

A rose with red and yellow petals and green leaves, set against a black background. The rose is positioned at the top center, with its petals showing a gradient from light yellow to deep red. Below the rose, several green leaves are scattered, some overlapping the text.

Walking Backwards

Exhibition opportunity - October 2022

About Snehta Residency

Snehta Residency was founded in **Kypseli** on **2012**, as the first Artists Residency of Athens, during a period of economic and social uncertainty. Founded in a neighbourhood with a strong element of intellectual and social potential. **Snehta is the word “Athens” written in reverse**, expressing how the participating artists, curators and other collaborators aim at studying the social and cultural dynamic of the city, as well as creating new narratives of the Athenian identity, through the residency program and the artistic initiatives of the organisation (exhibitions, research programs, library, workshops etc.)

To this date, Snehta has accommodated more than **100 artists** and organised more than **60 exhibitions and public events**. Whereas during this period the organisation is in the works of creating an anniversary publication, a tribute to its ten (10) years of continuous presence in the cultural initiatives of the city, whose unexplored aspects of contemporary art history were approached with remarkable research and level documentation. It is an important repository of research and documentation of the city's narratives through artistic practices in a changing landscape of social values.

Snehta Residency consists of three (3) autonomous work spaces. **Satellite** is a communal work space for its members and collaborators in Kefallinias 39 Str. with an ever-growing library of more than **1000 book titles**, catalogs and art magazines. **Main Space** in I. Drosopoulou 47 houses art workshops and initiatives, as well as presentations and exhibitions. Adjacent to the Main Space, **Mariya** is a smaller art studio and exhibition space.

The organisations main focus is its **residency program**. Based mostly in the cultivation of artistic practices that present elements of innovation and experimentation, it encourages artists to come in touch with the local community in which they live and work. Snehta Residency is a non-profit organization which is supported by activities such as its shop, its educational programs, the library, while the last three (3) years its has received the valuable support of the international organization **Outset Greece** and the **Ministry of Culture and Sports** in selected programs while its new residency program 2022 is under the auspices of the **Municipality of Athens**. Amongst those **Walking Backwards is Snehta's first funded exhibition opportunity running since 2021 in order to support emerging artists both from Greece and abroad**.

Program Overview

The second year of the "**Walking Backwards**" program is inspired by the **Divine Comedy**, focusing further on the boundaries of **Dante's journey whether be it physical, metaphysical or fictional**. While Dante was wandering in Italy as a political exile from Florence (1308-1321), he completed his epic poem that followed his imaginary journey from Hell, through Purgatory, ultimately reaching Paradise.

The concept of the journey is linked with multiple connotations. Moving from one place to another can be an opportunity for leisure, relaxation or contemplation, but on another circumstance this same motion can be the only option for self-preservation and survival. The physical and imaginary displacement from reality is becoming as well a shelter, a safe space, a means of regeneration, retrospection or escapism. The focus of this year's call is to **ponder on the notion of displacement and travel**, how it is reflected in the artistic research, under the current socio-political and environmental context of contemporary reality.

The selected artists will be invited to do a short in situ research about the **activities, identity and location** of the collaborating organisations, **Echo 100Plus, HumanRights360, Ankaa Project, Saffron Kitchen Project** for two weeks. The project will end with the presentation of the produced work (i.e. art exhibition, screening, lecture) at the respective locations. The participants will be selected by an independent committee, composed by members who share the same values as the aforementioned project partners.

Artists must apply by filling in the appropriate online form and provide all the necessary material. Moreover they will pay the small introductory **fee of 10 euros**, providing the proof of payment.

Who we are looking for

The call is addressed to young artists who share the interest in the social context of Athens and wish to connect with it through a more skeptical lens, by bringing elements of experimentation, ingenuity and perspective through their artistic practice. An inherent interest in communication, interaction and adaptability will be important assets in conducting this research and producing an artistic project.

Applicant artists should project their interest in the local community of Kypseli and maintain an extrovert approach with local artists and organisations. In particular, in the context of the collaborations with NGOs with social impact, the artists' project proposal should be in line with the same moral and social values.

This call is open to all visual artists between the ages of 25 - 35, regardless of artistic practice and medium.

Timetable of Walking Backwards Program

The programme will take place in October from 03/10/21 to 24/10/21. See the exact dates of the programme below. Participants will be able to access the partner organisations for two weeks and present their project in the week afterwards.

In situ research: 03/10/22 - 12/10/22

Installation of projects on site: 12/10/22 - 17/10/22

Exhibition opening: 18/10/22

Duration of exhibition at Mariya space: 19/10/22-23/10/22

Uninstallation of works under the supervision of Snehta members and participants present: 24/10/22

**Slight changes regarding the timetable could be occurred only by the schedule of the collaborative institutions*

What the call offers to the selected artists

EUR 500 artistic fee/reward

- Possibility of presenting a previous work in the shop window of Snehta Satellite (39 Kefallinia Street, Kypseli).
- Partnership for their artistic research by Echo 100Plus, HumanRights360, Ankaa Project, Saffron Kitchen Project
- Collaboration with OnMaterials for the provision of materials, as well as consultation during the artistic research.
- Tour of Kypseli and presentation of local organisations.
- Access to the Snehta library during opening hours.
- The Snehta team will assist in guiding the installation of the exhibition.
- The work produced by each artist will be promoted on official social media (Facebook/Instagram), Snehta's website, and newsletter.
- Covering the amount of expenses for printouts and reception expenses on the opening day.
- In-house photography coverage of event and invigilation during Snehta's hours of operation. (Artists will provide their own site supervision outside of the organization's hours and days of operation).
- Supporting participants with letters of recommendation and certifications for further professional opportunities.
- Snehta has the right to select a participating artist's work for the next 2022 Kypselian Salon exhibition, while the artists are welcome to donate artwork to Snehta's art depot.

Spaces | Snehta Residency



Snehta Mariya, Outside View and Display



Snehta Main Space, Carpentry



Snehta Mariya, Inside Space



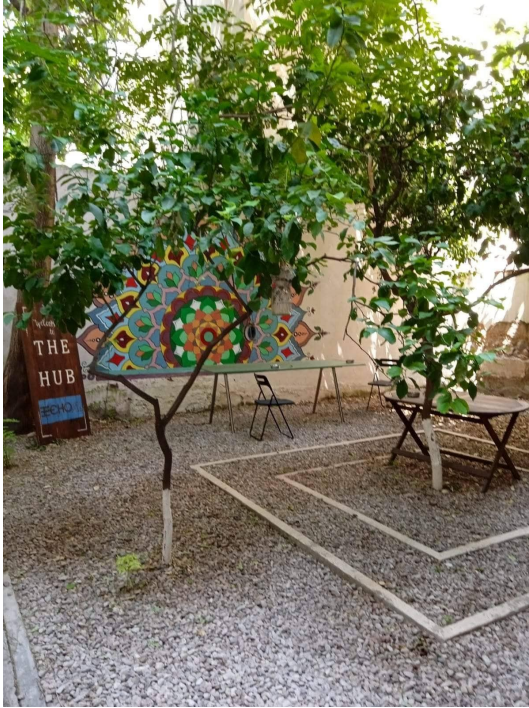
Snehta Satellite, Coworking space and Library

Profiles | Echo 100Plus and Human Rights 360

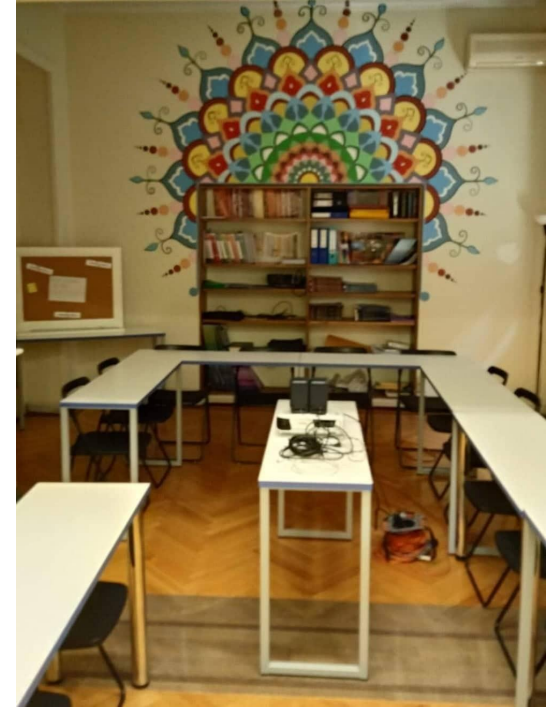
ECHO Hub Athens, operated by ECHO100Plus is a center at Kypseli, aiming to support the community. Besides of Greek and English languages to refugees and migrants, computer literacy classes, sports and other psychosocial groups are also offered. As a live Hub, several partnerships occur: HumanRights360 operates its Social Integration Service, empowering migrants and refugees towards their individual integration plan, with administration issues, employability, education and social life. In:tech:gration academy, offer front-end programming classes. Along with STEPS, homeless persons are supported with cooked meals twice per week. Several workshops occur, one of which is Expertations, a space for sharing useful information for several sectors of the labour market. Other organizations are hosted and facilitated in the hub: ECHO Refugee Library that promotes reading and access to books in refugee camps and Saffron Kitchen Project, a new culinary vocational training project that aims to provide high quality education and prepared meals for everyone in need. Staff and volunteers welcome students from tertiary education programmes and share their knowledge and practice. Finally, advocacy-based activities are a common field of organizations for the promotion of equitable societies. For more information: ECHO 100PLUS, intechgration, Home Page - HumanRights360

Human Rights 360 is a civil society organization established in Greece. In HumanRights360, we believe that the cornerstone of integration is the access to basic rights and that, only by protecting the individual, political and social rights of the whole population and by ensuring access to rights and justice, can we achieve social cohesion. Thus, their mission is to protect and empower the rights of all, with no discrimination but with special focus on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. They are part of the worldwide human rights movement that is struggling for a world where fundamental human rights are enjoyed by all. They give priority to addressing the most pressing human rights violations, both acute and chronic, as a prerequisite for maintaining the rule of law in our society. They aim to put together greater alliances in Greece and internationally to work in order to build vibrant and tolerant societies whose governments and societies reject Far Right rhetoric, extremism, racism and xenophobia, while are accountable to and encourage participation of the people.

Spaces | Echo 100Plus and Human Rights 360



Communal space -
Garden, Echo100Plus
and Human Rights 360



Communal space -
Educational room,
Echo100Plus and
Human Rights 360

Profiles | ANKAA Project and Saffron Kitchen Project

ANKAA Project is a non-profit organization born in Greece in 2018 to support displaced communities by facilitating opportunities for employment, lifelong education and promoting their inclusion in the complex European system. It works with vulnerable groups mainly affected by forced migration and people out of employment, aged over 16, regardless of their origin and identity. They are organised under three main pillars: Programmes, social enterprises and communication. These pillars have been designated to oversee the annual strategic plan. Within each pillar, responsibility for on-the-ground operations is assigned to the Program Coordinator/Director and team members (teachers, tailoring team and back-office staff). Each pillar is supported by local and international volunteers, either in attendance or remotely. They are a diverse group of professionals gathered from Luxembourg, Greece, UK, Russia, Afghanistan, Russia and Iran while half of the staff come from the refugee community.

Saffron Kitchen Project's mission is to create community and a pathway to employability for people from refugee backgrounds using food as the tool kit. A destination that leverages food so people can eat, cook, learn and most importantly, belong. We are a UK non-profit organisation based in Athens, founded in 2021. Saffron Kitchen Project (SKP) was started to address a problem; the refugee community and vulnerable people are facing many obstacles such as lack of food, job opportunities as well as inadequate social inclusion. Their solution is to create a path to employment through vocational and hospitality training as well as providing meals and job opportunities. The team, built of hired chefs coming from the refugee community, a project coordinator, a culinary educator and dedicated volunteers will ensure the smooth running of the project, upholding our values and solidarity with other actors on the ground. SKP's current culinary headquarters are provided by ANKAA in the diverse neighbourhood of Kypseli. Collaboration is the cornerstone of any good initiative, for this reason, in order to make SKP as successful as we can be, we will collaborate with other organisations based in Athens, allowing us to have the greatest reach possible.

Spaces | ANKAA Project and Saffron Kitchen Project

Communal spaces, Terrace - Garden, ANKAA Project and Saffron Kitchen Project



Communal spaces, Dining Room, ANKAA Project and Saffron Kitchen Project



Profile | On Materials

OnMaterials was initiated in December 2018. It started as a pilot project of the capacity program START – Create Cultural Change aiming at raising sustainability awareness in the artistic production and facilitating waste prevention through material redistribution and creative reuse. The project wants to actively engage artists, designers, craftsmen, art institutions, schools and exhibition spaces to participate in this initiative and start working together on new strategies towards sustainable cultural practices. Cultural events across the city of Athens are rarely interacting with leftover materials after the event closes: usually all the materials used for the installations and even the artworks, conclude their vital cycle by getting thrown away or stockpiled for years. We believe we deserve and need a better, smarter, more cyclical approach, in contrast to our linear “take-make-discard” relationship with materials. It is from this reality that the idea of re-using those materials for new artistic projects was born: an opportunity to rethink cultural practice in a more sustainable way and to demonstrate that alternative systems of production and consumption are possible. The great volume of waste can, therefore, become a resource, and we can all achieve to right planning the re-use of materials since the very early stages of the event productions.

Timeline of the Open Call

Open Call Announcement: **01/08/2022**

Deadline for submissions: **28/08/2022**

Review and selection of participants: **29/08 – 06/09/2022**

Announcement of selected participants: **13/09/22**

Program implementation: **03/10 - 23/10/22**

How to Apply

The online application form can be filled in and submitted from 01/08 until 28/08 at 00:00 am. Following the link below <https://forms.gle/yFgqrrfAP9KeEasa5> while adding the necessary attachments in the form when needed.

- Completed application form.
- A small application fee of (10 EUR fee - provide us with a proof of payment via email) - IBAN:GR67 0172 0550 0050 5509 1852 486

Snehta will contact the selected participants.

For any further information, contact: applications@snehtaresidency.org