

# CALL FOR RESIDENT ARTISTS FOR MUSEO SANT'ORSOLA

in collaboration with sponsors

Calliope Arts Foundation and the Levett Collection / FAMM



MUSEO  
SANT'ORSOLA  
FIRENZE



## 1. Institutional Framework and Objectives

Museo Sant'Orsola, the Calliope Arts Foundation and the Levett Collection / FAMM, are promoting two artist residencies and production grants dedicated to spotlighting and supporting women's contributions to contemporary artistic practices.

This residency is conceived as a period devoted to research and artistic experimentation, offering the selected artists the opportunity to develop a specific project that could then be produced and presented to the public at Museo Sant'Orsola in Spring 2027.

During this residency, the artists will receive a grant supporting their research period, including accommodations and a workspace, in addition to receiving curatorial and technical support.

Post-Residency: An additional budget will be dedicated to the production of a specific project. The new work(s) will be presented to the public as part of a high-profile art event scheduled at Museo Sant'Orsola between March and June 2027. The presentation will be accompanied by a media campaign and communication activities, as well as editorial materials, designed to contribute to the promotion of the artist's work and its recognition at both national and international levels.

## Museo Sant'Orsola

Museo Sant'Orsola is located in the historic district of San Lorenzo in Florence, within a section of the former convent of Sant'Orsola currently undergoing redevelopment. While awaiting the official opening of the entire renovated complex, the museum is already active in enhancing the history and the tangible and intangible heritage of the site, as well as in supporting artistic research and contemporary craftsmanship.

The former convent of Sant'Orsola is a monument that has lived many lives. Repeatedly transformed and altered over time, the buildings still preserve visible traces of their different phases of occupation, although the site's history remains partly fragmented.

Since 2022, artists have been invited to conceive and produce site-specific works in direct dialogue with the architecture and the history of the former convent of Sant'Orsola. Therefore, contemporary art becomes a tool for reactivating memory and enabling a renewed reading of the site's fragmented heritage while remaining firmly anchored in the present and in dialogue with the issues of our time.

The history of the former convent of Sant'Orsola is intrinsically linked to that of thousands of women who have lived and/or worked within its walls through the centuries. Women's artistic practices are also deeply rooted in the identity of the place. Founded in the fourteenth century as a Benedictine convent for women, the complex later became part of the Manifattura Tabacchi system, where the workforce was composed predominantly of women, the *sigaraie* (female cigar makers). In the post-war period, it served as a refugee center for displaced families. One of the missions of Museo Sant'Orsola is to be a center for the artistic expression of today's women artists.

## **Calliope Arts Foundation and the Levett Collection / FAMM**

Founded in 2021 by Margie MacKinnon and Wayne McArdle, the Calliope Arts Foundation operates internationally to promote the contributions of women in the visual arts, literature, science, and social history through exhibitions, restoration projects, educational programmes and publications like *Restoration Conversations magazine* and *The Curators' Quaderno* series, with a special focus on Florence and London. This commitment is part of a shared dialogue with collector and art patron Christian Levett, founder of FAMM in Mougins, a private museum based in the South of France which hosts Europe's most comprehensive collection of art by women from the Impressionists to today. The Levett Collection in Florence hosts the largest collection of Women Abstractionists in the world.

### **2. Eligibility Requirements:**

- Gender: Women artists
- Availability: Presence in Florence for two consecutive months (between October and December 2026).
- Good knowledge of Italian, English or French

### **3. Mandatory Application Contents**

#### **How to apply:**

Please send application to [info@museosantorsola.it](mailto:info@museosantorsola.it) by 30 March 2026, with the subject line: "Application – Calliope Arts and the Levett Collection / FAMM for Museo Sant'Orsola Residency".

The application dossier must be written in Italian, English or French and include, under penalty of exclusion:

- 1) A Curriculum Vitae, updated to the date of submission;
- 2) A selective art portfolio, aimed at presenting the main activities and most representative projects of the candidate's artistic career;
- 3) A project for original research and production (max. 2 pages), which must include:
  - The project's concept and its relationship with the curatorial framework of Museo Sant'Orsola
  - A project development timeline covering the two-month residency period
  - Any technical and logistical requirements related to the development and presentation of the project's outcomes

- A provisional production budget

All required documents must be submitted as PDF attachments.

Applications received after the specified deadline will not be considered.

### **4. Selection Process:**

Pre-selection: by 30 April 2026, the Selection Committee will evaluate applications received and identify a shortlist of artists admitted to the subsequent phase.

Pre-selected artists will be invited to an interview and discussion session with the panel, held online, and aimed at further exploring the candidate's profile and research project. These meetings are expected to take place in mid-May 2026. The schedule will be communicated by email to candidates who are shortlisted.

The final ranking of selected artists and the two winning artists will be announced by 15 June 2026.

#### **Selection Committee**

The selection will be entrusted to a Committee composed of representatives of Museo Sant'Orsola, including its Director and Curator Morgane Lucquet Laforgue, and representatives of the Calliope Arts Foundation and the Christian Levett Collection / FAMM, or where applicable, external experts.

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

The Committee will assign scores based on the documentation submitted, taking into account the following criteria:

1. Artistic quality and originality of the research;
2. Consistency with the museum's curatorial framework and the historical and architectural context of Sant'Orsola;
3. Technical and economic feasibility of the project;
4. Re-use and sustainability, understood as attention towards the responsible use of materials, production processes and the project's environmental impact, as well as the possibility of integrating practices involving the re-use and re-development of existing resources;
5. Ability to establish potential synergies with local craftsmanship ateliers and production chains, with a view to enhancing and reactivating traditional knowledge and local productive contexts.

