



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



INTRODUCTION

SACO Contemporary Art Festival has taken place annually since 2012 in the Region of Antofagasta, in the north of Chile, as an independent initiative by the SE VENDE Mobile Contemporary Art Platform Corporation. Its objective is to install a permanent nucleus of reflection, critique and dialogue in the Atacama Desert, through the gathering of artists, experts, curators, works and the public, in an area marked by the inexistence of institutions dedicated to these ends. It proposes as an alternative option in this copper capital to dig deeper for the renewable wealth of creativity and dialogue, a field no less valuable nor less urgently needed.

Each edition of the festival possesses unique characteristics with a special focus. In this way, the grounds for digging are annually renewed, preventing the resources from being exhausted.

SACO9

The 9th edition of the Contemporary Art Festival invites artists to participate in the open call for its main exhibition entitled **Now or Never**. The selected artists will take part in a weeklong residence at ISLA, Latin American Superior Art Institute, with all expenses paid, for the realization and installation of their works. After the opening, they will participate in an immersion trip within the territory, into the interior of the Atacama Desert.

A jury will select seven winners according to the proposals' quality; their suitability to the curatorial direction and space for intervention: The Melbourne Clark Historic Pier in Antofagasta; and above all, their relation to the curatorial concept *Now or Never*.

Proposals for intervention outside of the pier (in the sea, among the rocks, on the breakwater, etc.) will not be accepted, neither will projects that use electricity of any type (projector, television, etc). The exhibition will only run by daylight. The winning works must guarantee an exhibition period of no less than two months. Works that can be seen and appreciated along the entire 360° of the route will be preferred.

PARTICIPANTS

Visual artists of any nationality may participate.

The existing call is open to professional as well as self-taught artists, with no restrictions with regards to age, education, professional experience, line of work or any other factor. The main criteria that will be subjected to evaluation is the quality of the proposal, its viability and suitability.

Artists whose work is linked to the Colectivo SE VENDE, organizer of the exhibition, or artists who exhibited in SACO8 *Destiny* may not participate.

NOW OR NEVER

With *Origin and Myth* in 2018 we were questioning the monopoly of official histories, inquiring into the right of subjectivity when looking at the past; in 2019 we turned our heads 180 degrees in search of *Destiny*, to see if, even though our compasses no longer worked, it would be possible to foresee something about the future through science, intuition, or common sense. In this, the latest edition of SACO in festival format, we come to a stop at the third element of the timeline, the most ideal and immeasurable, but at the same time, the only one that is real and concrete. The times demand that we open our eyes to look at the here and now.

As we think about the present it has already become the past. It lies at that point along the coordinates of time where everything happens, and away from this place absolutely nothing occurs. It is a point with no dimensions: neither height nor width, neither depth nor duration. Everything in front appears as a blur, while everything behind is like a series of images in various states of decomposition. We don't exist in the past, nor in the future. In the lapse between the two we build worlds that will disappear along with us. Each beginning carries with it an end. Suspended between the temples of collective memory, built out of accumulated experience on the one hand, and expectations of what's to come on the other, it would seem that we are losing the only thing that is certain.

You can only be certain about what you experience. That which is not present is the same as that which does not exist. It is in this moment that things are happening, words are being spoken, airplanes are coming in for a landing, children are being born. Only between one blink of an eye and the next are we able to touch, hear, see, taste, smell. We are sure that we are alive in this moment. That we are. That we exist.

Living immersed in the now draws us closer to the world of the animals--they don't create stories or worry about what tomorrow will be like. The present is like the spark of a fuse, which travels along the wick from beginning to end, marking the time we have left. As we watch it advance, we know that we are alive. One's own body in the past isn't the same as it is now, but rather it belongs to someone much younger. As for the future, we remember that the spark keeps advancing, but we still have this moment that we can take hold of right now. Nothing more.

As your gaze slides along black, abstract shapes, which, combined together, comprise concepts that in turn develop into ideas, on the screen of your mind a sort of channel surfing through memories, associations and ideas has begun. You are reading. This is reality. Everything else doesn't exist. Today you can give something to someone, experience a breakthrough, or eat an ice cream. The present is eternal. It has no beginning or end. Now is when.

DATES

2019

December 5 – opening of the call

2020

March 5 – closing of the call at 24:00 (Chilean time).

First half of May – publication of the list of winners.

May – confirmation of participation, technical queries and purchase of travel fares.

June – detailed definition of each installation.

July 3-9 – opening of SACO9 (exhibitions in galleries).

July 22 – beginning of the residency at ISLA, Antofagasta.

July 30 – opening of the exhibition *Now or Never*.

July 30 – August 1 – immersion trip to the Atacama Desert.

August 4 – closing of the residency, participants head home.

September 5 – closing of the exhibition *Now or Never*.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION TO SACO9

1. Fotocopy of the personal information page from a valid passport, with an expiration date later than 30 August, 2020.
2. In the case that a Chilean visa is required, indicate the waiting time between its request and issuance, as well as the list of documents to be presented.
3. Bio of no more than 800 characters including spaces in Word, Arial 12, letter format + link to website, if one should exist.
4. Portfolio of no more than 10 recent works, maximum 3MB in PDF.
5. General idea and description of the work to be installed on the Historic Pier in Antofagasta, maximum 500 characters including title and spaces.
6. Sketches of the work (these can be photographs of scale models, drawings, photomontages or any other visual language, whatever renders a clear account of the idea to be realized), maximum 3MB in a single PDF.
7. Technical specifications of the work, with the description of the materials to be used and characteristics / requirements / details of the installation. The proposal must conform to the available budget. Any project that does not comply with this requirement will not be considered.

8. Photographic self-portrait, at 300 dpi (for RRSS, booklets and other channels of distribution).
9. Applicants are free to include any other document that may contribute to the analysis of their proposal, to be no larger than 3MB. In the case of videos, just include links.

LANGUAGE

All of the documentation for SACO9, as well as any questions via email are received and responded to in Spanish and/or English.

CONSISTENCY BETWEEN WORK AND THE PLACE

Since 2016 the main SACO exhibition has taken place on the Melbourne Clark Historic Pier in Antofagasta, an important patrimonial structure in the historical heart of the city. In accordance with the policies of the organizer, any work that infringes upon the integrity of the site or attempts to intervene in an irreversible manner will be considered unacceptable. Likewise, the proposal must respect existing norms for interventions of public spaces of historic significance.

Proposals should be original, specifically designed for this call, conforming to the context and subject matter. Since the pier is a public place that experiences a lot of foot traffic, with wind, sun, moisture, it must be stressed that the most suitable proposals will be of an ephemeral nature, resistant to elements and yet at the same time conceived for their eventual destruction and disposable. Works should be made from low-cost materials and should not have any expensive technical requirements for their completion. The construction of barriers, partitions, or walls as a base on the pier will not be allowed.

THE DRIEST PLACE ON EARTH

The residency includes a two-day trip to the Atacama Desert, with shared lodging, where the guest artists will be able to make interventions *in situ*, if they wish to, with prior coordination with the organizers.

CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

SE VENDE Collective covers:

1. Roundtrip airfare from the capital city in the artist's country of residence to Antofagasta, economy class and without the possibility of changing the ticket.

2. Technical and logistical support in the installation of the work.
3. Transport to and from the airport in Antofagasta.
4. Shared accommodation (double and triple rooms) with self-serve breakfast in the common dining area of the residency center.
5. Lunches and dinners with two plates to choose from, during the entire residency. The organizing team takes into consideration two types of available menus: omnivorous diet and vegetarian diet. Due to the particularities of the region and the activities in the middle of the Atacama Desert, stricter dietary regimens cannot be accommodated. All other types of consumption during the stay in Antofagasta will be the responsibility of the artist.
6. For the *in situ* realization of the work, whether in its totality or in part, its design and detailed technical specifications must be sent at least 60 days before the artist's arrival. Once proposals have been approved by the production team they may not be modified or redesigned. The projects will be developed with materials available locally, with prior consultation and artist approval.

A maximum of U\$ 1.500 (one thousand five hundred U.S. dollars) is budgeted for each intervention on The Melbourne Clark Historic Pier in Antofagasta, which should account for:

- Purchase of materials
- Cost of labor for construction and installation
- Local transport

The budget allocated for each work will be managed and implemented by the SACO9 production team. The works will not be returned, these being either destroyed during the dismantling of the exhibition or donated to a non-profit institution.

In the event that part of the work is materialized in the country of origin, it should be sent two months prior to the artist's arrival via the delivery service designated by the festival organizers, providing packing instructions, weight and volume in order to calculate the shipping cost. Material sent is considered to be part of the piece and not a completed work, and must be declared upon entry to Chile as sample material with a value no greater than 100 USD. The organization is not responsible for delays and/or packages lost during transportation, the artist in such case is required to finish the project with whatever resources are available in Antofagasta. The organization will not contemplate additional payment for the preparation of the work.

7. Immersion trip to the Atacama Desert in bus. Visit to historic sites, an oasis in the hinterland of the region, and other points of interest.
8. Mediation, distribution and visual record.
9. Production of documentary video and bilingual book of SACO9. Mailing of three copies of the book to an address specified by the artist.

WINNERS OF SACO9 COMMIT TO:

1. Make arrangements with the technical and curatorial team regarding the details of the work's realization prior to the residency.
2. Participate in the residency and stage the work according to the agreed upon technical specifications and to meet the deadlines of the work calendar.
3. Respect the rules of the patrimonial site where the exhibition is to be held, as well as with the rules of cohabitation at ISLA.
4. Be available to participate in a conference to talk about your artistic output or in a workshop at an educational establishment.
5. Cooperate with the festival mediators.
6. Participate in interviews for the documentary and collaborate with the technicians, photographers, and the production and distribution team.
7. Obtain travel insurance and a visa, if necessary.

SACO9 JURY

The jury for SACO9 will be composed of five recognized representatives from the world of contemporary art, coming from different countries of origin. The jury is free to declare less than seven winners, reserving the right to leave some spots vacant.

FURTHER POINTS

Participation in the current call implies full acceptance of the ground rules. Upon submission of the application, the artist attests to being the author of all its contents, in accordance with current copyright laws.

The festival will consider to be ineligible any work that:

- Requires the labor of craftsmen, fishermen or any other group of workers from the Region of Antofagasta in its production.
- Is of luminous character and only/mainly noteworthy at night.
- Uses water (irrigation, drip, evaporation, mist, etc.)
- Uses local clay soil.
- Uses local species of flora (plants, roots, or seeds).
- Damages or makes permanent changes to the public space.
- Whose application is from a collective (more than one person).
- Proposes a performative act that is only made during the opening of the exhibition.
- Includes projections with data, screens, etc.
- Includes spaces for intervention apart from the pier.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Open call curator: Carlos Rendón

Questions to: convocatoria@proyectosaco.cl

Applications should be made through the online form at www.proyectosaco.cl

Photographic record, aerial video and layout of the Historic Pier in Antofagasta available at:

www.proyectosaco.cl / Youtube channel: Proyecto SACO

Facebook: SACO Festival de Arte Contemporáneo / Twitter: @ProyectoSACO

issuu.com/colectivosevende / www.colectivosevende.cl



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