

Sonnenbers

Artist in Residence – Call for applications 2026

Villa Sonnenberg

At Villa Sonnenberg in Lenzburg, we live hospitality and culture – *honestly, heartfelt, and reciprocally.*

Sponsor

The sponsor of the Villa Sonnenberg is the «Villa Sonnenberg Foundation», which is committed to preserving and revitalising the listed property. This also includes art and cultural projects as well as *an Artist-in-Residence programme for professional artists.* Through the residencies, the foundation promotes intercultural exchange and international networking. The artistic work of the studio guests should experience new impulses and find time to develop further at Villa Sonnenberg.

Annual theme

As an artist in residence, you will have the opportunity *to realise a project related to the annual theme* and to participate in everyday life at Villa Sonnenberg. The estate with its historic buildings and picturesque garden has been recently renovated and is open for events, conferences, and overnight guests. Your stay will conclude with a public exhibition or presentation of your work.





Villa Sonnenberg

Annual theme 2026:
In Motion

Nothing stands still - everything moves. Art even more so! Artists are in constant dialogue with their surroundings, exploring questions, daring to experiment, breaking conventions and finding new forms of expression in dynamic processes.

The works pulsate with rhythm, change and energy – forces that flow through society, space and body in equal measure: sometimes as visible gestures, sometimes as invisible impulses that trigger thoughts. Movement is not always linear – it meanders, breaks out, returns, is fragmented or transformed.

The relationship between art and movement becomes particularly exciting when it involves the human body. Body language is a powerful means of expression - a network of universal communication and cultural imprinting. It shapes identities, defines relationships and sometimes

reveals attitudes or power structures. What are the processes of change in body language? What happens when this language is deconstructed and re-coded?

Movement also involves mental and emotional processes. It often symbolises a desire for change, for new beginnings and for challenging existing structures.

Movement manifests itself not only in bodies and thoughts, but also in what surrounds us. Materials bear the marks of time and change; they expand, disintegrate and transform.

Digital worlds extend this horizon, offering new spaces in which movement can coexist, be duplicated and manipulated. Virtual realities create spaces of movement that challenge physical laws and open up new artistic possibilities.



The *Artist in Residence Programme 2026* is dedicated to the interaction between art and movement in all its diversity. We are looking for artists who can contribute to this dialogue in a variety of ways. Whether through visual art, sound art, digital media or interactive formats, we are looking for approaches that not only represent movement but also renegotiate it as an essential component of artistic practice.

The 2026 programme invites you to explore movement as a fundamental principle of creative work – in all its visible, hidden, physical and virtual forms.

The Villa Sonnenberg Foundation's *open call «In Motion»* is addressed to professional artists of all disciplines with a project proposal.

Residencies 2026

Studio residencies at Villa Sonnenberg usually last three months:

- Mid-May to mid-August 2026
- Mid-September to mid-December 2026

Please indicate all time slots that are possible for you in your application. Attendance of at least 80 % is a prerequisite.

The place

Villa Sonnenberg is in Lenzburg, a small town between Zurich and Bern with a rich cultural life. The property is a 10-minute walk from the old town and shopping facilities, with a view of Lenzburg Castle, and is surrounded by a picturesque garden and features a natural water source.

Living and working

You will stay in a modern studio on the top floor of the main house with a small, equipped kitchen and private bathroom. Bed linen, bath towels and cleaning materials are provided. You are responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of the studio and the infrastructure used. The studio has a WIFI connection.

Smoking is prohibited in the entire house and all outbuildings. We cannot accept pets. The studio is for single use.

As an artist in residence, you may use *the studio house* which offers a workshop (20m²), a music rehearsal room (20m²) and the garden.

Contributions

You are responsible for your *own meals*. The foundation pays a contribution of CHF 20 per day (CHF 600 per month).

Return journey incl. entry visa

You are responsible for organising your own travel to and from the Foundation as well as any necessary entry visa. The foundation offers organisational support. If possible, the journey should be made by train.

Personal contribution

During your stay, you will contribute in the form of high-profile events (workshop, exhibition, reading, concert, etc.).

The Foundation also enables you to bring in your interests and skills to the daily life of the Sonnenberg, for example in the form of a cooking event, gardening, or similar. We look forward to receiving your written proposal (optional).

Language skills

Good knowledge of German or English or French is required for the stay.

Application documents

- CV with photo & career as an artist
- Project outline with reference to the annual theme incl. motivation for the stay
- Proposal for your contribution to the daily operations of Villa Sonnenberg (optional)
- Examples of your work (including current work)
- Proof of insurance in case of illness or accident (at the latest upon acceptance or agreement)



Application deadline for 2026 residencies

The application deadline for *all residencies in 2026 is 31 May 2025*. There is no entry or application fee.

Please send your documents electronically to: artist@villasonnenberg.ch

The selection will be made by the Board of Trustees of the Villa Sonnenberg Foundation. After the initial selection will be followed by a personal interview via Zoom. The final decisions will be made by *the end of August 2025*.

Contact

Your questions can be directed to the President of the Foundation Board Ms Christine von Arx: artist@villasonnenberg.ch

We look forward to receiving your application!

Address:

Stiftung Villa Sonnenberg
Schlossgasse 50
CH-5600 Lenzburg
villasonnenberg.ch

Studio in the attic



Workshop in the Studio House

