



art, villes & paysage
HORTILLONNAGES AMIENS



MAISON DE LA CULTURE D'AMIENS
Centre européen de création et de production

Call for bids

Art, cities & landscape - Amiens Hortillonnages

8th edition

International garden festival

File to be submitted before 19th December 2016



Rekha - Dan Bowden - Andrew Fisher Tomlin
Photo © Yann Monier

Maison de la Culture d'Amiens

Art, villes & paysage – Hortillonnages Amiens / 8^{ème} édition

2, place Léon Gontier - CS 60631 - 80006 Amiens cedex - France

hortillonnages.avp@gmail.com

General presentation

The *Maison de la Culture d'Amiens* is a centre of creative production. Its programme includes theatrical, cinematic and artistic productions. Within the scope of its visual arts programme, the Maison de la Culture d'Amiens is organising the 8th edition of the *Art, cities & landscape – Amiens Hortillonnages* Festival, which will take place from 17th June to 15th October 2017.

To mark the occasion of this new edition, the Maison de la Culture d'Amiens has initiated a call for bids from young artists and landscape architects to create in situ at the Hortillonnages d'Amiens. A detailed description of the Hortillonnages site, where these works will be executed, is appended.

This project has several objectives:

- to support young creators
- to develop and preserve natural and man-made heritage
- to develop a cultural project for existing populations that also attracts new populations
- to promote professional integration for young people and people in difficulty
- to participate in economic solidarity
- to develop the touristic attractiveness of the site
- to query the feeding function of Hortillonnages

Eligibility criteria

This call for bids targets:

- landscape architects, visual artists, architects, and designers aged 40 and under who have graduated from European schools

People of the jury and their close family members are excluded from this call for bids.

Applicants can be individuals or groups.

Selection

Applicants will be asked to submit in one of two categories: landscape or visual arts.

The organisers are selecting a jury comprised of qualified members (landscape architects, architects, exhibition organisers, school representatives and community cultural stakeholders).

The applicant files will be reviewed and selected by this Artistic Committee.

The Artistic Committee will select applicants based on the following criteria:

- The artistic quality of the applicant's past educational and professional experience / 70%
- The applicants' consideration of natural preservation and development in their cover letter / 30%

One of the selected landscape project will be a vegetable garden.

Conditions for participation

➤ Calendar

Application deadline: the **19th of December 2016**

Selected applicants agree to:

- from 2 to 6 February 2017 in Amiens: visit the site where they will be working.
The accommodation costs will be paid for by the organisers.
- on the 3 and 4 March 2017 in Amiens: to take part in a mandatory seminar on the site. During this weekend, the selected applicants will present their projects to other selected artists and members of the Artistic Committee. The accommodation costs will be paid for by the organisers.
- take part in a creative residence to carry out their project in Amiens. Accommodation costs will be paid for by the organiser. Travel costs are included in the production costs.
- on the 2nd of June in Amiens: finalise the works.
- on the 17 and the 18 June 2017 in Amiens: be present to take part in the festival's *vernissage*.

➤ Duration

The works may be short-lived (i.e., present at least for as long as the works are open to the public, from 17th June to 15th October 2017) or long-lived (open for several seasons).

Funding

➤ Landscape category :

- **Production budget** : € 10,000 net of taxes at most, and based on the real expenses incurred for the creation.

The Organiser will work with the artists and directly manage this budget.

- **Fees**: € 4,000 net of taxes for individual artists

An overall amount of € 5,000 net of taxes for group artists.

➤ Visual arts category :

- **Production budget** : € 5,800 net of taxes at most, and based on the real expenses incurred for the creation.

The Organiser will work with the artists and directly manage this budget.

- **Fees** : € 3,000 net of taxes for individual and group artists

Applicant files

The files must be submitted in French or English.

Applicant files comprise:

- a cover letter of no longer than two pages
- an up-to-date portfolio of no more than ten pages containing the applicant's general approach and accompanied by legends for a selection of works.
- a curriculum vitae
- an completed registration form
- a copy of the applicant's national identification card or passport
- proof of professional status (VAT number, company number registration...)

This file must be submitted before the 19th of December 2016

- in electronic form (PDF document) to the following address: hortillonnages.avp@gmail.com and
- in paper

Maison de la Culture d'Amiens
Art, villes & paysage
2, place Léon Gontier
CS 60631
80006 Amiens cedex
France

You can download the call for bids at: www.maisondelaculture-amiens.com

For your information, the results of the call for bids will be sent to the candidates no later than 16 January 2017.



This sheet must be completed and submitted with the candidature file.

> **Project title** (even if only temporary) :

> **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Category** ☐

You may only be a candidate in one category.

VISUAL ARTS Category ☐

> **Individual application** ☐

Group application ☐

For individual applicants :

Surname / First name	
Date of birth	
Nationality	
Adress	
Country	
Telephone	
E-mail address	
Website	

For group

Name of group :

Name of group members participants in the project:

Please list the person responsible for the group's communication at the top of the list

Surname / First name	
Date of birth	
Nationality	
Adress	
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E-mail address	
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Appendix 1 : Description of the hortillonnages site, Amiens

Irrigated by the Somme and Avre rivers, the hortillonnages (from the Latin hortulani < hortus: gardens) at the heart of Amiens form a three hundred-hectare mosaic of water and greenery. The hortillonnages came into being when the Somme widened into several indistinct ponds, thereby creating a sort of puzzle of land-based and aquatic terrains. In the Middle Ages, the inhabitants dug irrigation canals by raising levies to make the hortillonnages an area of productive market gardens. In the 19th century, there were as many as 950 such market gardeners (or hortillons). The gardens provided the entire city with fruits and vegetables.

The hortillonnages have expanded over time, and today they reach the villages surrounding Amiens: Camon, Rivery, Longueau. Although some of the large land parcels are still being used professionally, only 7 hortillons gardeners remain today on 36 hectares of parcels of land suitable for cultivation. Much of the land has been purchased by individuals to be developed as ornamental gardens that can be reached by small boat. This wet, semi-natural area is conducive to the growth of diverse aquatic flora and fauna and serves as a nesting site for many birds. The hortillonnages represent the second most popular tourist attraction in Amiens, after the cathedral.

Created and shaped by humans, these hortillonnages are fragile and require constant care. The areas that emerge about one metre above the water level can very easily become submerged when water levels rise, thereby causing the banks and the earth they contain to collapse. Furthermore, fallow land develops rapidly in non-cultivated areas, transforming gardens into marshlands and making waterways unusable. This phenomenon has accelerated due to the gradual disappearance of hortillon gardeners, who had the expertise needed to maintain the sites.

The project bid site :

The site dedicated to the "Art, villes et paysage / Art, cities and landscape" project is 95 hectares of Hortillonnages, and more specifically, the Ile aux Fagots and the Etang de Clermont (see the appended map).

Since 2010, the Maison de la Culture started organising a "Hortillonnages Amiens" garden festival. For this occasion, 30 or so visual art and landscape architecture works have already been at the site.

The visual art creations may be installed on independent parcels (or on the water), or on landscape parcels if the landscape architects agree.

One of the selected landscape project will be a vegetable garden.

Obligations related to the site

Since the site is comprised of water and floating gardens, there will be certain challenges facing the artwork effort (material must be transported by small boat and there is no electricity on the islands) as well as the conservation and development of the works. These challenges should be assessed and integrated into the execution of the projects.

Proposals have also to take care of the banks of islands.

This site is in a protected area (zone Natura 2000): you can't use materials which can spoil this natural environment.

It's also a shared site: hunters, fishers, market gardeners, private owners still have their own islands there. So the artworks have to respect all this environment.



The Ile aux Fagots site





The Etang de Clermont site

