



# TAF & Sylt Emerging Artist Award (TASA)

## concept document

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### 1. Introduction: About the Sylt Foundation Residency Programme

A multi-disciplinary cultural Foundation based on the island of Sylt in the North Sea and three hours by train from Hamburg, has been home to painters, musicians and writers for 130 years.

The flat landscape, bordered by water on all sides has an overarching endless sky. The wind and the special quality of light offered scientists research opportunities over several centuries. For creative people it provided the quiet space conducive to reflection and contemplation.

Today the small towns and villages on Sylt offer relaxation in the summer months for German holidaymakers who enjoy the watersports, bathing in the choppy North Sea, cycling and hiking along the many dedicated paths which crisscross the landscape. A variety of small restaurants, B&B's and holiday homes built in a unique Sylt style, give the island its distinctive atmosphere.

The Sylt Foundation initiates and supports innovative contemporary literary, visual art and performance projects with the aim to encourage cultural dialogue and artistic interaction. It offers these international multi-disciplinary artists, performers and writers the opportunity to live and work in a quiet environment; one which stimulates creative conversations and the exchange of ideas. It provides a valuable cultural experience.

The **Sylt Foundation** in Rantum and its dependence **jozi art:lab** in Johannesburg under the directorship of literary scholar and curator Indra Wussow, invites selected writers, artists and composers from Africa and Europe to take up residencies of one or two months. There is an emphasis on artists from Sub-Saharan Africa. Each year artists participate in the residency programme and share their artistic experiences. This opportunity provides creative free time for artists, writers and performers to pursue their projects, initiate new opportunities and experience stimulating cultural interaction.

Wussow states, “The **Sylt Foundation** is for artists interested in multiple areas of interaction and co-operation. The **Sylt Foundation** is intended as a place of beginnings: of ideas, of creative projects initiated throughout the year”.

Every year international writers, artists and performers take up a two month residency at the **Sylt Foundation**, where they are given excellent studio accommodation, a stipend, administrative and logistical support. Their residencies provide a creative free time for these artists, writers and performers which allows them to conceptualize and develop their projects, initiate new opportunities and experience stimulating cultural interaction and dialogue through sharing their artistic experiences with other artists in residence.

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The South African Visual Artist's Residency has previously been awarded to luminaries such as South African artists: Jacki McInnes, Strijdom van der Merwe, Mbongeni Buthelezi, Paul Emmanuel, Bernie Searle, Lien Botha, Santu Mofokeng and Mary Sibande to name a few.

## 2. About the TAF & Sylt Emerging Artist Residency Award (TASA)

Following on the success of many years of engagement with South Africa and South African artists, the Foundation has sought to extend its residency programme by enabling emerging artists who will go through a selection process to be awarded this unique opportunity.

This exciting new residency programme is a collaboration with the **Turbine Hall Art Fair** and is granted once a year for an emerging artist exhibiting at the TAF.

One residency is awarded each year. The winning applicant will be selected by an experienced and credible selection panel of industry experts which changes on an annual basis; the prize will enable one winner to take up this exciting opportunity to enjoy creative time on the island at the **Sylt Foundation**.

This TAF & Sylt Emerging Artist Residency Award (TASA) offers a two month international *working* visit to the Foundation.

This period will provide the artist with:

- a quiet space for contemplation and research
- time for experimentation and creative 'play'
- opportunity to conceptualize new work or pursue work in progress
- a means to leverage their artistic profile
- an opportunity to engage with international artists

While the situation is suitable for many kinds of practice and research, it is not a studio based residency and hence not appropriate for the production of large scale or sculptural works

The aim of this residency is to provide artists with an opportunity to develop ideas, research or even reflect on projects. Emphasis is placed on the production and showing of work, as well as managing projects and opportunities for which artists find very little time for the vital process of conceptualization, research and reflection. Many awards, competitions and residencies challenge artists through defined goals, outputs and production requirements. It is necessary for artists to have dedicated time to focus on developing their practice by engaging meaningfully with the ideas and work that interests and drives them. This is critical for the conceptualizing of work that sustains their careers. This process is often lost when balancing the pressures of industry, commissions and career imperatives. Unlike other residency opportunities, this is not an output focused one, but designed for artists to utilize the two months as best suits their needs.

### **What an international residency offers:**

A residency can broaden an artist's artistic vision, enrich their art practice, expand their networks and provide a mid-career artist with cultural dialogue opportunities with their peers and in addition open future career opportunities. It leverages an artist's profile and career status. Residencies provide invaluable international exposure and can facilitate collaboration on future art projects or exhibitions with fellow professionals, as well as offer invaluable contemplative creative time.

### **What does the TAF & Sylt Emerging Artist Residency Award (TASA) provide?**

This particular residency offered by the Sylt Foundation is not focused on artistic *production* nor is it studio based; rather its focus is on conceptualization, preparation and process. It offers reflective, creative time to plan and develop new projects or a new body of work. It provides an artist with the quiet time required for research and the thinking involved in preparing of new work. It is a contemplative residency. The Foundation does not provide a working studio, nor manufacturing facilities involving power tools nor a workshop.

### **The Facilities in Rantum**

What it does offer is a two (2) month stay in a modern, heated, fully furnished, one bedroom, studio apartment situated on the Foundation's grounds. Each apartment has a well equipped kitchen (no room service) providing self-catering facilities. The apartment is equipped with a TV, a PC with internet and free WIFI for those artists who bring their own laptops. The apartment is suitable for creative investigation and research, drawing, photography and small scale preparatory or sketch artwork. It is not suitable for sculptural or structural work.

**Note:** *The artist is responsible for arranging the logistics and costs involved in packing and transportation of any artworks they may create during the two month period. The Foundation does not arrange transport nor cover the costs of returning any artworks created at the Foundation by the Resident to South Africa.*

### **The Sylt Foundation provides also:**

- A single economy class flight ticket - Johannesburg to Hamburg return. This ticket will be booked by the Foundation's liaison person and sent to the winner prior to their visa application process. In addition an allowance of €80 for transport from Hamburg airport to the island of Sylt will be provided
- a letter of invitation from the Sylt Foundation to the German Consulate, Pretoria to facilitate the Winner's Schengen visa application. The Resident is solely responsible for the timeous application of their visa and must comply with all the visa requirements of the German Consulate Visa Office (see their website)
- a *once off* stipend of € 1000 to be paid on arrival at the Sylt Foundation at the start of the two month period. This stipend is adequate to cover modest living costs eg. groceries, bus fares etc. It is recommended that the selected Resident provides extra monies to cover additional personal expenses such as entertainment, travel elsewhere in Germany or Europe while in residence

**Note:** *The Sylt Foundation does not cover the cost of partners.*

### **3. Who is eligible for the TAF & Sylt Emerging Artist Residency Award (TASA) and how do we define who is an emerging artist:**

The TASA award supports emerging professional artists who are the principal creators of new work, and who exhibit their work at the Turbine Art Fair in the year of their selection.

There is no exact and singular definition of an emerging creative artist. The TASA award seeks to support those artists who show significant potential, yet are under-recognized. Examples of recognition include exhibitions, critical reviews, commissions, performances, grant awards, residencies, fellowships, publications, and productions. The TASA award not only evaluates the number of these acknowledgements but also timing, size, characteristics, geographic context, and significance.

Career stage is a factor but not a limiting one. Many emerging artists fall in the early career category but not all do. Age is not a factor in determining an emerging artist.

The term emerging refers to artistic development, professional accomplishment, and recognition, not to evolution within an artist's work. The TASA award will assess each situation in reference to the artist's intention and history of work.

Students and individuals enrolled in undergraduate and graduate degree programs are not eligible, Graduate students in their last year may qualify for the award.

#### **We look for emerging artists,**

- who take risks and embrace challenges
- whose developing voices reveal significant potential
- who are rigorous in their approach to creation and production
- who have some evidence of professional achievement but not a substantial record of accomplishment
- who are not recognized as established artists by other artists, curators, producers, critics, and arts administrators.

### **4. Selection Process**

The selection will be made by a panel of experts. This panel will consist of 5 judges.

The selection and judging panel will not engage directly with any applicant or member of the media/public regarding their selection. The panel will be convened by the TAF and the Sylt Foundation and will be identified iro their expertise in the art

A new selection panel will be constituted every year.

The Selection Panel will evaluate the work of those artists, who exhibit on the TAF and who meet the criteria of the TASA award as emerging artists. In a jury meeting a winner is chosen and will be notified.

Direct applications to the judges or organizers of the award are not accepted.

**Note: The judges' decision will be final. No discussion or correspondence with the judges or the organizers regarding their decision will be entered after the judging process has been finalized and a winner selected.**

For further information:

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**The Sylt Foundation**

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