

ShUM

ARTIST
IN
RESIDENCE

שר"ם

SHUM-CITIES
SPEYER WORMS MAINZ





unesco

SchUM-Stätten
Speyer, Worms und Mainz
Welterbe seit 2021

THE SHUM-SITES

The Jewish communities of Speyer, Worms, and Mainz formed an unique and significant center of Jewish life in the Middle Ages for all of Ashkenaz, a rabbinic term from the Middle Ages referring to Western, Central and Eastern Europe, especially Germany, and the Jews living there.

The acronym ShUM was derived by the Jewish communal alliance along the Rhine from the hebrew initials of the three cities: Shpira (Speyer), Warmaisa (Worms), and Magenza (Mainz).

The architectural remains such as synagogues, women's shul, study houses, and ritual baths (mikva'ot), as well as the jewish cemeteries in Worms and Mainz, together with the religious tradition, document the immense importance and innovative power of the ShUM-communities in medieval Ashkenazi Judaism. To this day, unique evidence of this period has been preserved in all three cities.

Since 2021, the ShUM-Sites of Speyer, Worms, and Mainz have been recognized as an UNESCO World Heritage Site, making them the first Jewish World Heritage Site in Germany.

Further informations:

www.schumstaedte.de/en



WHAT DO WE EXPECT?

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Up to three project scholarships are being offered for the realization of an artistic project that engages with the history of the ShUM-communities and their religious, cultural, intellectual and architectural heritage.

A public presentation of the completed project is intended (e.g. exhibition, concert, reading, performance, etc.). The project should offer an artistic approach to the ShUM heritage, taking into account both the history and present of Judaism and its perspectives.

Fellows are also expected to involve the interested public during their stay, for example through open studio talks or workshops, sharing their work and concepts. Young people and schools should also be included. An exchange of ideas with local artists and cultural institutions is also encouraged.

Events related to the residency will be organized in cooperation with the cities involved, the ShUM-Cities association and the artistic director of the residency program.

The main working language is English, in which applicants should be proficient. Communication in German is welcome where possible.



**WHAT DO WE
EXPERIENCE?**

ARTISTIC FIELDS

The call is open internationally to artists working in the following fields:

VISUAL ARTS & MEDIA

Painting, sculpture, drawing, installation, film, video, photography, printmaking, ceramics, textiles, performance

ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN & APPLIED ARTS

Architecture, urban and spatial planning, applied arts, design, calligraphy, book and print arts, gold- and silversmithing

MUSIC

New compositions, performances

LITERATURE

Novels, poetry, short stories, non-fiction, essays, plays, screenplays

A close-up photograph of a hand pointing at a musical score. The score is open, showing several staves with musical notation. The hand is positioned over the middle of the page, with the index finger pointing towards the left. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a stage or rehearsal space with some lights.

**WHAT
DO WE
KNOW?**

TIME LOCATION & SUPPORT

The residency will last four to six weeks and will take place between mid-April and the end of May 2026.

During this time, the artist will live and work in one of the three ShUM-Cities Speyer, Worms or Mainz. Continuous presence throughout the residency is expected.

THE PROGRAM PROVIDES

- A rent-free furnished apartment
- A studio or workspace
- Travel expenses up to €1,000 (economy class flights, 2nd class train, car costs according to German state travel cost regulations)
- A weekly allowance of €250
- Up to €1,000 for material or service costs
- Additional costs (e.g. usage rights, purchase of artworks, etc.) to be agreed separately

The artistic director, ShUM-Cities association and cultural departments of the three cities will offer advisory support, including connections to local artists, cultural institutions, and – if needed – authorities, companies, and other organizations.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

Applicants must submit the following:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- A short description of the proposed artistic project (max. 2,000 characters)
- A detailed explanation of the project (max. 15,000 characters)
- Indication of whether local cooperation partners are needed
- If applicable, details on required production costs

REFERENCES

- Artistic biography
- If applicable, previous similar projects
- Information on partner institutions involved in past or current collaborations
- Documentation (e.g. catalogs, media coverage, websites, publications)

DEADLINE AND SELECTION COMMITTEE

Complete applications must be submitted by email no later than September 30, 2025. Please send applications and inquiries to:

Johanna Weiß
Artistic Director ShUM-Artist in Residence
johanna.weiss@schumstaedte.de

The scholarships will be awarded by a five-member expert jury representing various artistic disciplines. Preliminary evaluation will be carried out by the artistic director, the managing director of the ShUM Cities Association and the ShUM coordinators of the three participating cities.

The selection committee will meet in November 2025. Its decisions are final and cannot be appealed. All applicants will be notified afterward.



Rheinland-Pfalz
MINISTERIUM FÜR
FAMILIE, FRAUEN, KULTUR
UND INTEGRATION



Landeshauptstadt
Mainz

