CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

CRITICAL MOVE

Towards a Democracy of the Gaze

30 young voices to learn to look at, think about, and talk about arts and culture

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The Pan-African Agency for Cultural Engineering (APIC), together with its partners, is launching a call for applications for the project CRITICAL MOVE: Towards a Democracy of the Gaze. The project is supported by the "Spaces of Culture" programme, within the framework of Africa-Europe Partnerships for Culture (AEPfC), managed by EUNIC – EU National Institutes for Culture.

This call is open in Benin, Togo and Ghana to select 10 young participants in each of the three countries.

CRITICAL MOVE is for those who already have something to say about arts and culture, and who want to develop the tools to observe, analyse, argue and share their perspective more effectively.

We are not only looking for art critics, journalists or cultural professionals.

The call is open to content creators, journalists, artists, students, cultural mediators, photographers, videographers, podcasters, communicators, and anyone whose practice or interests lead them to talk about, show, document or comment on culture.

You may also be an entrepreneur, teacher, independent professional or work in another field entirely. What matters is not your job, but what you are already doing around culture and the voice you are building.

Applications are accepted in French and in English

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for people who:

- are actively interested in arts and culture
- have already produced or shared content, reflections or public statements on culture
- are curious and capable of bringing a personal perspective to a work of art or artistic proposition
- want to learn to better structure and defend their point of view
- are interested in different formats of creation and transmission, including writing, image, video, audio or debate
- are available to participate in the full programme in their country

SHOW US WHAT YOU ALREADY DO

We will not only ask for a CV.

We want to see or hear what you have already produced.

You may submit articles, social media posts, videos, podcasts, commented photographs, columns, radio programmes, reviews, TikTok or YouTube content, or any other work that reflects your interest in and perspective on arts and culture.

You do not need a large audience or a recognised professional status.

We are more interested in the quality of your gaze, your curiosity, your ability to formulate an idea, and your potential for growth.

A CONCRETE EXPERIENCE

Selection will not be based solely on past experience.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to take part in an exercise to observe how they look at and respond to a work of art or artistic proposition.

CRITICAL MOVE starts from the real: a work, an image, a performance, a film, an exhibition or any other artistic proposition.

The starting question will be simple:

« What can I say about a work when I see it?»

Over two days, participants will learn to move from observation to formulating a point of view, and from that point of view to a structured, argued and communicable statement.

The programme will not seek to impose a single way of talking about the arts. It will provide tools to make each perspective sharper, more conscious and better argued.

AFTER SELECTION

10 participants will be selected in each of the three countries, for a total of 30 participants.

In each country, two participants will then be selected to continue the experience within the regional Critical Lab – a seven-day residency bringing together selected participants from all three countries and a European peer.

National workshops will be held on the following dates:

• Ghana: 19 – 20 January 2027

• Benin: 16 – 17 February 2027

• Togo: 2 – 3 March 2027

The Critical Lab residency will take place from 10 to 17 April 2027 at Villa Karo (Grand-Popo, Benin).

Productions created within the project may be broadcast by partner platforms and within the CRITICAL MOVE network.

CONDITIONS

Be aged between 18 and 35

Reside in Benin, Togo or Ghana

Have a practice, experience or concrete interest in arts and culture

Be available for the two-day workshop in your country

No prior training in art criticism is required.

Applications must reflect a genuine practice or personal engagement with culture.

Applications from women are particularly encouraged.

What the programme covers

• Training and supervision throughout the programme

• Meals (coffee breaks and lunches) for all participants during the two-day national workshop

• Transport for participants travelling from secondary towns and, where necessary, accommodation for the duration of the workshop

• For the 6 scholarship holders selected for the Critical Lab residency: full accommodation, meals and regional transport for the entire residency at Villa Karo (Grand-Popo, Benin)

• A certificate of participation

HOW TO APPLY

Applications are open from 5 November to 15 December 2026.

Applicants must submit:

• a short personal presentation

• a CV or summary of their background

• examples of content or productions already created

• a short answer to the question included in the application form

• their availability for the two workshop days in their country

Applications will be assessed on the basis of background, cultural engagement, quality of submitted work, capacity to develop a personal perspective, and potential for growth.

Diversity of profiles, practices, territories and modes of expression will also be taken into account.

Apply: https://nooxpertises.net/appel-detail?slug=critical-move&lang=en

For any questions: contact@nooxpertises.net

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Distributed in partnership with bougemedia (Benin), leclik (Togo), artsghana.net (Ghana) and RJCFAO

CRITICAL MOVE – Towards a Democracy of the Gaze is supported by the Spaces of Culture programme, within the framework of Africa-Europe Partnerships for Culture, managed by EUNIC – EU National Institutes for Culture. This programme aims to enhance Euro-African cultural cooperation, exchange, co-creation and dissemination on both continents, promoting intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding.

Project partners: Villa Karo, NO'OXPERTISES TOGO, bougemedia (Benin), leclik (Togo), artsghana.net (Ghana), Réseau des Journalistes Culturels Francophones d'Afrique de l'Ouest (RJCFAO)

EUNIC partners: Villa Karo – Finnish-African Cultural Centre, Goethe-Institut Togo, Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI). With the Delegation of the European Union in Benin.