Artificio A.I.R. – Residency Rules 2026-2027

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Art. 1 – Purpose and promoters

Artificio A.I.R. awards five paid residencies to artists who create with artificial intelligence, at the Artificio Studios in Sa Manifattura, Cagliari (Sardinia, Italy). Artificio A.I.R. is the third year of the three-year Artificio programme, devoted to digital creativity and artificial intelligence.

A.I.R. has a double meaning: Artist in Residence, the format by which artist residencies are known worldwide, and Artificial Intelligence Residence, because here artificial intelligence is a tool for production, in professional studios and with a technical team alongside.

Artificio A.I.R. is promoted by Artificio and OpificioInnova, with the support of Fondazione di Sardegna and in collaboration with INNOIS. Media partners are Matex TV, RadioVisionair and YouTG. The artistic director is Carolina Melis. The call is managed by OpificioInnova S.r.l.

Art. 2 – Subject of the call

The call selects five artists, including artist collectives. Each creates in residence an original work in which artificial intelligence plays a significant role in the creative process.

All languages are accepted: video, audio, photography, image, storytelling, installation, performance, hybrid and experimental productions. The work must be produced at the Artificio Studios, in the former Manifattura Tabacchi of Cagliari. The Studios are equipped for radio, podcast, videopodcast, television, photography, music, filming and post-production.

Each artist or collective may submit only one project.

Art. 3 – Period, duration and venue

Applications are open from 23 November 2026 to 30 January 2027, at 23:59 Italian time, unless the call closes early because all places have been assigned (Art. 11).

Residencies take place between December 2026 and April 2027 at the Artificio Studios in Sa Manifattura, the former Manifattura Tabacchi of Cagliari. Each residency lasts from a minimum of two to a maximum of four weeks, on a schedule agreed with the artist and with the Studios booking. Longer durations may be considered if duly justified.

The committee may also consider residency periods up to June 2027, if duly justified in the application.

Art. 4 – Eligibility

The call is open to artists, authors and digital creatives aged 18 or over, of any nationality, who work with digital media and artificial intelligence. No academic qualifications are required and there is no upper age limit.

Individual artists and collectives may apply. A collective appoints a lead member, who signs the residency agreement and receives the fee. A maximum of two members of a collective may take part in the residency.

Applications submitted after the deadline, by means other than the online form, or lacking the mandatory items listed in Art. 10 will not be accepted.

Art. 5 – Residency reserved for Sardinian artists

At least one of the five residencies is reserved for a Sardinian artist. The reservation remains valid until that residency is assigned, even if all other places have been filled. The selection also seeks a balance between Sardinian, Italian and international artists.

A Sardinian artist is anyone who, on the date of application:

- is resident in Sardinia: a self-declaration is enough at application stage; if selected, the artist provides a certificate of residence;
- is domiciled in Sardinia: a self-declaration is enough at application stage; if selected, the artist provides a rental contract or other documents showing that they live in Sardinia at least six months a year.

For collectives, the requirement applies to the lead member.

Art. 6 – What the residency offers

Each selected artist or collective receives a residency grant of EUR 2,400 gross for four weeks, plus travel, accommodation, any production costs and services, covered by the programme.

Item	What it includes
Fee	EUR 2,400 gross for four weeks, i.e. EUR 600 gross per week, prorated to the actual duration (EUR 1,200 for two weeks, EUR 1,800 for three). Collectives receive the same fee as individual artists.
Travel	Return trip covered by the programme, which books it directly or reimburses it against receipts. Travel is not covered for Sardinian artists (Art. 5). For collectives it is covered for a maximum of two members.
Accommodation	Provided by the programme for the whole residency, in a B&B or apartment. For collectives it is provided for a maximum of two members.
Production	Up to EUR 2,000 for the production costs of the work, if the items are

Item	What it includes
	listed, justified and quantified in the application. Costs are paid directly by the programme or reimbursed against receipts.
Studios	Use of the Artificio Studios and their professional equipment.
Support	Support from the technical production team and curatorial guidance by Carolina Melis, from the start of the residency to the final exhibition.
Communication	A video story of the working process and a set of social media clips, produced by the programme, and visibility on the media partners.
Exhibition	Display of the work at Sa Manifattura, with guides in Italian and English (Art. 14).

The fee is gross of the withholdings and charges required by the applicable tax rules, which also depend on the artist's tax residence and on double taxation treaties. The fee is paid 50% at the start of the residency and the remaining 50% on delivery of the work.

Applying to the call is free of charge.

Art. 7 – Commitments of the residents

By signing the residency agreement (Art. 13), the artist undertakes to:

1. be present in Cagliari for the whole residency;
2. create the work in residence and deliver its final version by the end of the residency, in the agreed format;
3. hold a masterclass of at least twelve hours over three days, open to students, young creatives and the public, on the themes and techniques of their work;
4. take part in the Open Studio meetings, where the public and professionals from the cultural and creative industries meet the artists, visit the spaces and follow the projects as they develop: one or more meetings during the residency period, according to the schedule;
5. document their creative process, working with the programme on video stories and social media clips;
6. take part in the final event at the end of the residencies, in person or, if agreed, remotely;
7. comply with the rules for using the Studios and Sa Manifattura.

Each residency opens with a kick-off session to get to know the spaces and set the production plan, and continues with interim reviews with the curator.

Art. 8 – Crew of young Sardinian talents

The artist may welcome one or more young Sardinian talents into the production of the work, such as students or trainees in the creative industries. Together they form an artistic crew, giving the young participants direct contact with national and international experience.

The application asks whether the artist is willing to host the crew. This is optional and does not affect the evaluation. The curator agrees with the artist on the choice of young talents and how they will be involved.

Art. 9 – Use of artificial intelligence

In the application, the artist states the artificial intelligence tools they intend to use and their role in the creative process. The artist also:

- warrants that they hold the necessary rights and licences for the materials, data, models and content used in the work;
- does not generate images, voices or likenesses of real people without their written consent;
- complies with the transparency obligations of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 on artificial intelligence (AI Act) and states the role of AI in the titles, credits and description of the work;
- is personally liable for any infringement of third-party rights arising from the materials or tools used.

Art. 10 – How to apply

Applications must be submitted only through the online form at artificio.opificioinnova.it, from 23 November 2026 to 30 January 2027 at 23:59 Italian time. They may be written in Italian or English and include:

1. details of the artist or collective and, for collectives, the name of the lead member and of the members taking part in the residency;
2. a short biography (max. 1,500 characters);
3. a portfolio of recent work, as a single PDF of max. 10 MB or as a link;
4. the project to be created in residence (max. 3,000 characters): idea, language, use of artificial intelligence and expected outcome;
5. the artificial intelligence tools to be used (Art. 9);
6. the masterclass proposal (max. 1,500 characters);
7. the requested duration, from two to four weeks, and the preferred period between December 2026 and April 2027; a period up to June 2027 must be justified (Art. 3);
8. technical requirements in terms of space, hardware and software;
9. the production budget, with cost items and amounts, up to EUR 2,000;
10. where applicable, the request for the residency reserved for Sardinian artists, with the self-declaration of residence or the indication of domicile (Art. 5);
11. willingness to host a crew of young Sardinian talents (Art. 8).

Items 1 to 9 are mandatory. A presentation video of up to three minutes may be added as a link. Receipt is confirmed by email.

As selection is on a rolling basis (Art. 11), applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

Art. 11 – Committee and selection procedure

Applications are assessed by a committee of three members:

Member	Role
Carolina Melis	Artistic director of Artificio A.I.R., chair of the committee
Graziano Di Paola	OpificioInnova
Bruno Murgia	Fondazione di Sardegna

Selection is on a rolling basis. The committee assesses applications in order of arrival until all residencies are assigned, and may hold online interviews with applicants. Applications scoring at least 60 out of 100 points are eligible for selection (Art. 12).

Once all residencies are assigned, the call closes early and a notice is posted on the website. After the four non-reserved places are assigned, only applications for the residency reserved for Sardinian artists are assessed, if it has not yet been assigned.

With each selected artist the committee agrees the schedule and scope of the residency. Results are sent by email to all applicants and the list of selected artists is published on the website. A committee member with a conflict of interest with an applicant abstains from assessing that application. The committee's decision is final.

Art. 12 – Evaluation criteria

Each application receives a maximum score of 100 points, with a minimum threshold of 60 for selection.

Criterion	Points
Originality of the project and informed use of artificial intelligence	30
Artistic quality of the portfolio and consistency with the Artificio programme	20
Feasibility within the residency period, with the Studios equipment and the stated budget	20
Potential for outreach and public engagement, including the masterclass proposal	20
Connection with Sardinia: themes, places, heritage, communities	10
Total	100

Art. 13 – Residency agreement, withdrawal and replacement

Before the residency starts, a residency agreement is signed with each selected artist. The agreement sets the period and duration, production scope, fee, travel and accommodation coverage, production budget, masterclass date and participation in public events.

An artist who withdraws must notify the programme by email as soon as possible. The residency remains available and is assigned to another eligible application. If a residency ends early, the fee is prorated to the period completed.

In the event of circumstances beyond the control of the parties, the programme and the artist may agree new dates within the timeframe of Artificio A.I.R.

Art. 14 – Final event, exhibition and installation

At the end of the residencies, a final event is held at Sa Manifattura, with a public discussion on the relationship between artificial intelligence and creativity and the opening of a group exhibition of the works created. The exhibition stays open for one month, with guides in Italian and English, guided tours and workshops for schools and universities.

Supports, space requirements and installation of the works are covered by the programme. On request, the programme provides information on the available display solutions as early as the application stage.

Art. 15 – Rights and licence

The works remain the property of the artists. Through the residency agreement the artist grants the promoters a non-exclusive, free-of-charge, worldwide licence for five years to:

- display the work in the Artificio A.I.R. exhibition and in other programme initiatives;
- publish the work, or excerpts of it, on the Artificio portal and on the media partners Matex TV, RadioVisionair and YouTG;
- use excerpts and images of the work to document and promote the programme.

In any later distribution of the work, the artist includes the credit line: “Work created within the Artificio programme by OpificioInnova, with the support of Fondazione di Sardegna and in collaboration with INNOIS”.

The artist authorises the use of their image and voice in the video story, the clips and the programme’s communication materials.

Art. 16 – Personal data

Applicants’ personal data are processed under Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR), solely to manage the call and the activities of Artificio A.I.R. The data controller is OpificioInnova S.r.l.

Data are kept for as long as needed for these purposes. The names of the selected artists and the titles of their projects are published on the website and in communication materials. Applicants may exercise the rights under Articles 15-22 of the Regulation by writing to info@opificioinnova.it.

Art. 17 – Schedule

When	What
23 November 2026	Call opens and rolling selection begins
December 2026 – April 2027	Residencies at the Artificio Studios (up to June 2027 for justified and approved periods, Art. 3)
During the residencies	Masterclasses and Open Studio meetings with the artists
30 January 2027, 23:59	Call closes, unless all places are assigned earlier
At the end of the residencies	Final event and opening of the group exhibition
One month from the final event	Exhibition at Sa Manifattura, guided tours and workshops for schools and universities

The dates of the final event and the exhibition will be announced on the website.

Art. 18 – Final provisions and contacts

Submitting an application implies full acceptance of these rules. The rules are published in Italian and English; in case of discrepancies, the Italian version prevails.

Information and questions: info@opificioinnova.it · artificio.opificioinnova.it. Answers to questions of general interest are published in the FAQ on the website.