

RESIDENCIES

The ISLA Center for Art Residencies was created by the SACO Cultural Corporation for its guests—curators, artists, docents, researchers, directors and the like. We hope that it can support their creative work, both economically speaking as well as with its environment and operation, and that it helps them to form connections and establish networks throughout northern Chile.

The residency center is located in the city and region of Antofagasta, the mining capital of northern Chile, known for having pristine skies that allow for the observation of outer space. It is also well known for its desert, which is the most arid place on earth.

Training, the city and the Atacama Desert make up the essential pillars of our work; from year to year the space has been used for the development of workshops, conferences and roundtables, among other activities, attracting a number of international artists and professionals to the region. We train self-taught artists, teachers, guides and audiences (in the broadest sense of the word) and we have an extremely faithful public, which grows year by year and which allows us to strengthen our programs as we seek to further the development of SACO into a Biennial of Contemporary Art, como Bienal de Arte Contemporáneo.



TERRITORY

Industry

Antofagasta has a higher concentration of copper exploitation than any other place in the world. The artist can witness how mining and associated industries have spurred on considerable economic growth, an evolution that is not reflected in the needs of the inhabitants, who suffer the environmental impact of mining activity on a daily basis, as well as the consequent contamination and the high cost of living that is brought on by the industry. The region offers employment opportunities, but suffers from other shortfalls and has been turned into a sacrificial zone by the state, generating an inspiring climate of resistance. Newer industries, such as Lithium, have become a point of focus, not only on the socio-economic level but also in terms of conservation in natural areas that are truly one of a kind, which is being promoted by experts with decades of experience and who will also lend a hand in the artist's research process.

Interview with Ana Alenso.





This residency places the artist in an isolated location, either in the country's northern or southern periphery, allowing him/her to discover how human actions and the expansion of our habitat has diminished or permanently transformed the characteristic features of the natural landscape. The artist will be able to research and conduct interviews with a variety of experts and local leaders, learning firsthand about complex and current concerns, such as the scarcity of water in the northern regions and the deformation of land –the result of two centuries of various kinds of extractive processes.

residence Rosa Casado (ES) and Mike Brookes (GB)

Desert



The driest place on earth: Exploration and research in Quillagua

The aim of the Exploration residency in the Second Region of Antofagasta is to search for new ways of relating to the landscape while activating dialogues between its inhabitants, its landscapes and its relics. Since 2012 we have been working in Quillagua, the driest place in the world, an oasis-town located 3000 meters above sea level where the traditions of the native people are still alive; Taltal, a town in which the oldest mine on the continent is located; María Elena, the last private township in the country; towns like Ayquina and Caspana, famous for their religious festivities and syncretic rituals; and small villages of artisanal fishermen like in Paposo; these are just some of the area's unique aspects that offer a sea of knowledge as well as opportunities for inspiration.

This residency was developed to ensure that the artist or researcher can get to know some of the region's towns and areas so as to be able to produce a work that dialogs directly with the territory, through expressions such as land-art or site-specific works, but also through performance and creative documentation. The exploration of the desert can take three different forms depending on the place where the residency takes place:



The oases: Rediscovery of ancient settlements



The immensity: Large scale creation from literally nothing



SOCIETY

Education

Program that invites the artist to connect with the territory through a pedagogical project, usually done in conjunction with one or more of the region's educational establishments.

This relationship with the students not only allows the artist to better understand the educational methods and the sociocultural development of the region, but also provides the opportunity to create projects that end up as exhibitions based on the experience of the residency or the workshops conducted. In 2015, for the fourth edition of SACO, a massive program of these residencies took place, allowing students from the region, in collaboration with both national and international artist-docents, to create all of that year's exhibitions.

Mediation workshop: "First aid for a self-taught mediator"





Immigrant camp in Antofagasta - Chile

Commercial development and migration have turned the city of Antofagasta into an epicenter of cultural diversity. As such, some important new phenomena have occurred within the local society, such as the emergence of new family configurations or children of foreigners being given access to public schools. But in other areas, such as housing or work, the new inhabitants are discriminated against, and on certain occasions they aren't able to fully integrate into society due to their vulnerable social status. The artist-in-residence can experience this reality firsthand, visiting migrant camps and speaking with people from different countries that currently live and work in the one of the cities with the highest rate of immigration in Chile.

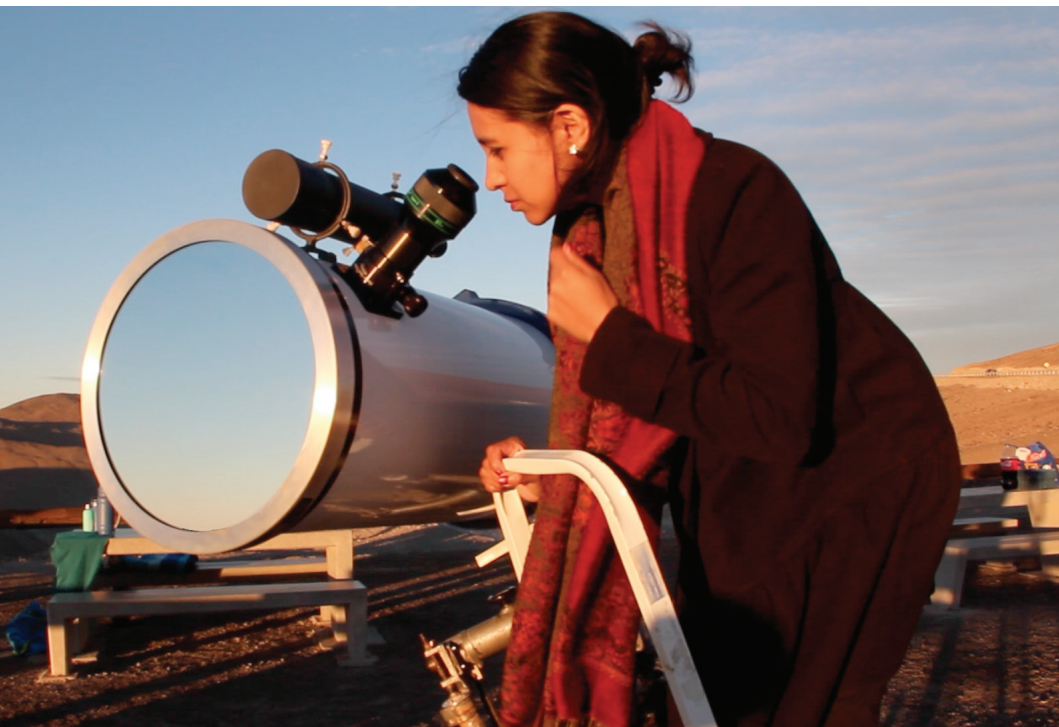


SCIENCES

Astronomy: Between here and there

An invitation to explore the relationship between art and astronomy in an area that is internationally recognized as a place that is uniquely suited for the exploration of the universe. The artist will be able to conduct research, document and collaborate with the University of Antofagasta's Center for Astronomy in the development of their work, as well as consult with a scientist from NASA, Dr. Eric Larour.

Residence: Art & Astronomy





Residence: Art & Archeology

The artist-in-residence will have the opportunity to experience northern Chile's desert and culture at its most well known oasis: San Pedro de Atacama. The artist will be able to share with local indigenous people (i.e. Licanantai, Quechuas), getting to know more about their customs, rituals, stories and cosmovision beneath the starry sky in the midst of the desert's vastness. This residency is supported by the R.P. Gustavo Le Paige Museum of Archaeology through the guidance and advice of its academics.

Technology



Residence: Art & Technology

The constant advance of technology obliges artists to be at the forefront of progress, reimagining electronic devices as futuristic instruments that are able to dialog with the landscape and context in which they are present. This residency seeks to entice the artist to create technological works with an artistic sensibility while taking advantage of the unique features of the land -its extensive coastline, the driest desert on earth, its pristine skies, the pollution from extractive practices- so as to link art and technology.

Geology: art and rocks

The Atacama Desert is rich in minerals, the extraction of which has been fueling not only the regional but also the national economy for centuries. The participant in this residency (to take place for the first time in 2020) will be able to learn both the historic and actual state of the nation's geology through a connection with the Catholic University of the North's School of Geology, one of the country's most prestigious schools. Artists-in-residence will be able to visit at that university, the Profesor Humberto Fuenzalida Geological Museum, and will have the opportunity to consult with its director, Dr. Guillermo Chong, a winner of the National Science Award. Furthermore, artists will be able to tour through the interior of the Atacama Desert, traveling along routes that have largely been kept hidden from tourists.

Residence: Art & Geology





NATIONAL PROGRAMS

Valparaíso



BASE Residence: Sound Art Festival (TSONAMI)

Valparaíso is a city that lives and breathes art. Its streets are an endless source of attraction and inspiration for both artists and their public, turning this important port in the middle of the country into a focal point for cultural events. SACO has collaborated with two of these yearly events in the development of residencies that allow the artist to immerse in the “porteña” culture and tradition. These are:

The TSONAMI International Sound Art Festival: Sound art residency with the support of TSONAMI. The resident artist will stay at BASE, the residency center of one of the most important festivals of sound art on the continent.

International Photography Festival of Valparaíso (FIFV): A residency focused on photography that takes place during the festival, so the artist can experience the FIFV firsthand, while also being able to research, learn from and interact with some of contemporary photography's leading expositors.

FIFV Residence: International Festival of Photography in Valparaíso



Valdivia



LABVA Residence: Valdivia Biomaterials Laboratory

This residency is centered in the relationship between art and science, benefitting from a collaboration with the Biomaterials Laboratory of Valdivia. In the capital of the Los Ríos Region, the artist-in-residence will learn about processes for the recycling and reutilization of waste materials, engaging in an artistic process that addresses the care of the environment through science.

Punta Arenas - Puerto Williams

Through an alliance with the University of Magallanes, which has its main campus in Punta Arenas, visiting artists will be able to get to know the extreme south of the country. A 36 hour trip by ferry brings the artist in residency to Puerto Williams, the southernmost city on the planet. Working in the field with the support of researchers from the university, the artist will be able to discover a unique area, lost in time, near the Straits of Magellan, where the Atlantic and Pacific oceans meet.

Residence: Puerto Williams



Puerto Yartou



CAB Residence: Alberto Baeriswyl House Museum

Residency program with a focus on the far reaches of the country. In collaboration with the Casa Museo Alberto Baeriswyl (CAB), for ten days the artist will visit one of the southernmost parts of the planet, in a place far away from any other human settlement, an invitation to explore and get to know the wild nature all around. The second part of the residency takes place for the same period of time in Antofagasta, a place that is a complete opposite, where the most pristine skies in the world converge with the driest desert on earth.

All of the residencies coordinated by the SACO Cultural Corporation are customised in accordance with each artist's areas of interest, and thus may cross a wide range of fields. SACO's network of partners allow the artists-in-residence to connect with various spaces, both within or even outside the region.

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