

# ON FORESTS

## Call for Residency

### 2024/2025

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In collaboration with the Wyss Academy for Nature  
at the University of Bern

Istituto Svizzero

Deadline  
26.02.2024

istitutsvizzero.it



## ON FORESTS

### Art&Science residency in Rome (with research trips)

#### Open call for artists

**Istituto Svizzero** acts as an interdisciplinary platform bringing together artistic and scientific research. From Rome, Milan or Palermo, it facilitates connections both between Switzerland and Italy, as well as internationally. Each year, Istituto Svizzero presents a public programme aimed at promoting forward-thinking events and projects, experimental practices and excellence in research. Istituto Svizzero seeks to actively participate in the global discourse on arts and society, envisioning new paths and looking beyond the boundaries of disciplines. Istituto Svizzero offers residencies to emerging artists and researchers who wish to contribute to the future of art, science and innovation.

Active since 1947, Istituto Svizzero promotes dialogue between art and science and experiences the many benefits of multidisciplinary exchange. Today more than ever, Istituto Svizzero believes that transdisciplinary perspectives are needed both to identify and address the challenges of our globalised societies and to imagine more sustainable futures. Istituto Svizzero aims to strengthen and deepen innovative forms of collaboration between artists and researchers by launching a call for a new Art & Science residency.

**The Wyss Academy for Nature** at the University of Bern is a place of innovation, where research, business, policymakers and communities come together to co-design solutions for sustainable futures. The Wyss Academy's mission is to turn scientific knowledge into action. Combining ambitious, innovative goals with a transformative approach, it was founded to develop innovative long-term pathways that strengthen and reconcile biodiversity conservation, human well-being and the sustainable use of natural resources in a variety of landscapes throughout the world. We co-design and implement concrete projects across a swathe of regions and countries. This global structure facilitates the replication of successes and learning. The Wyss Academy for Nature currently operates Hubs in Central Europe (Bern, Switzerland), Southeast Asia, East Africa and South America.

For this Art&Science residency/ **ON FORESTS**, Istituto Svizzero collaborates for the first time with the Wyss Academy for Nature on the focus topic "The True Value of Forests", within their initiative "Dialogues with Purpose (WAD)". This program aims at generating at global level an evidence-based discussion on the interface of biodiversity, climate change, and land use, by realizing several steps of exchange with stakeholders at local and global levels.

This collaborative Art&Science residency seeks to contribute to the outcome of the "Dialogues with Purpose". It offers an exceptional opportunity for an artist to delve into our relation to nature, and particularly the value of forests worldwide, by exchanging with experts and scientists and relevant local communities. In addition, a parallel call will be launched by the Wyss Academy for an artist from Madagascar. The idea is that the two artists engage in a dialogue amongst themselves and with the community of practice that is being established during the entire process of the Wyss Academy Dialogue on "The True Value of Forests". The exchange of perspectives of the true value of forest will serve as a catalysing mechanism for the artwork.

For the selected artist, the open call includes three steps: travel in Madagascar, exchange with scientists and participation in the local preparatory dialogue in Madagascar (June 2024); participation in the global dialogue session in Colombia or Switzerland (November 2024); a two months residency at Istituto Svizzero in Rome, Italy, during which the artistic project or research can be developed further after the dialogues (early 2025).

The art project should be nurtured and inspired by the participation in the two sessions in 2024, and could integrate the foreseen impact and outcome of *Dialogues*:

- Social and technical innovations in relation with forests,
- Inventory of stories demonstrating how a standing forest is beneficial to the wellbeing of the world,
- Multifaceted system of values of forests integrating different types of knowledge,
- Building of a new and durable community of practice, integrating/identifying changemakers on forests.

We are looking for an artist whose research, work, practice, and portfolio demonstrate a proven willingness to engage in the topic and a keen interest to connect with scientists, practitioners and science/tech partners.

The Art&Science residency/ON FORESTS offers:

- One research trip organized in Switzerland (Bern, 04-05 June 2024, participating in the Wyss Academy Regional Dialogue for Europe)
- One research trip organized in Madagascar (Madagascar, 08-17 June 2024 participating in the Wyss Academy Regional Dialogue for East Africa)
- One research trip organized in Colombia (Colombia end of October 2024 participating in the Wyss Academy Global Dialogue/Event organized during the COP)
- A two-month residency at Istituto Svizzero, Rome (2025)
- Participation in the events of Istituto Svizzero in Rome
- Planning of a small art event in Rome supported by Istituto Svizzero
- Access to Istituto Svizzero's network of contacts in Italy, Switzerland and internationally
- Interdisciplinary exchanges with Roma Calling fellows
- Access to the digital resources of Istituto Svizzero
- Promotion of the art project in the context of communications efforts for WAD by the Wyss Academy

### Conditions of admission

The call for applications is open to:

- An artist active in Switzerland in the following disciplines: visual arts, design, architecture, cinema, literature, dance, theatre, performing arts or music, who has completed a post-Bachelor's study (Master's or other) or has proven experience in the artistic field
- Swiss citizen or resident in Switzerland. The conditions do not imply an age limit.

The duration of the stay in Rome is 2 months. Research trips in Madagascar and Colombia are of a maximum of 10 days.

Applications for shorter/longer stays/part of the programme will not be considered. It is not possible to apply for another residency programme of Istituto Svizzero (Roma, Milano, Palermo Calling) during the same academic year.

### Accommodation and residency in Rome (2025)

Residents benefit from accommodation at Villa Maraini in the center of Rome with breakfast and common lunch from Monday to Friday.

A contribution/grant of CHF 1,500 per month for the residence is provided.

### Dates of residency

Madagascar: from 08.06.2024 to 17.06.2024 (exact dates may vary +/- 1-2 days due to the domestic flight schedule)

Bern, Switzerland: from 04.06.2024 to 05.06.2024

Bogota, Colombia: late October/early November 2024 (global dialogue)

Rome: from 06.01.2025 to 28.02.2025

### Selection Process

Online applications with CV, motivation statement for *ON FORESTS* and portfolio must be sent no later than **26.02.2024** to the email address: [residencies@istitutovizzero.it](mailto:residencies@istitutovizzero.it) with the subject "Art&Science residency/ON FORESTS".

Selection results will be announced in March 2024.