

«CONNECT INDIA»

Introduction

CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics in Geneva, and Pro Helvetia, the Swiss Arts Council, have been working together since 2014 to foster experimentation through the arts in connection with fundamental science. In 2021, CERN and Pro Helvetia launched *Connect*, a new collaboration framework that marks the extension of their joint efforts in supporting and promoting the dialogue between artists and scientists.

Arts at CERN, the Laboratory's arts programme, fosters significant exchanges between art and physics. Artists across all creative disciplines are welcome at CERN to experience the way the big questions about our universe are pursued by fundamental research.

In the context of its *Art, Science and Technology* programme, Pro Helvetia specifically supports activities and projects exploring technological and scientific developments from an artistic perspective, in dialogue with researchers. The focus is on exploring and utilising the potential for mutual inspiration and collaboration.

Connect is a residency and cultural exchange programme for artists working at the intersection of science and artistic research. *Connect* serves as a global platform for interactions and dialogue between artistic and scientific communities across Switzerland, South Africa, India, Chile and Brazil, which will be realised during the course of 2021-2024.

1 Connect India

Connect India is part of the *Connect* collaboration between Arts at CERN and Pro Helvetia New Delhi, the liaison office of the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia in South Asia, partnering with the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS-TIFR) in Bengaluru, India. The dual residency comprises a residency at CERN in Geneva, and a second residency at ICTS. One artist from Switzerland and one Indian artist will be in residency together at both locations in 2023.

The aim of the dual residency is to foster meaningful exchange and dialogue between the arts and sciences in a setting of cultural exchange. With a long-term goal to support development of projects that interface with scientific and artist processes, the programme hopes to connect artists with researchers from science and technology in a sustained manner on an international scale. Through the research-based residency, *Connect India* hopes to aid the development of projects by the selected artists that explore the intersection of their artistic practice and the science at CERN and ICTS.

Connect India brings together cultural engagement with science, fieldwork, and artistic research. It juxtaposes the complex scientific and technological research across CERN and ICTS, which complement one another: while CERN in Geneva, Switzerland, studies the fundamental constituents of matter through particle physics, the ICTS has a broad scope of theoretical sciences, ranging from astrophysics, string theory, and quantum gravity to complex systems and fluid dynamics, physical biology, as well as various areas in the mathematical sciences.

2 The Dual Residency

Connect India will grant a funded residency to an individual artist from Switzerland and an individual artist from India. *Connect India* invites submissions from artists with a distinct interest in an interdisciplinary approach, and a keen engagement with scientific thinking and fundamental science.

The two selected artists will participate in a dual residency split between CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics in Geneva – home of the world’s largest particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) – and the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, a global science hub for researchers in the physical and mathematical sciences.

In both residencies, the selected artists are invited to research and explore new expressions in connection with fundamental research. The residency will take place over a period of three weeks at CERN, Geneva, and four weeks at ICTS, Bengaluru. The goal of the residency is to develop research towards an artistic project in dialogue with the scientists, engineers, and staff of the laboratories, and with the support of the combined curatorial team of *Arts at CERN* in Geneva and ICTS in Bengaluru.

Artists interested in applying to *Connect India* are invited to submit a project proposal that describes the motivation and the process of research and engagement across both the CERN community and the Indian scientific organisations and contexts.

2.1 Criteria and Conditions of the Call

The *Connect India* Call for Applications encourages the participation of artists interested in the ideas described above and who meet any of the following criteria:

- Artists interested in the cultural significance of scientific research and technology.
- Artists interested in extending their connection with the field of physics and fundamental research, and to enter in dialogue with scientists, engineers, and staff at CERN, and scientists and researchers of ICTS-TIFR in Bengaluru.
- Artists pushing the traditional forms of dialogue with other fields of research, and keen to ask innovative questions across disciplines.
- Artists interested in the scientific community and the interaction with its social fabric and its history and narratives.
- Artists whose work and proposal aims to reflect on new models of social enquiry, the potential synergies between art and science, and to offer challenging methods of exchange and enquiry.
- Artists with a demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and flexibly across different socio-cultural and institutional worlds.
- Artists from a discipline supported by the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia (visual arts, music, literature, performing arts, design, and interactive media) and meeting the general Pro Helvetia criteria:
 - A convincing body of work and track record.
 - A significant footprint in the arts scene of the respective contexts of Switzerland and India.

Please note:

- The residency is limited to Swiss¹ and Indian nationals only.
- The residency is unavailable to artist duos or collectives, it is only available for artists applying as individuals.

¹ An artist will be considered “Swiss” if they hold Swiss nationality or have their residence in Switzerland.

2.2 Conditions of the residency

Connect India awards one individual artist from Switzerland and one individual artist from India with a funded residency at CERN, Geneva, and ICTS Bengaluru. The grant includes the following support and conditions for each artist:

- A stipend of CHF 6,000.
- Living expenses in Switzerland and in India.
- International travel costs and local transport, when required, and accommodation at CERN, Geneva, and at ICTS, Bengaluru.
- Additionally, parents can apply for financial support of CHF 1,000 per month at most to co-finance childcare. The applicant is asked to provide an approximate budget for all expenses in advance.

Expectations of the Artist

The selected artists for the *Connect India* residency will be expected to:

- Engage in research based on the proposal submitted in the context of this Call and use their time at the two locations towards an intended outcome.
- Complete the period of the residency at ICTS (four weeks) and CERN (three weeks).
- Meet regularly with the scientific partner/s to discuss the process of artistic research, exploration, and discovery, and additionally work with other scientists.
- Give two talks and/or workshops in the context of the residency.
- Communicate regularly with the curators and teams of *Connect India*.
- Develop a concrete project resulting from the residency within the six months following the residency. Depending on the nature of the artist's practice, this project proposal could be a fully realised artwork or the development of a preliminary stage or prototype of a project idea.
- Support the curators and project teams on the evaluation and report of the residency within the six months following the residency.

3 Application Submission

Artists intending to apply to the *Connect India* residency should submit a proposal adhering to the criteria of the call. The application should be written in English and should contain the following elements:

- Personal details: name, address, contact details.
- An artist dossier with the most relevant artworks or projects, including a brief statement and the artist's biography.
- A project proposal describing, in detail, the project that the artist intends to undertake during the residency at CERN, and ICTS.

For Swiss artists, please follow the instructions found in this link:

<https://arts.cern/entry/open-call-connect-india>

For artists from India, please follow the instructions found in this link:

<https://prohelvetia.in/en/connect-india-application/>

The selection will be based on evaluation of the above material and reviewed by a jury of cultural experts and scientists drawn from both contexts of maximum seven members. The name of the jurors will be revealed after the call.

Submissions of entry in this competition automatically constitute the acceptance of these terms and conditions. The jury's decision will be final. The decision will be published on both Arts at CERN and Pro Helvetia's websites by the end of February 2023. Only selected artists will be notified by e-mail.

4 Important dates

Deadline for the application:	Dec 12th, 2022 (by 11:59 PM CEST, UTC+2)
Digital Q&A session:	November 23rd, 2022 (2:30 PM CEST, 7:00 PM IST) with Arts at CERN, Pro Helvetia New Delhi, and ICTS Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsduigpzwPH9YBmjelfmyB4aXuMthXxesj
Announcement of the jury's decision:	By the end of February 2023
Residency at ICTS, Bengaluru, India:	April-May 2023 (the exact four weeks will be discussed with the finalists, in consultations with Connect India team)
Residency at CERN, Geneva:	September-October 2023 (the exact three weeks will be discussed with the finalists, in consultation with Connect India team)

5 Contacts

For Indian artists:	Pro Helvetia New Delhi newdelhi@prohelvetia.in
For Swiss artists:	Arts at CERN info.arts@cern.ch