morawetz**, who made performance an integral part of the course. **Peter Miller** taught a class dealing with experimental 16 mm film-making, also for the first time in many years. Contemporary art production once again focuses more on techniques, and this was also demonstrated in **Benjamin Hirte's** sculpture course in the Untersberg quarry. The techniques of photography (**Mafalda Rakoš**), drawing (**Christian Schwarzwald**, **Elizabeth Pich**), sculpture/installation (**Julie Hayward**), painting (**Mojé Assefjah**, **Christian Macketanz**, **Curtis Talwst Santiago**), free sewing/embroidery (**Walter Bruno Brix**), printmaking (**Rossen Daskalov**) and silk-screen printing (**Hannah Tilson/Otis Blease**), struck a chord in contemporary art production.
More experimental formats, such as taking the garden as a subject for exploration, (**Christian Kosmas Mayer**), a course on food art (**Thalia Hoffman/Manar Zuabi**), sound as a signalling system (**Heinz Riegler**) or exploring archives interactively through the media (**Pablo Martínez-Zárate**) proved surprising and impressive in the diversity of the results. The architecture class was resumed, directed by the Italian collective **Biennale Urbana**, under the title *Fading Grounds*.
Theoretical aspects were dealt with in the courses on writing about art (**Louisa Elderton**) and the lecture performance as a way of imparting knowledge (**Mirela Baciak/Denis Maksimov**).

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Co-operation with the **Africa Opera Village** enabled the Academy to hold a dance performance class directed by **Taiwo Jacob Ojudun**, **Uche Emmanuel Enechukwu** and **Damilola Adelokiki Orukotan**.

Mirela Baciak, **Julie Hayward**, **Peter Miller**, **Stephie Morawetz** and **Christian Schwarzwald** are familiar faces in the Summer Academy. Years ago, they participated as students, and sometimes later as co-teachers. Now they return as teachers, demonstrating their deep attachment to the institution.

One focus of this year's programme of events was on **Lecture** and **Sound Performances**. Besides four lecture performances in co-operation with the Salzburger Kunstverein, one event was held in the Museum of Modern Art, with **Stephie Morawetz** and **Iris Hummer**, on the history of Austrian jewellery art, and one in the Fotohof with **Peter Miller**. In addition, we held two **Sound Performances** in the Stadtgalerie Zwergelgarten. In a spectacular sound performance, **Greg Fox** and **Curtis Talwst Santiago** activated Santiago's exhibition there. Then **Heinz Riegler** gave an emotion-laden performance of *Sleep/Health* – the first in Salzburg – to enthusiastic applause. Thus some teachers were able to bring to Salzburg a completely different facet of their artistic work.

Special mention should be given to the **Panel Discussion** in the Zwergelgartenpavillon, devoted to art (production) in times of war and conflict, and to the question of what is the relevance of art in such times, and how art can address these. Artists **Eythar Gubara**, **Alina Kleytman** and **Neda Saeedi**, were invited to take part, along with art historian **Noit Banai**. Moderator was **Louisa Elderton**.

Exhibitions

In *Two Things Can Be True in Light*, in the Stadtgalerie Zwergelgartenpavillon, **Curtis Talwst Santiago** transformed the pavilion into a non-denominational chapel of music and dance culture. In *Under Other Suns*, in the kura-t kunstraum traklhaus, **Christian Kosmas Mayer** and **Pablo Martínez-Zárte** show that plants can serve as living repositories of memories and history. **Mafalda Rakoš**'s first solo presentation in the Fotohof, entitled *It's Yours, it's Mine*, takes the portrait as the starting-point for expressing the thoughts and emotions of the subject.

Sunset Kino

In co-operation with the Salzburg Kunstverein, Sudanese film-maker **Eythar Gubara** and photographer and film-maker **Peter Miller** each offered a presentation. Miller showed 16 mm films with a live sound-track.

Open Studios

The teachers and students of the art classes invited the public to participate in tours, film presentations, performances and discussions. A large number of visitors took advantage of this opportunity to experience the unique ambience in **Hohensalzburg Fortress** and the **Untersberg Quarry**.

Music Sets

In co-operation with the **Salzburg Club Commission**, on three Fridays the **Zwergelgartenpavillon** once again became the centre of contemporary club culture, integrating the local scene.

Further facts and figures

20 courses in **Hohensalzburg Fortress**, with **Mojé Assefjah** (painting), **Mirela Baciak / Denis Maksimov** (lecture performance), **Biennale Urbana** (architecture / urbanism), **Walter Bruno Brix** (free sewing / embroidery), **Rossen Daskalov** (printmaking), **Louisa Elderton** (art criticism / writing), **Julie Hayward** (sculpture / object / installation), **Thalia Hoffman / Manar Zuabi** (food art / performance / mixed media), **Christian Macketanz** (painting), **Pablo Martínez-Zárate** (film / video / sound / installation / interactive media), **Christian Kosmas Mayer** (sculpture / installation / mixed media), **Peter Miller** (analogue film), **Stephie Morawetz** (jewellery art / performance), **Taiwo Jacob Ojudun / Uche Emmanuel Enechukwu / Damilola Adelokiki Orukotan** (performance / dance / theatre / mixed media), **Elizabeth Pich** (comics / drawing), **Mafalda Rakoš** (photography), **Heinz Riegler** (sound / installation / video / mixed media), **Curtis Talwst Santiago** (painting / sound), **Christian Schwarzwald** (drawing), **Hannah Tilson / Otis Blease** (silk-screen printing)
One course in the **Untersberg quarry** in Fürstenbrunn with **Benjamin Hirte** (sculpture)

Patrons

Province of Salzburg, Town of Salzburg, Federal Ministry for Housing, the Arts, Culture Media and Sport

Sponsors

Culture fund of the Town of Salzburg; Society of Friends of the Salzburg International Academy of Fine Arts; ERSTE Foundation; American Austrian Foundation (AAF/Seebacher Prize for Fine Arts); zt: Chamber of Civil Engineers, Architects and Engineers; Province of Vorarlberg; Zurich Academy of Arts; Vienna University of Applied Arts; Free State of Bavaria/Munich and Nuremberg Art Academies; Münster Academy of Art;

Kingston University/London; Society of Friends of the Leipzig Academy of Fine Arts; Dresden University of Fine Arts; Haifa University

Co-operation partners

Hohensalzburg Fortress, Fotohof, kura-t kunstraum traklhaus, Marmor Kiefer GmbH, Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Salzburg Club Commission, Salzburg Kunstverein and Stadtgalerien Salzburg, Stiegl private brewery and Trumer private brewery

Sustainability

In summer 2025, the Summer Academy was re-certified for the third time, thus bearing the Austrian eco-label for out-of-school educational establishments since 2013.

Further details and photo material

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