

Call for entries and information



about the exhibition project *'urbs animalis – The City as a Habitat for Animals and Humans'* from 20 August to 15 November 2026 at the Walkmühle Artists' Association, Wiesbaden.

Since 2010, addressing current and socially relevant issues concerning humanity's relationship with nature has been one of the key features of the thematic exhibitions at the Walkmühle Artists' Association in Wiesbaden.

From 20 August to 15 November 2026, the Walkmühle Artists' Association will host an exhibition on the coexistence and multifaceted relationships between animals and humans in urban environments. To this end, the Artists' Association is inviting all interested artists to submit their work for consideration for inclusion in the exhibition.

Curators of the exhibition:

The exhibition is curated by artists and curators Christiane Erdmann and Verena Schmidt, who have realised several exhibition projects for the Walkmühle Artists' Association in recent years.

Information about the exhibition venue and dates:

The Walkmühle Wiesbaden has approximately 460 square metres of exhibition space available for the entire event. The premises also allow installations to be presented in acoustically and visually independent environments. Upon consultation, outdoor areas may also be included. Information (images and plans) about the exhibition premises is available for viewing or download on our website www.walkmuehle.net (under the menu item: Veranstaltungen -> Veranstaltungsräume). A catalogue will be published to accompany the exhibition.

Deadline for applications to participate: 31 March 2026

Exhibition opening: Thursday, 20 August 2026

Exhibition duration: Until Sunday, 15 November 2026

If you have any questions, please contact us by email at v.schmidt@walkmuehle.net.

On the following pages you will find:

- Information about the exhibition theme
- Conditions for participation in the tender
- Application form



urbs animalis

The City as a Habitat for Animals and Humans

The exhibition theme

The city has always been a shared living space in which humans and animals coexist. Urban environments do not offer attractive conditions solely for human life; animals, too, repeatedly lay claim to inner-city habitats. It is well documented that, worldwide, the migration of wild animals into cities is increasing: a broader availability of food acts as a powerful incentive, particularly as natural habitats continue to be increasingly restricted by urbanisation.

With the thematic exhibition *urbs animalis – The City as a Habitat for Animals and Humans*, the Künstlerverein Walkmühle seeks to direct attention to the ambivalent status of animals in urban space, situated between synurbanisation, competition, and cooperation. The exhibition aims to bring together artistic positions that address the multifaceted interactions and interspecific relationships arising from encounters between humans and animals in inner-city environments.

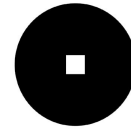
The reflection on human–animal relations has a long and rich history. Some of the earliest known records can be traced back to the cave paintings of Lascaux. Animals, whether as allegories, symbols of self-reflection, or objects of entertainment, have enjoyed enduring popularity across both high culture and everyday life.

The quality of animals' niche existence within human-dominated spaces has always been subject to the changing conditions of progress. Definitions, classifications, and boundary-making shape the lives of all living beings in the city, often without doing justice to their specific needs. The demands imposed upon them frequently bear little relation to species-appropriate treatment. The consequences of these conditions are reflected in the urban landscape itself or are addressed within animal welfare, environmental protection, and political discourse.

The exhibition seeks to reveal and convey common role attributions and expectations imposed upon animals in the city. The status of the “urban animal” fluctuates not only between friend and foe, or between useful creature and pest. Animals also function as anecdotes, sources of entertainment, consumer goods, and even children’s toys. Representatives of individual species stand as abstract symbols of anthropogenic climate change and biodiversity loss, and ultimately as markers of the urgent need for action—for the benefit of all.

Urbs animalis – The City as a Habitat for Animals and Humans aims to present the diversity of coexistence in all its facets. Visitors can expect a multimedia exhibition featuring contemporary artistic positions that invite them to encounter the animal as an Other—and, through the recognition of alterity, perhaps to reflect upon their own nature.

Following *Die Kunst der Natur ist die Natur der Kunst (The Art of Nature is the Nature of Art)* (2010), *Naturliebe – erneuerbare Haltungen (Love of Nature – Sustainable Attitudes)* (2017), and *Zwischen Wurzel und Wipfel – Fragmente aus dem Netzwerk Wald (Between Root and Treetop – Fragments from the Forest Network)* (2023), the current exhibition continues the thematic thread of nature-oriented projects at Künstlerverein Walkmühle. Once again, it engages with contemporary discourse surrounding the concept of nature and the ongoing search for new ways of relating to and engaging with the “natural.”



Terms and conditions of participation

Artists of all ages from Germany and abroad working in all artistic disciplines are eligible to apply. You may apply to participate in the exhibition with up to three specific works/projects/concepts or series. The proposed works/projects must have a clear reference to the exhibition theme. By submitting an application, you expressly agree to the following conditions of participation:

Application documents:

Applications must be submitted in paper form. Applications submitted by e-mail will only be considered if the applicant's place of residence is outside the European Community.

The following application documents must be submitted **by 31 March 2026** (postmark) at the latest:

- The completed application form
- Specific proposals for works (maximum of 3 works or series per applicant) to be shown in the exhibition.
- Short CV and most important exhibition participations on one A4 page with a maximum of 40 lines of 90 characters each (including spaces).
- Work samples: catalogues (maximum of two) and/or photos up to a maximum size of 20 x 30 cm (no originals, slides, negatives or data carriers). For performers/sound and video artists: USB stick with mp3/mp4 file(s) with a total playing time of max. 15 minutes or a streaming link to corresponding works on a web platform (e.g. Vimeo or similar).

Unfortunately, application documents cannot be returned.

Incomplete applications or those that do not meet the specified criteria cannot be considered.

No separate notification will be sent regarding receipt of application documents. The decision on participation is expected to be made between early and mid-May 2026. The decision will be communicated in writing/e-mail and will not include any reasons. Please refrain from making telephone or written enquiries regarding the outcome of the decision.

The application documents will be retained by the artists' association.

By submitting their application, applicants declare that they are the personal authors of the submitted/proposed works/concepts and that the presentation of the works in the exhibition and accompanying publicity will not infringe the rights of any third parties.

Publication rights, artist fees, subsidies, transport, insurance, set-up and dismantling:

By participating in the exhibition, applicants agree to the royalty-free use of images and reproductions of their submitted works for the purpose of comprehensive press and public relations work relating to the exhibition in both printed and digital form.

In the event of the sale of exhibits during the exhibition, the organiser shall be entitled to a commission of 35% of the sales proceeds. This shall also apply if the application is made on behalf of a gallery.

Unless expressly agreed otherwise, exhibitors are responsible for the delivery and return or transport of their works. Transport subsidies are not granted or must be applied for separately at the time of application. Extensive installations must be set up and dismantled by the applicants themselves (unless otherwise agreed). Insurance cover on the part of the artists' association only applies to works requested by the curatorial committee and only for the duration of the exhibition.

Submission of applications and deadline:

Please send the enclosed application form and your documents by post only, **no later than 31 March 2026** (postmark), to the following address:

Künstlerverein Walkmühle e.V.
z. Hd. Frau Christiane Erdmann
Keyword »urbs animalis«
Stiftstr. 33 • 65183 Wiesbaden
Germany

Please note: Send the documents by regular post. **Registered mail will NOT be accepted!**

Applicants residing outside the European Union should send their complete and scanned application documents in a single PDF file. The submission must also be sent by 31 March 2026 at the latest to the following **email address: v.schmidt@walkmuehle.net**.

Application form for participation

**in the exhibition project '*urbs animalis – The City as a Habitat for Animals and Humans*'
at the Walkmühle Artists' Association 2026**

Applicant / Contact information	
<hr/> Surname, first name	<hr/> Website (if available) / Instagram
<hr/> Address (street, house number, postcode, town, country)	
<hr/> Telephone/mobile phone	<hr/> Email
<hr/> Artistic field	<hr/> Date of birth

Please tick:

- A brief CV including a list of exhibitions is enclosed (A4 format with a maximum of 40 lines of 90 characters each, including spaces)
- Please enclose samples of your work, e.g. catalogue(s) and/or photos up to a maximum size of A4 (no slides, negatives or data carriers). **Please do not send originals!** For performers / sound / video artists: Please send a USB stick with mp3 or mp4 file(s) or a link to a web platform. (Maximum total playing time 15 minutes).

Specific proposals for works to be exhibited (up to three works/series)				
1	Title		Author (if different)	Year of origin
	Dimensions (cm) (video: minutes)	Technique		Sales value in €
	Please attach any additional information (or if there is not enough space here) on a separate sheet.			
2	Title		Author (if different)	Year of origin
	Dimensions (cm) (video: minutes)	Technique		Sales value in €
	Please attach any additional information (or if there is not enough space here) on a separate sheet.			
3	Title		Author (if different)	Year of origin
	Dimensions (cm) (video: minutes)	Technique		Sales value in €
	Please attach any additional information (or if there is not enough space here) on a separate sheet.			

Please include illustrative material with your specific proposals and assign this to the proposals.

Please tick and sign:

- ____ I have read the terms and conditions of participation and expressly agree to them.

Date and signature