

Open Call: Artistic Residency STSM
Experimental kiln, building with clay and fire

COST-funded Action TOOLKIT OF CARE (TOC), CA21102 is pleased to announce an open call for artist residencies (Short-Term Scientific Missions) at a host organisation participating in the Action. We offer one STSM at Threading Stories, Cyprus (for one person).

TOOLKIT OF CARE is an international Action led by an interdisciplinary group of creative practitioners, academics, researchers and arts organisations that specialise in creative technologies and that have considerable experience in the production and dissemination of this kind of knowledge across Europe and internationally, who have come together to form a “critical network of care”

The network will collaborate to share their collective expertise and technical knowledge employed in creative ways to develop knowledge and methodologies of care. The main aim is to produce a well formulated and integrated TOOLKIT OF CARE comprising articles, prototypes, audiovisual documentation, technical manuals, theoretical analysis, prototypes, and data. It will act as a model of how to successfully share knowledge and expertise across different geographical regions and social groups.

Grant amount: Selected participant shall receive a grant of 3000 EUR,, which is expected to cover all fees and expenses related to the residency, including travel expenses, accommodation, subsistence and production costs.

Residency host institution: Threading Stories
Host organisation city: Nicosia
Host organisation country: Cyprus
Host organisation url: <https://www.threadingstories.org/>
Host contact person name: Teresa Georgallis
Host contact person email: infothreadingstories@gmail.com
Start date of residency: 1st of September 2025
End date of residency: 15th of October 2025

Threading Stories is an interdisciplinary studio based within the historic walled city of Nicosia, Cyprus. Established in 2020, it has evolved from a field-based research project in craft practices, into a multifaceted platform dedicated to the study, preservation, and contemporary interpretation of heritage craft. It is an initiative that works with practice base research and material exploration, integrating artisanal knowledge, experimental archaeology and material culture studies. The studio operates simultaneously as a design practice, an educational environment, a materials laboratory and a curated exhibition space. Through research projects, collaborations, and commissioned works, we foster a critical dialogue between past and present, advocating for the continued relevance of traditional techniques within contemporary contexts. Threading Stories specialises in both textile design and clayworks, two interconnected disciplines that hold deep historical significance on the island and are central to our practice. Weaving, rich in symbolic, social, and technical heritage, forms a key part of our textile investigations. Clayworks encompass ceramics, clay plasters, and natural building, reflecting on the material language of local architecture and traditional vernacular knowledge. We approach both practices with care and commitment, focusing on hands-on knowledge and aiming to preserve, reinterpret, and promote ancestral techniques through meaningful interactions with the material world.

Description of residency

Wood firing is a unique process that combines tradition and innovation, technology and design. It is an ancient practice that expresses our deep connection with earth and fire, elements that have shaped how humans make, build, and live together. It reflects the timeless act of transforming raw materials into something lasting, creating forms that hold memory and purpose. This project invites a resident artist to explore wood firing through experimentation and collective making with a focus on researching, testing, and building together, using natural local materials. The artist in residence will engage in every stage of the process: sourcing local soils, testing and preparing wild clays of different qualities, and exploring various construction methods. Together, we will learn how these materials interact with fire and develop an understanding of the creative and technical possibilities of kiln building. In parallel, the chosen participant will gain an overview of kiln-making traditions in Cyprus, drawing inspiration from local techniques while imagining new forms. The final kiln (or kiln experiments) will emerge from this shared journey, embodying each discovery and offering a space for communal firing and future creative gatherings.

Criteria for participant

For applicants to the TS residency in Nicosia Cyprus, please include the following in your Proposal:

- Motivation: Share your creative vision, interest in the project and expectations.
- How does your work align with the residency's theme and the "Toolkit of Care"?
- Examples of current or previous exhibitions and projects.

Technical Requirements

- First hand experience of building a wood fire kiln
- Understanding of technical and practical requirements to build an outdoor traditional woodfiring kiln
- Good understanding of how to operate a wood fire kiln: how to load the pieces in the kiln, how to control the firing curve, how to control the temperature etc.
- Detailed technical knowledge about this specific firing technique.
- Previous experience in ceramics making and artistic sculptures.

Available equipment and resources

Hand tools and basic power tools for wood and material work
Equipment for working with local soil and clay (mixing, shaping, preparing)
Molds and simple forms
Shared workshop and outdoor construction space
Basic protective gear
Technical guidance and support throughout the process

WHO CAN APPLY

Practitioners/researchers of any nationality or place of residency affiliated with an academic or other legal entity in one of these countries:

Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, the Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kosovo, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Republic of North Macedonia, Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine (government controlled areas), United Kingdom, as well as in one of the EU Member States Outermost Regions (French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin, Azores and Madeira, and the Canary Islands)

Note: Host institution must be located in a different country than the applicant's country of affiliation.

*Examples of such an affiliation (non-exhaustive list): work contract, enrolment in a programme (ie. PhD or Post-Doctoral), voluntary service in an NGO, emeritus professorship, etc

Documentation of STSM: Residents, with assistance from their host institution, are expected to document all stages of their project, keeping in mind the need to evidence the project's relevance to the aims of TOC. They are also expected to share a brief blog post for the TOC website.

HOW TO APPLY:

Please read carefully the application instructions and ensure all steps of the application process are taken, to ensure your application is complete. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

1. Complete the application template which shall be previously downloaded from HERE: <https://nextcloud.anulios.space/s/mnsodig4NTSPpQG>
2. Please include a link to your CV and to your portfolio (if applicable).
3. Email filled application form directly to the host institution you are applying to. Please title your email: "COST STSM application [YOUR NAME]"

Contact details for application submission and enquiries:
infothreadingstories@gmail.com

Submission deadline: 28th of July 2025 at 23:59 EET

Successful candidates will be informed by 10th of August 2025 with further instructions. Please note we are unable to provide feedback to unsuccessful applications.

This grant is part of the COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)-funded Action: TOOLKIT OF CARE (TOC), CA21102 (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA21102/#tabs+Name:Description>)

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