

CALL FOR A CURATORIAL PROJECT

LA BOX 2016.2017

THE SITE

The Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Art (National School of Art/ENSA) in Bourges is housed in a 17th-century building in the Old Town. Bourges itself is in central France, two hours from Paris. Covering some 7,000 square metres, the school offers its students extensive workspaces plus well equipped technical workshops that are regularly renovated and updated.

The School is qualified to award a National Postgraduate Degree in Fine Arts – a Master's – and its emphasis is on the kind of inventiveness and creativity that are only possible in a setting where interpersonal exchange and ideas are part of the everyday scene; this is a generous, receptive place conducive to artistic encounters and intermeshings. The teaching programme is part of a study and research context whose constantly evolving methods stimulate creative thinking, open-mindedness and discussion, while also sparking students' curiosity and combining practical applications with critical analysis.

The La Box gallery is one of ENSA's principal teaching tools. Every year it features artists from France and abroad in ten exhibitions relating to the study programme. For more than ten years now the gallery has entrusted part of its planning to young guest curators. Chosen and monitored by the ENSA teaching team, the curators work on experimental programmes involving the active participation of the students, who thus find themselves in close contact with major figures on the contemporary scene and with the realities of drawing up an exhibition project.

THE AIM

Part of the exhibition programme at the La Box gallery – from January to May 2017 – will be organised by a freelance curator, a critic or an art collective.

The project must fit with the School's concerns, but there is no predefined exhibition format: it is up to the curator to decide on the mode of presentation, which may take the form of several exhibitions or a single, open-ended one. The curator (or the collective) is encouraged to come up with proposals for cooperative ventures with such local partners as the non-profit Emmetrop and Bandits-Mages contemporary art/image associations, the City of Bourges and secondary schools.

The curator will organise a seminar for ENSA students in the first semester 2016–2017.

As part of the study programme, the seminar must integrate the students into the designing and realisation of the exhibition programme while also providing a broader view of what is at stake in curatorial practice. It must also tie in with the school's teaching themes, as outlined in ENSA's *Livret de l'étudiant* (Student Handbook): <http://www.ensa-bourges.fr/index.php/fr/ecole/contact/2015-09-22-13-44-46>

If appropriate, the seminar can be designed to coordinate with an existing ENSA teaching module

SELECTION CRITERIA

The curatorial project is chosen by a selection committee comprising ENSA head Antoine Réguillon, ENSA teachers Florence Chevallier, Florentine Lamarche-Ovize and Ingrid Luche, and Véronique Frémot and Chloé Nicolas from La Box.

The project submission must meet the requirements stated above, be clearly outlined and be compatible with proven curatorial practice. The selection committee will take into account its experimental aspect and its interconnections with emergent art scenes.

FINANCIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The overall budget for the curatorial project is **25,000 euros**.

This sum includes production and transport of works, communication and publishing costs, artists' travel and accommodation costs and travel expenses for the curator(s), up to a total of 20,000 euros; plus curator's expenses up to 5,000 euros.

The curator's fee will be paid on presentation of an invoice (company registration number required).

The project may also include financial input from other private or public sources

ORGANISATION

The curator will work in association with the ENSA teaching team, and in particular with the committee in charge of the programme: Florence Chevallier, Florentine Lamarche-Ovize and Ingrid Luche.

He or she will be assisted by the full-time La Box team: Chloé Nicolas (coordination), Véronique Frémot (cultural liaison), Jessie Morin (registrar) and Manon Chavigny (assistant registrar).

In the interests of student participation, the programme drawn up by the curator will take account of the academic calendar in terms of vacations and examinations.

Candidates are reminded that a programme like this demands considerable time and commitment. Regular on-site meetings with the ENSA team are vital, as is responsiveness, by email or telephone, during the preparation of the programme. The presence of the curator is required during the installation of the exhibition and at the opening.

Should the curator be a collective, ongoing interaction and coordination between members are essential in order to ensure consistency in their dealings with ENSA and the La Box team.

To encourage regular presence on the part of the curator during the project and its educational segment, La Box offers accommodation for the duration of the mission in an apartment rented from the CROUS student services body: <http://www.bourges-technopole.fr/fr/le-site-lahitolle/projet/residence-marie-curie>. This system can also provide accommodation for some of the guest artists during the presentation.

THE CALENDAR

Preparation of a project matching the ENSA study programme: January 2016

Applications to be sent by email to la.box@ensa-bourges.fr **before 15 March 2016**.

Shortlist of 6 applications: March 2016

Applicants interviewed by the selection committee (each application is sponsored by a member of the teaching staff): April 2016

Initial proposal of a schedule for January 2017: June 2016

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CANDIDATURE

The candidature application must be sent by email, in PDF format, and must include the following:

- a completed application form
- a CV
- a text of no more than 800 words presenting the planned curatorial project (illustrated by no more than 5 visuals) and explaining the reasons for candidature
- an estimated budget
- any other documents detailing or substantiating the application

APPLICATION FORM

CURATORIAL PROJECT LABOX 2016.2017

Family name First name

Date of birth

Address

Postcode City

Tel Mobile

Email address

Qualifications (school and year)

Summary of the curating project 5 lines max.	
Summary of the workshop project 5 lines max.	
Possible partners in the project	