

casino

space for artistic research

display

Living up to its mission as a Space for Artistic Research, between September 2023 and February 2024 Casino Display will organise the second edition of its **Artistic Research Lab**. Based on a practice-led approach to knowledge production, Casino Display will become a transdisciplinary meeting point where a selected group of art students can rely on the logic of experimentation for the emergence of uncharted knowledge. Students will have the possibility to think with and experiment along professionals of the art world, whilst proposing a space for trying out unfinished ideas, probing freshly sketched concepts, or reversing solid ontologies in favour of more flexible ones. In short, the goal is to create a space where the drive for experimentation encourages knowledge.

The research weeks are dedicated to **on-site experimentation** and **research**. Furthermore, the first two weeks will also include two masterclasses each held by invited guest speakers. To wrap up each of these research weeks, a public event will be organised to allow the students to showcase their preliminary experiments.

Following this first part each participant and guest speaker will be invited to reflect on a particular topic, idea, thought, question, or experience in the form of a written or visual essay, which will be included in a publication published after the research weeks.

In order to encourage group synergy, the students will be staying in Luxembourg during the research weeks; transport and accommodation will be covered by Casino Luxembourg. Material costs (within the limits of the production budget), as well as costs related to seminars and workshops will also be taken care of. The team of Casino Luxembourg will assist the students all along the research weeks with professional help and support.

# Milieus of [Fictions] in Milieus

OPEN CALL – Artistic Research Lab

## Research Scope 2023-24

In *The City and the City*, China Miéville imagines a territory shared by two city-countries, Beszel and Ul Qoma. They share the same streets and the same buildings, yet they have unlearned to perceive the other side of that shared territory. They live together apart, unsensing one another. In other words, they have changed their Umwelt, their milieu, the perceptual world in which they evolve. They have filled the gaps in perception with historical, ideological and political fictions.

As such, fictions are stories, technologies or systems that are created, as a support to hold the unknown. However, if we draw on George Canguilhem's definition of a milieu as "a pure system of relation without support," then the perceptual aspect loses ground, and the relationality comes forth. Relations are not linear; they emerge through lines of flight and expand far beyond the limits of our milieu. Thus, fictions could never be stable; they are in flux and in constant renegotiation between milieus.

In *The City and The City*, inhabitants of both sides of the divide only become aware of one another when a breach happens, when one of the realities collides with the other, spilling over. Then, the organisation Breach oversees the restoring the dividing illusion. Status quo ante rupturam. The active effort towards unlearning disappeared over time and fictions have become engrained within the societal fabric through repetition over generations; they have become accepted facts. This echoes Timothy Morton, when he says that we are stuck in an automation-led loop, as "automation is prolonging the past for the sake of certainty".

Facing the myriads of challenges resulting of the current status quo, artistic research has the potential to confront systems of knowledge, to question the fictions holding old meanings in place, fictioning alternatives, engaging in fictional and conceptual displacement. Ultimately, it is about breaking the loop of automation in the production of knowledge, and, as Morton argues, creativity is uncertainty and to be creative "would be truly out of sync, allowing the future to happen", to be oriented towards feeling which he describes as "thoughts we don't have yet quite the word for". It is about accepting while questioning the fluid and unstable ontology of fictions.

Landing in a world of unknown realities, out of one's perceptual milieu, one faces a weird shift in perception for which one does not always seem to be able to fully articulate. Artistic research has the potential to move out of the confines of language, relying on direct engagement with materiality, concepts, thoughts, affects, feelings, and so on. Afterall, the thing we have not quite yet the word for could seem weird at first, but as Mark Fisher writes: "[t]he weird thing is not wrong, after all: it is our conceptions that must be inadequate."

## Who is eligible?

Any students who will be enrolled in an art-oriented master's degree as of September 2023:

- either at an art school or university in the Benelux,
- or at one of our partner schools in the Greater Region (ESAL Metz, ENSAD Nancy, HBK Saar or HEAR Strasbourg),
- or who have completed their secondary school in Luxembourg and are currently studying in Europe.

Recently graduated students are also welcome to apply.

**Note:** Priority will be given to students whose participation in the research weeks will be accounted for in their curriculum, for instance as a Practice Tutorial (Fachpraxis, séjour international, etc.), or as an integral part of their research for their graduation project (Abschlussprojekt, projet personnel)

## What is covered?

Travel costs to Luxembourg and back

Accommodation in Luxembourg during the research weeks

Each participant will be granted a production budget of EUR 1,500

## Research Weeks

4 to 9 September 2023

6 to 12 November 2023

29 January to 4 February 2024

## How to apply?

To submit your application or for any further questions please contact Charles Rouleau – project coordinator  
charles.rouleau@casino-luxembourg.lu

Please include in you application:

- A short essay (200 to 300 words) on the place of fiction within your work
- Portfolio
- CV
- Proof of enrolment (if applicable)

Deadline: 19 March 2023

Interviews after a first round of selection will take place between 27 March and 7 April 2023

Announcement of the cohort: 14 April 2023