



Call for applications

Art & design collaborative residency – Africa Consortium

Hosted by the Academy of Design & Innovation, Mauritius

Date of Event: 30th May 2026

About the Africa Consortium

The Academy of Design and Innovation will be hosting the *Africa Consortium* in a tribute celebrating diverse cultures and the powerful connection between human creativity and ocean preservation through art. With the theme “*Breath of the Sea — Art for Life*,” the project uses immersive art to inspire awareness and meaningful action.

The event offers sponsors a unique platform for engagement and visibility, connecting their brand with a project that merges culture, sustainability, and social impact. Supporting “*Breath of the Sea — Art for Life*” connects sponsors to a movement where art inspires ocean conservation.

The Call

The Academy of Design & Innovation (ADI) invites applications from emerging and established artists and fashion designers from the Global South for its flagship cultural and creative programme: the Africa Consortium collaborative residency.

The 2026 residency embraces the transformative power of art and design as instruments of peace, unity, and cross-cultural exchange across the African continent and the wider Global South. Through collaborative creation, critical dialogue, and cultural immersion, participants will explore shared identities, reflect on collective futures, and celebrate diverse creative languages.

Theme: “Breath of the Sea — Art for Life”

Concept: Highlighting the interconnectedness of human creativity and ocean preservation.

Surrounded by the Indian Ocean, Mauritius shares an intimate and vital relationship with the sea, which shapes its culture, livelihoods, and natural heritage. *Breath of the Sea — Art for Life* explores this deep connection, highlighting the interconnectedness between human creativity and ocean preservation.

Through artistic expression, the initiative reflects on the ocean as both a life-sustaining force and a fragile ecosystem under threat from pollution, climate change, and coastal degradation. Artists and designers are invited to translate these environmental realities



into immersive and meaningful works, drawing inspiration from Mauritius's marine biodiversity, lagoon systems, and cultural traditions.

Rooted in local context and sustainable practices, the project emphasizes the responsibility of protecting the ocean as a shared cultural and environmental duty—ensuring that the sea, and the life it supports, continues to thrive for future generations.

Residency concept

A unique paired collaboration residency, bringing together:

- 2 visual artists
- 2 fashion designers

Each designer will be paired with one artist → 1 artist : 1 designer.
Together, duos will conceptualise, research, and produce interdisciplinary creative outcomes—ranging from fashion garments and textile-based works to installations, mixed-media pieces, and performance-driven expressions.

The residency culminates in:

- A major fashion showcase
- A curated exhibition
- Public talks / panel discussions / open-studio presentations (TBC)

Objectives

- Encourage creative dialogue and exchange between disciplines and cultures
- Celebrate peace, unity, and solidarity across the Global South
- Foster sustainable cultural and artistic networks beyond borders
- Provide a platform for innovation in fashion & visual arts
- Promote African and island-state creative perspectives internationally
- Support emerging voices and cross-cultural knowledge exchange

Residency format

Duration: 4 weeks

Work Location: ADI campus, Mauritius + partner cultural sites

Format includes:

- Collaborative studio practice
- Research visits, cultural immersion & field trips
- Workshops & mentorship sessions
- Public engagement activities
- Final showcase & exhibition

Participants will have access to:

- Shared studio spaces
- Textile, printmaking, and fabrication facilities
- Academic and industry mentors & guest practitioners
- Networking events & media opportunities

Eligibility

We welcome applications from the Global South, particularly:

- Mauritius & Africa
- Indian Ocean region
- Asia & Latin America (limited seats; priority to African region)

Applicants must:

- Be practising visual artists or fashion designers
- Demonstrate a strong conceptual/practical portfolio
- Be willing to collaborate, experiment, and engage in dialogue
- Commit to full participation for the duration of the residency

Application requirements

Submit the following to: a.ombika@adi.mu

- Filled application form
- Updated CV / professional résumé
- Portfolio (PDF/online link)
- Statement of artistic practice (500 words max)
- Motivation letter explaining interest in collaboration, unity theme & Global South creative connections
- Initial but not necessary final concept proposal

Support

- Studio space
- Production support

Applicants may also seek independent or institutional sponsorship.

Important dates

- Call opens: 9th March 2026
- Deadline: 25th March 2026
- Notification: 31st March 2026

- Residency period: 13th April 2026 to 15th May 2026
- Final showcase: 30th May

Selection process

A jury of creative leaders, curators, and design related field professionals will select participants based on:

- Artistic merit & innovation
- Relevance to residency theme
- Collaborative capacity & openness
- Demonstrated commitment to Global South creative exchange

Registration Fee

Upon selection participants will be required to pay a \$100 fee, to confirm their participation and be committed to the residency program. The fee will also help in providing assistance with the space and facilities being provided by the ADI.

Contact & information

For queries:

Email: a.ombika@adi.ac.mu

Phone: +230 4676277

Be part of a transformative journey bridging art, design, and global citizenship.
Collaborate. Create. Inspire. Unite.



APPLICATION FORM

Art & Design Collaborative Residency – Africa Consortium 2026

Hosted by: Academy of Design & Innovation

Location: Mauritius

Theme: *Breath of the Sea — Art for Life*

SECTION 1 — APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Preferred Name (if different): _____

Date of Birth: _____

Gender:

Female

Male

Non-binary

Prefer not to say

Other: _____

Nationality: _____

Country of Residence: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone / WhatsApp: _____

Website / Portfolio Link: _____

Instagram / Professional Social Media (optional):

SECTION 2 — PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Field of Practice

- Visual Artist
- Fashion Designer
- Textile Designer
- Mixed Media / Interdisciplinary
- Other: _____

Professional Status

- Emerging Artist / Designer
- Mid-career Practitioner
- Established Practitioner

Years of Professional Practice

- 0–3 years
- 4–7 years
- 8–15 years
- 15+ years

Current Institutional Affiliation (if any)

University / Collective / Studio/ Freelance

SECTION 3 — ARTISTIC PRACTICE

Artist / Designer Statement (Maximum 500 words)

Describe your artistic practice, themes, and methods.

SECTION 4 — PORTFOLIO

Please submit a **portfolio demonstrating recent work**.

Accepted formats:

- PDF Portfolio
- Website Link
- Online Portfolio (Google Drive / Dropbox)

Portfolio Link or File Name

Portfolio should include:

- 5–10 works
- Project descriptions
- Materials / techniques
- Year of production

SECTION 5 — COLLABORATION EXPERIENCE

Have you previously worked in **collaborative artistic projects**?

- Yes
- No

If yes, briefly describe the collaboration.

DECLARATION

I confirm that:

- The information provided in this application is accurate.
- I agree to participate fully in the residency if selected.
- I consent to the use of my submitted materials for selection and promotional purposes related to the residency.

Applicant Name:

Signature:

Date:

SUBMISSION

Please submit this application through email with the required documents to:
a.ombika@adi.ac.mu

Required attachments checklist:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Completed application form | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CV / résumé | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portfolio | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artist statement | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motivation letter | <input type="checkbox"/> |