

Call for Research Cells

Research Pavilion #3 in Venice 2019

Hosted by UNIARTS Helsinki

UNIARTS Helsinki is organizing the 3rd Research Pavilion in the context of Venice Biennale, in May-August 2019. The venue will be *Sala del Camino* on Giudecca (tbc). This edition presents itself as a meeting place, a catalyst of emerging co-operations in the area of artistic research and a generator of new thinking: a battery of **research cells** capable of recharging artistic research with new energy.

Research Pavilion #3 will have a modular structure. Instead of being focused on a curated exhibition the Research Pavilion #3 offers a space for parallel processes of exhibiting, exposing and discussing research. These processes are realised by the selected research cells in semi-autonomous and often parallel ways.

With this Call for Research Cells we are looking for approximately 8-10 research cells.

Proposal guide lines

Criteria for selection of Research Cells

This call is open for all artistic research projects with institutional support. The Partners¹ of Research Pavilion #3 have a quota of 1 research cell. UNIARTS Helsinki, the main organizer of the event, has the quota of 2 research cells.

The research cells are selected by the commissioners Mika Elo and Henk Slager with help of two advisors (prof. Esa Kirkkopelto, UNIARTS Helsinki and prof. Anna-Kaisa Rastenberger, UNIARTS Helsinki) from the proposals presented by the potential partners. The selection will be done in agreement with the already confirmed partners.

Each **research cell proposal** is expected to include *a research proposal* (no thematic constraints) and *a concrete plan* concerning the following *mandatory elements*:

- 1) **Something to exhibit and/or expose and/or perform** at the Research Pavilion in Venice. Due to the modular structure of the Research Pavilion #3, the exhibition can include process-oriented elements and it can transform over time. The project plan should include initial ideas concerning the presentation format in terms of space and time needed. The initially envisioned time frame for research cells is May-July 2019 (August is reserved for workshops). We will bundle the presentations/exhibitions/expositions of research cells within this time frame in ways that enable intense encounters and emergence of mixed audiences (for further details see “additional information” below).
- 2) **Project documentation in the Research Pavilion #3 online-archive** in *Research Catalogue* database, researchcatalogue.net)

¹ Partnership is confirmed by a contract defining the conditions of partnership (partnership fee, access to facilities, infrastructure, communication, etc.).

The documentation strategies will be developed in autumn 2018, and relevant parts of documentation will be used also for internal communication with advisors and other research cells during the process.

3) Planning, organizing and realizing a discursive event in frame of the Research Pavilion.

The project plan should include a proposal for a discursive event that the research cell would plan and realize (possibly in co-operation with other cells, partners or networks).

4) Funding plan

The funding of a research cell is in the responsibility of the applicant. The Research Pavilion project will provide the basic infrastructure defined in the partnership agreement.

5) Active participation in a publication in frame of the Research Pavilion or as a result of it.

Research Pavilion project will propose a few publication possibilities. Currently envisioned: A special issue of online publication *RUUKKU – Studies in Artistic Research*, edited by Mika Elo and Henk Slager. Further publication possibilities will be envisioned together with Research Pavilion partners.

6) Abstract (max. 300 words) describing the key elements of the proposal.

Please note that the abstract will be used as the basic description of the project on the Research Pavilion #3 web pages (researchpavilion.fi).

Please include in the beginning of the written proposal the working title of the research cell and the name and contact information of the contact person/PI/convenor of the research cell. The proposal must also include the CV of the contact person/PI/convenor of the research cell.

In addition to these general criteria, the Partners are free to define their own criteria for the purposes of their possible internal selection of the research cells to be submitted to the Research Pavilion project.

The additional criteria for UNIARTS Helsinki research cells are:

- the research cell should include at least one staff member from the area of artistic research or postdoc researcher affiliated to UNIARTS Helsinki
- the research cell should include some form of collaboration, solo projects are not encouraged

Key dates:

Call for Research Cells opens: 22 April 2018

Dead line for research cell proposals: 27 May 2018

Notification of acceptance: 15 June 2018

1st Assembly of cells: 6–8 Sept 2018, Helsinki

2nd Assembly of cells: November 2018 (online, using the Research Catalogue)

3rd Assembly of cells: February 2019 in Bergen (Venue tbc)

How to submit a research cell proposal:

The research cell proposal consists of an **online form** and the **written proposal document** (pdf, max. 12 pages). This proposal document must include:

- a research plan
- a plan for the mandatory elements 1-5 mentioned above
- 300 word abstract

- CV of the contact person/PI/convenor of the research cell (max 2 pages).

The online proposal form will be available at UNIARTS Helsinki surveypal portal on 22 April
<https://my.surveypal.com/Call-for-Research-Cells-RP%233-Venice-2019>

The form along with its attachment must be submitted no later than 27 May 2018 at 23:59 (Finnish time = EEST, UTC +3).

We are happy to discuss further questions concerning the research cell proposals.

Mika Elo
mika.elo@uniarts.fi

Henk Slager
henk.slager@hku.nl

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Additional information:

Advisors – the “switchboard”

One of the key elements of the projects is a research-driven curatorial concept. The idea is to divert the event-oriented idea of curating to a process-oriented advising. For this purpose, a body of advisors – “switchboard” – has been nominated. The idea is that before the high season of the Research Pavilion in May-August 2019 the research cells would be supported in their individual processes by the advisors. Together with the commissioners Mika Elo and Henk Slager the advisors will facilitate a dialogue between the cells in frame of three “cell assemblies” (Sept 2018, Nov 2018 and Feb 2019).

The following persons make up what we call “switchboard”, they function as curatorial advisors or “shifters”:

Esa Kirkkopelto (UNIARTS Helsinki, Finland)
Ellen Røed (UNIARTS Stockholm, Sweden)
Anna-Kaisa Rastenberger (UNIARTS Helsinki, Finland)
Paulo de Assis (Orpheus Institute, Belgium)
Sunjung Kim (Korea National University of Arts)
and

N.N. (proposed by our Nordic partners)

Funding structure

The project is led, managed and coordinated by the UNIARTS Helsinki. UNIARTS Helsinki builds up the basic infrastructure to the whole project and makes it accessible for the partners and their research cells. Since the preparation phase with the three cell assemblies is important part of the whole project, UNIARTS Helsinki will cover the travel costs of one deputy of each research cell to the cell assemblies.

Research cells are responsible for developing their own funding plans. The commissioners are prepared to write letters of support to possible funding applications.

Partners will contribute financially to the Research Pavilion #3 in two ways:

1) There is a basic fee for partnership (ca. 10.000 euros – tbc – the same sum for all partners). The level of this fee depends on following points:

- a) rental costs
- b) communications plan
- c) the level of the on-site support offered by the UNIARTS Helsinki.
- d) number of partners

The partnership fees will secure for the research cells the following infrastructure managed and organized by the hosting organisation UNIARTS Helsinki:

- a vacant lot in the exhibition venue including basic technical equipment (to be defined)
- a time slot in the symposium venue with basic technical equipment (to be defined)
- exhibition attendance
- 3 cell assemblies including travel costs for 1 deputy of each research cell (to 1st and 3rd assembly)
- switchboard's fees and travel costs
- international communications and visibility, UNIARTS Helsinki
 - coordinates communications activities of the Research Pavilion
 - coordinates the content production of the Research Pavilion's own digital platforms and social media
 - coordinates the content production for printed materials and for other communication purposes with the help of contact persons from partnering organisations
 - provides basic visibility onsite in Venice, such as banners and signs, printed materials, as well as visibility in local media and brochures
 - manages international media relations and general press releases concerning the Research Pavilion and key events
 - provides platforms for communication for cells/events/exhibitions. Partnering organisations/cells will provide the actual content and manage the communications concerning cells/events/exhibitions.

2) Each partner invests directly to at least one of the research cells. This can be based on some form of collaboration between the partners, if relevant.

The Research Pavilion #3 and Venice Biennale 2019

The term "pavilion" refers to a building that has its seasonal life. A pavilion promises a tide of events and periods of latency. Research Pavilion #3 aims at actualizing this seasonal potential of a pavilion by intensifying the periods of activity and by punctuating the periods of latency with follow-up events.

In the context of Venice Biennale "pavilion" refers to the national contributions to the Biennale. With its two first editions, the Research Pavilion project has already positioned itself at the border of this context and added its own accent to the notion of pavilion. Instead of being a national or an

institutional flagship, Research Pavilion #3 is a meeting place, a catalyst of emerging co-operations, and a generator of new artistic thinking. It functions as a means of raising the quality of artistic research through critical dialogue between the research cells.

Research Pavilion #3 will not apply for the biennale license. This allows us to plan the whole project independently of the biennale organization and their strict directives and schedules. Research Pavilion #3 addresses Venice biennale as a metonymical figure of the global biennialization of contemporary art. The critical engagement with this context – “boundary work” – is done by emphasizing the research aspect of artistic practices involved and the material-discursive issues actualized through this encounter.

The high season

The high season of Research Pavilion #3 will consist of three modes of activity:

1) Exhibiting and / or Exposing 2) Public events 3) Internal workshops.

The research cells will be in the key role in the planning and realizing these three modes of activity. In terms of logistics, the three modes of activity can co-exist but we will prioritize connectivity when scheduling the events. The idea is to bundle most of the public events in a festival-like intensive period (2-4 weeks) so that all parties would have the possibility to participate in several events during one visit in Venice. In this way, we try to reach our main target groups (partner networks and artist-researchers related to them) in an intensified way and as widely as possible and to create mixed audiences. In frame of the public events and the workshops, many kinds of co-operations with summer schools (for example NIDA, NSU, SAAR) and local organizations in Venice as well as institutions and networks engaged in artistic research activities and critical engagement with the biennale context (for example EARN, SAR, non-national pavilions etc.) are looked for.

The latency periods

Research Pavilion #3 will activate the potential of the latency periods of the project. The idea is to develop the project towards a continuous process of networking, co-operation, and dialogue. For this purpose, the project will include punctuations or follow-up events. As one measure in this area, a co-operation with Bergen Assembly 2019 and Liverpool Biennial 2020 is initially planned. Further ideas will be developed together with the partners.