

Doctorate in Arts for Practice-based Research,
Graduate School and Research of Arts and Humanities /
Villa Arson
Côte d'Azur University
Call for entries 2024

I. A joint doctoral program of the Graduate School and Research of Arts and Humanities - Villa Arson

An autonomous member of the Université Côte d'Azur, Villa Arson is part of a network of ten national public institutions for higher artistic education in the field of visual arts under the supervision of the French Ministry of Culture. With around 230 students in an arts department open to a broad spectrum of disciplines, Villa Arson is also a structure for artistic production and distribution, with an international program of exhibitions and residencies.

Graduate School and Research of Arts and Humanities is a Graduate and Research School that covers training and research in the humanities and social sciences fields. Distinguished by its disciplinary breadth, from language to human and social organizations, the Graduate School and Research of Arts and Humanities places at the heart of its research and training the analysis of these emergences and transformations as they unfold in the arts, literature and languages, cultures and civilizations, philosophy and epistemology, information and communication sciences, linguistics, history and archaeology, anthropology and ethnology, sociology, management sciences and psychology.

Starting in the academic year 2024-2025, a practice-based doctoral program in artistic creation and research is being activated by the Graduate School and Research of Arts and Humanities and Villa Arson, through the launch of a call for applications for a three-year doctoral contract.

II. "Inhabiting"

This doctoral program integrates the research activities of the *Laboratoire Associé International Arts, société, mieux-être* (LIA-Asme) linking Université Côte d'Azur and Université Laval in Quebec City, in which the Graduate School and Research of Arts and Humanities and Villa Arson play a leading role. The main mission of LIA-Asme is to make artistic creation a tool for social and societal investigation, with a particular focus on current issues, transdisciplinary approaches and new technical and methodological opportunities offered by technology and applied sciences.

The laboratory organizes its research around four axes (environmental humanities; displacement, migration and interculturality; art, care, (re)mediation; ephemeral arts, urban arts, urban writing) and an annual theme.

The topic chosen for this doctoral call is that of "inhabiting". If the etymon of this verb points to appropriation, domestication, with the predatory drifts that modernity has developed, and which are still rife, whether in the movements of colonization, exploitation of natural resources, domestication of the "wild" world, a vast movement has emerged over the last few decades, in the wake of the ecology movement and the ethic of care, which invites us to think of "inhabiting" in a perspective of care, welcome, preservation, inclusion, exchange.

This call therefore invites all candidates to reflect on a wide range of disciplines and creative practices in the visual, audiovisual and performing arts, with a particular focus on Villa Arson's specific areas of activity (drawing and painting, volume, publishing, photography, video, sound, digital arts, performing arts).

III. Project-based doctorates in the arts

The practice-based research doctorate aims to use the artistic creation as a matrix for research, combining analytical reflection and visual production.

This doctoral program is explicitly designed for candidates who have produced original and innovative work in their field of visual expression and theoretical research, and who are well-versed in art theory, history and current affairs, as well as the human and social sciences.

In particular, the candidate shall demonstrate a new and experimental approach to artistic creation and restitution, as well as ongoing research activity (evidenced by supervised work at Master's level or equivalent).

The objectives to be achieved during the doctorate by the arts project are as follows:

- Designing and structuring research projects based on the interaction between theories, practices and creative techniques;
- Contextualize project-based research in an interdisciplinary environment (visual arts, photography, cinema, theater, dance and performance, sound practices, digital and immersive arts, textual creation practices, curatorial practices, etc.);
- Develop specific creative methodologies and tools (linked to the research topic) that can be generalized and/or transferred to other disciplines, forms of artistic expression or skills.

The candidate is expected to have sufficient technical and/or technological skills to be autonomous in the workshops, to participate actively in Villa Arson's research and development projects, and to be able to integrate into them (workshops, exhibitions, co-supervision, participation in activities, etc.).

IV. Activities planned during the three years of doctoral studies

The future doctoral student will be expected to provide constant artistic and intellectual production throughout the 3-year doctorate.

In accordance with the resources made available by the Graduate School and Research of Arts and Humanities and Villa Arson, the future doctoral student will be asked to carry out:

- At least one communication per year about their work;
- At least one publication per year in specialized journals;
- At the end of the three-year doctorate and the defense, a public presentation as part of Villa Arson's artistic program and in its exhibition spaces.

The future doctoral student is also expected to play an active role in the scientific life of LIA-Asme and its scientific dissemination and promotion activities (working meetings, seminars, publications, drafting of calls for proposals). They will be encouraged to develop partnerships and residencies abroad, and to organize study days and meetings at international level.

It might be possible to award the doctoral student a teaching contract for a maximum of 64h seminar equivalent per year, inherent to their subject of work, and addressed to students at the Graduate School and Research of Arts and Humanities and/or Villa Arson.

V. The thesis

The doctoral thesis for the the Graduate School and Research of Arts and Humanities / Villa Arson arts project consists of one or more works, accompanied by a hybrid document in which written expression can coexist with other forms of expression.

The latter will bring together, organize and present, in the form of a portfolio or logbook, all the activities (experiments, sources, interactions with other artistic or scientific practices, etc.) that have accompanied and nourished the work of plastic creation. The aim of the thesis is to produce new knowledge on a subject or in a particular field, by means of argued and problematized reflection and in the form defined in agreement with the thesis directors.

The thesis will be co-supervised by two people:

- In the role of thesis **supervisor**, a professor-researcher holding a habilitation to direct research (HDR), affiliated to one of the member [laboratories](#) of the Graduate School and Research of Arts and Humanities and the [SHAL doctoral school](#) of the Université Côte d'Azur, which therefore issues the doctoral degree.
- In the role of thesis **co-supervisor**, a teacher, visual artist or theoretician, member of Villa Arson's [teaching team](#);

VI. Support and guidance

The doctoral contract is open to EU and non-EU applicants for three years (36 months) of full funding. The doctoral student will receive a net monthly salary of around 2,000 euros. The doctoral contract will start on December 1, 2024.

VII. Application, pre-selection, admission

Candidates are invited to submit a portfolio, which will be examined by a selection committee, and may be invited to an interview with a jury made up of Villa Arson teacher-artists and the Graduate School and Research of Arts and Humanities professor-researchers.

Dossiers are to be submitted **electronically only, in a single PDF document** (as an attachment or as a Google Drive, WeTransfer, etc. link), no later than **midnight Monday November 11, 2024**, to the following two addresses:

programme.doctoral@villa-arson.fr
eur-creates.contact@univ-cotedazur.fr

The application file shall be entitled *NAME.First Name* and shall include:

- A detailed CV;
- A letter of support from a professor-researcher authorized to direct research, attached to the SHAL doctoral school of the Université Côte d'Azur;
- A letter of support from a thesis co-supervisor, a teacher, visual artist or theoretician, member of Villa Arson teaching team;
- A detailed description of the research-creation project, using the template appended to this call;
- A portfolio of past achievements;
- A copy of the Master 2 diploma or equivalent.

N.B. Applications may be submitted in French or English; auditions will be held in November.

Applications must be sent to both addresses below:

programme.doctoral@villa-arson.fr
eur-creates.contact@univ-cotedazur.fr