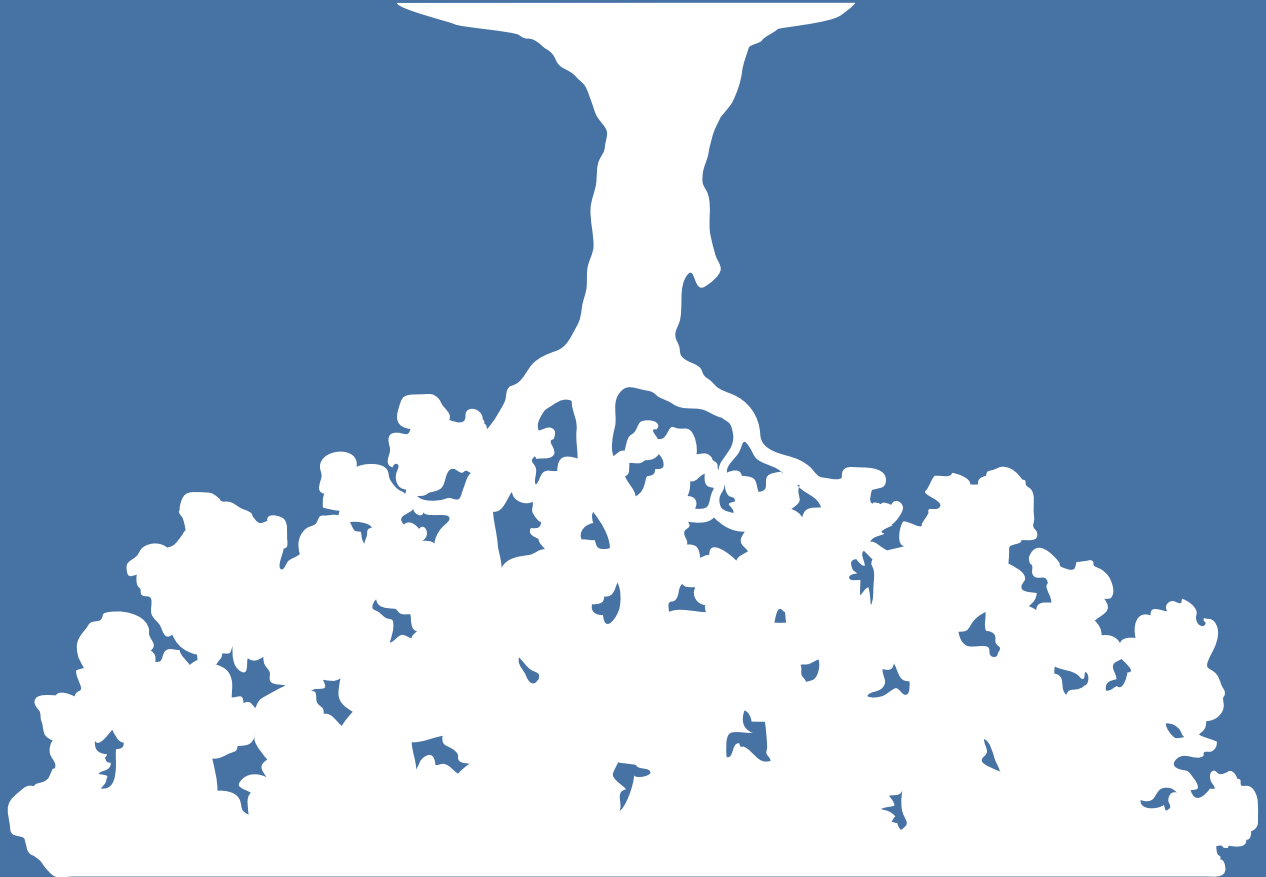


SEMINARIA2025 OPEN CALL

Artists in Residence in Maranola

SEMI_nARIA



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Introduction

Since 2011, SEMINARIA has invited more than 80 artists in the medieval town of Maranola (a district of Formia, in the province of Latina, Italy) to create public art projects in dialogue with the place and the community.

In February 2025, SEMINARIA is launching an open call for artists who are willing to live in town for a month (May 2025) while developing a project for the eighth iteration of the Seminaria Biennale of Public Art.

We are looking for three artists whose research is site-specific and community-oriented, open to engage with the local people, to activate cultural exchange, and to explore alternative ways of producing and sharing art.

Seminaria Artist Residency, scheduled from **May 1 to May 30, 2025**, is a partially funded opportunity that offers a month of creative immersion in Maranola, with free accommodation, access to workspaces, curatorial and technical support, a program of different activities such as field trips and workshops, culminating in the realization of the projects at the Seminaria Biennale (August 24–31, 2025).

The deadline to apply for the open call is **March 18, 2025**.



Who we are

SEMINARIA Sogninterra was founded in Maranola (LT) in 2011 with the aim of promoting contemporary art as a means to regenerate the town and empower the local community, suffering from depopulation and abandonment. Through site-specific art practices, we hope to renew the local creative energy, foster participation, and engage the public in new ways.

SEMINARIA draws inspiration from the 80+ artists who have participated so far, challenging conventional ways of production, execution, and sharing through ongoing dialogue with Maranola's architectural and social fabric.

SEMINARIA is entirely composed of volunteers, an ensemble of artisans, professionals, and families from Maranola who actively participate and support the initiative, dedicating their time to the collective project, opening their homes and kitchens to all. We see art as an opportunity for learning to imagine a better future. Through participatory production and free distribution, we aim to establish an alternative model for real economic, cultural, and social change in our region.

SEMINARIA REALIZES:

- > The Seminaria Biennale of Public Art, in the village of Maranola
- > Public art projects in collaboration with international institutions and festivals
- > The Museo Diffuso, a collection of permanent public artworks in Maranola
- > Educational programs and art workshops for children and adults
- > Art, music, and theater events in collaboration with other local cultural organizations



Where we are

Two hours from Rome and equidistant from Naples, Maranola is a medieval town perched on a rocky hill at the foot of Mount Altino, overlooking the Gulf of Gaeta. Just ten minutes from Formia's beaches, the village is accessible via a winding road lined with ancient olive groves, leading to a piazza with breathtaking Mediterranean sea view. Entering through a large stone archway, one steps into a walled medieval town where time appears to stand still.

The village has only about 400 residents, many empty houses, and an aging population with rich memories and a strong desire to share their stories. The entire town consists of steep alleys and narrow streets, inaccessible to cars, making the only sounds those of daily life: neighbors chatting, children playing, and the music of a traditional organetto.

SEMINARIA has its home here.

Walking tour di Maranola: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhEu_FBebKs

Theme

The theme of the residency is Maranola itself—its physical and social dimensions—and the relationships that artists can build with it. Guided by the site, artists and curators adapt themselves based on the energies they encounter, tuning in to geographical and social variables to create new maps that reflect shifting identities, memories, and shared experiences.

The residency aims to develop projects for the Seminaria Biennale 2025 (late August 2025). Each artist is invited to propose a project that interprets Maranola and engages with the residents and the surrounding landscape.

During the residency, scheduled events, open studios, and research support activities will facilitate artistic exchange, knowledge-sharing, and community involvement. The program encourages collective experiences through art while exploring the area's natural, cultural, and social resources, guided by local professionals and experts.



What we offer

> Accommodation & Workspace

- Selected artists will receive free accommodation for the entire residency in the historic houses of the village.
- If needed, an appropriate studio/atelier space will be provided.

> Financial & Technical Support

- SEMINARIA will cover the approved project's production costs.
- Materials and equipment will be supplied based on project requirements.

> Curatorial Support:

- Regular meetings and studio visits will be held to assist artists in their project development.
- A public program will be implemented to facilitate engagement with the local community.

> Additional Benefits

- Field trips and guided tours of Maranola and nearby areas
- Exhibition and promotion of projects at Seminaria Biennale 2025
- Inclusion of projects in the Biennale catalog
- Accommodation and meals during the Biennale (August 24–31, 2025)



What We Ask of Artists

- > Willingness to engage with the Maranola community
- > Development of a project for the Seminaria Biennale 2025
- > Openness to leading a workshop for the local community (during the residency or the Biennale)
- > Public presentation of their research at the beginning of the residency
- > Participation in artist excursions and village tours
- > Public presentation of their Biennale proposal at the end of the residency
- > Weekly meetings with the curatorial team

Costs Covered by Artists

- > Travel expenses to and from Maranola
- > Food costs (except during the Biennale week, when meals are covered)
- > Personal expenses during the residency



Artistic Project Guidelines

Artists are encouraged to explore a diverse range of spatial and social practices, as long as their work engages with the community and/or the architectural landscape of Maranola. SEMINARIA welcomes experimentation with innovative materials, collaborative approaches, and shared creative processes. Projects best suited for the Seminaria Biennale include installations of varying scales, incorporating sculpture, painting, video, sound, light, movement, or other artistic media. Performative and participatory works will be especially valued for their ability to activate spaces and engage the local community.

A strong emphasis will be placed on the use of local, sustainable, and ecological materials. Projects may be temporary or permanent, but what truly matters to SEMINARIA is fostering meaningful connections within the community, ensuring that art leaves a lasting imprint on the collective memory.

Artists may propose pre-existing works, provided they are thoughtfully adapted to the local context. In alignment with the Museo Diffuso initiative, artists are also invited to donate their works to the village, while retaining the option to exhibit them elsewhere with proper acknowledgment of their origins.

Production

SEMINARIA is a non-profit, self-financed initiative, primarily supported by the local community, with a limited budget exclusively dedicated to the production of artworks and the Biennale. Once the fundraising campaign is completed, funds will be allocated based on the artistic, thematic, and technical requirements of each project. Despite limited resources, SEMINARIA encourages artists to think big, relying on the strength and support of the Maranola community.

Technical Support

SEMINARIA will provide basic materials and tools necessary for the realization of each project, and every artist will have access to a workspace suited to their specific needs. The curatorial team will be available throughout the creative process to offer technical and logistical support.



Eligibility

The residency is free and open to artists from any background who meet the following requirements:

- > At least three years of experience in visual arts, preferably with site-specific or community-based projects.
- > Attendance in the full residency period (May 1–30, 2025) and preferably also in the Biennale week (August 24–31, 2025).

We understand that an ideal candidate may not meet all the criteria. If you align with most of them, we encourage you to apply. Collectives are welcome to apply as long as all members meet the eligibility requirements.

Application Process

Applications must be submitted by **March 18, 2025, at 11:00 PM** via the form: <https://forms.gle/qwcLCJpsKSXEfjcf7>

Required documents

- > A portfolio (max 12 pages) including CV and a short bio (max 600 words) —File format: PDF, max size: 10 MB - File name format: firstname-lastname-portfolio-SEMINARIA25.pdf

Important Dates

March 18	Open call deadline (within 23:00)
March 28-30	Online interviews with shortlisted artists
April 1	Announcement of selected artists.
May 1-30	Residency period
August 24-30	SEMINARIA Biennale 2025



FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is prior experience in artist residencies required?

It is preferred but not essential. The important thing is to have a project aligned with the spirit of SEMINARIA.

2. Are travel expenses reimbursed?

No, travel costs are the responsibility of the artist.

3. Can I bring family members?

Family members may visit Maranola on weekends if they can share the accommodation provided by SEMINARIA.

4. Will the artwork remain my property?

If the artist wishes and if the size and nature of the work allow, it may become part of the Museo Diffuso of Maranola. In any case, both the artist and SEMINARIA retain the right to exhibit the work elsewhere with credits.

5. Do I need to be present in Maranola for both the residency (May 2025) and the Seminaria Biennale (late August 2025)?

The artist must be present for the residency period. If they are unable to return for the Biennale, it may be possible to arrange a project where the final installation is carried out by SEMINARIA curators and technicians.

6. If applying as an artist collective, must all members be present for the entire residency period?

At least one member must be present for the full residency duration to ensure project continuity.

7. What kind of accommodation is provided?

Artists will be hosted in the historic houses of Maranola. Each artist will have a spacious private room with a queen-size bed within a shared house that includes a garden and a fully equipped kitchen.

8. What is the climate like in Maranola?

Maranola has a Mediterranean climate with mild winters and hot, sunny summers. Spring and autumn temperatures are pleasant, making them ideal for exploring the village and its surroundings. Summers can be very hot, but the proximity to Aurunci Mountains provides some cooling, especially in the evenings.

9. Are there shops and essential services?

Yes, Maranola offers basic services for a comfortable stay. The village has a small grocery store, a butcher, a tobacco shop, a pharmacy, and two bars. For a wider range of shops and supermarkets, the city of Formia is just a few kilometers away.

10. How do you get around Maranola and the surrounding areas?

The village is easily explored on foot. Public transportation is available for nearby areas. However, to explore the region more freely, visit the Monti Aurunci Park, or reach beaches and less accessible locations, having a car can be very useful.

How to reach Maranola (LT)

- > By CAR: From Rome or Naples, take the A1 highway, exit at Cassino, continue to Formia, and follow signs for Maranola.
- > By TRAIN: Take the Rome-Naples line and stop at Formia-Gaeta station. From there, you can take a bus or taxi to Maranola.
- > By PLANE: The nearest airports are Rome Fiumicino, Rome Ciampino, and Naples Capodichino. From there, take a train to Formia-Gaeta.

For more information:

Website: <https://www.seminariasogninterra.it/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/seminariasogninterra/?hl=it>

Email: opencallseminaria@gmail.com

