



HALSNØY KLOSTER  
The Monastery at Halsnøy  
Norway  
Artist-in-Residence Program

INVITATION TO APPLY

*A three-week residency for artists working photo-based, at a beautiful, historical site in Norway. We are now open for applications for 2021, please see below for details. Application deadline is 31. August 2020.*



SUNNHORDLAND MUSEUM invites artists working with photography as their means of expression to come to the island of Halsnøy, off the west coast of Norway, to stay and work in a very special place.

#### THE MONASTERY

comprises the ruins of an Augustine medieval monastery established in 1163. Among the ruins is a small rustic mansion from 1841, where the artists are invited to stay.

The monastery is a part of Sunnhordland Museum, and is situated in beautiful surroundings on the island of Halsnøy at the inlet of the Hardanger fjord.

Over the years the Monastery has become a centre for arts and culture, offering concerts, exhibitions and other kinds of cultural activities. The Monastery is now also becoming a centre for photography, by offering this international Artist-in-Residence program for photographers, and also photographic workshops and lectures.

We have close relations with the art school Sunnhordland Folkehøgskule, which offers studies in drama / film, music, visual arts, sound production, and games design. The school is situated 5 minutes' walk from the monastery.

#### OUR PHILOSOPHY

Pre reformation, when the monastery was operative, the monks came from abroad with their knowledge and skills which were used also for the good of the local population. Goods from this area was shipped out into the world via the monks' trading house in Bergen.

This international exchange serves as an inspiration when it comes to running the residency program. Just as the monks were trading in culture, knowledge and goods, we wish to have an international exchange of arts and culture, exposing the local people to artists arriving with their own background and culture, and exposing the artists to the island, the locals, and their local traditions and culture.

## WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

In short; good quality, good ideas, good people.

We aim for diversity, and are open to looking at all kinds of photobased work.

## THE PROGRAM

Sunnhordland Museum offers this residency to artists worldwide.

We encourage both emerging and mid-career artists - preferably with some exhibition experience - to apply.

The museum offers a three-week free stay at the mansion, - a beautiful house with all antique furniture, in a very special historical spot. As can be expected in a historical museum, the house does not offer the highest modern standard, but you will sleep in a very cozy bedroom with a splendid view to the garden and the ruins. There is a bathroom and a well equipped kitchen. There is also a television set, and good internet connection (wi-fi).

Simple darkroom facilities will be available on request.

There will be two residency periods of three weeks each, normally in May/June and August/September.

You should expect to share your residency period with two other artists, as 6 artists will be invited per year.

The artists who come to Halsnøy will be asked to give a presentation of themselves and their work. This presentation takes place at the monastery, and will be open to the general public.



## EXHIBITION

It is further expected from those accepted for the residency, that they will have an exhibition of work made during their stay at the monastery.

This exhibition normally takes place 12 months after the stay.

The museum has regular exhibitions at the site. The artistic project manager is also curator for the AiR exhibitions, and in cooperation with the artists we will be planning and promoting the event.

The main exhibition space is in the basement of the house, but in some cases the whole area and all buildings can be used for the exhibition.

The museum may ask that one piece made during the residency period is donated to the museum's collection.

As the situation is today, Sunnhordland Museum can not - unfortunately - offer to pay travel expenses or production costs, but we do offer a contribution towards food for each artist. We will also assist our visitors with all practical details and all information they need to make the stay comfortable and productive.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Normally we attend photo festivals in order to do portfolio reviews, and in this way meeting applicants face to face. This is important to us, as we want to do our best to form diverse groups of good people.

However, in any normal year it is also possible to apply in an e-mail to us before June 30th: [oh@oyvindhjelmene.com](mailto:oh@oyvindhjelmene.com)

An e-mail application should include images (preferably in a pdf) or link to images, your CV, and any thoughts and ideas you may have for your stay, should you be selected.

If selected, an official invitation will be sent you, to help you apply for funding in your country.

The selection of artists to be invited is normally done by the end of August each year, for the two periods of the following year.

## EXCEPTIONS FOR 2021

This year has of course become a special one, causing festivals to be cancelled. So for 2021 we accept e-mail applications only!

Please send to: [oh@oyvindhjelmene.com](mailto:oh@oyvindhjelmene.com)

Due to other circumstances, we expect to have only 4 spaces available for 2021: one space in May / June, and three spaces in August / September. This may also change, as the coming months are hard to predict.

At some point during the selection process, we may want a short conversation with some applicants on Skype, Facetime or similar.

## Deadline for applications (by e-mail only): 31. August 2020

Shortlist will be announced by 15. September, and the final selection by 30. September 2020.

We look forward to receiving your application!

Øyvind Hjelmene

Artistic Project Manager / Curator

Helén Petersen

Administrative Project Manager / Dept  
Manager



### NOTE:

***Sunnhordland Museum strictly follows all national guidelines given in connection with the COVID-19 virus. Exceptional circumstances caused by this or similar events, may force us to alter, postpone or - if necessary, cancel the invitations for the residency program.***