

PUBLIC OPEN CALL

ARTISTIC RESEARCH RESIDENCE 'Archival Body'

Barcelona, 26 January 2026

'Archival Body' is an artistic research residency jointly promoted by the Museu Tàpies and Graner - Centre de creació de dansa i arts vives. It seeks to create a space for exchange and experimentation between body-centred artistic practices and the exhibition content of the museum, as related to the collection. The project responds to the interest of both institutions to encourage artistic research, activate critical thinking and give rise to new narratives through interdisciplinary practices.

The residency offers the selected artist the framework, time and resources to develop a research process, with the methodological, technical and curatorial support of both institutions. This process will culminate with a public presentation at the end of the residency.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The Museu Tàpies is a non-profit organisation whose primary mission is to advance the study and knowledge of modern and contemporary art, so as to better comprehend the world we live in, through the artistic, aesthetic and philosophical legacy of Antoni Tàpies. From a pluralistic and interdisciplinary perspective, the Museu Tàpies strives to establish collaborations between specialists in different streams of knowledge, so as to contribute to enhanced comprehension of contemporary art and culture.

Graner is a centre for creation in dance and live art, managed by the Mercat de les Flors. It promotes and accompanies research and artistic creation processes, exploring issues related to the body, movement and choreographic language. As one of the City of Barcelona's Creation Factories, its main working area is in the support of the artistic community, and the creation of spaces for care and encounter, facilitating experimentation and innovation.

The 'Archival Body' open call responds to a crucial question posed by both institutions: how might the body activate, inhabit and transform the material memory of a museum? In this context, the body, conceived as a living archive, as a place of memory as well as an interpretative tool, might become an active agent in the construction of meaning. The body then reads, queries and projects, thus becoming a channel in relation, in this case, to the content and format of the exhibition.

'Archival Body' proposes to establish a new relationship between the exhibition space and the body as a space of knowledge, delving more deeply into notions such as materiality, gesture, memory and disciplinary limits. The project emphasises documentation of the creation process, with the goal that this material might be shared, leaving its imprint both on the Museu Tàpies and Graner.

The exhibition this artistic research residency revolves around is *Antoni Tàpies: The Perpetual Movement of the Wall*, which can be visited from 12 February to 6 September 2026.

OBJECTIVES

- Promote artistic research related to the body as a site of ideas, memory and transfer.
- Establish bonds between the languages of live art and contemporary museum spaces, encouraging the creation of hybrid formats, transversality and reflection on the body, space and creative production.
- Enliven new narratives and critical perspectives on the archive, history and the exhibition legacy of the museum, including the perspective of the body, physical practices and ephemeral traces.
- Provide support to artistic experimentation and research processes, offering conditions for research and reflection.
- Develop documentation methodologies that express the experimental and interdisciplinary character of the project, including formats that might enable the gathering and sharing of materials and knowledge arising from the process.
- Raise the visibility of the process through public activation and display, registering the path taken.

POSSIBLE RECIPIENTS

The 'Archival Body' artistic research residency invites applications from creators working with the body as the main focus of their practices, and who are able to show explicit interest in research related to the archive, memory, the institution and the exhibition and museum context.

Particular attention will be paid to those proposals grounded in experimental, hybrid or collaborative methodologies, and which are able to incorporate both critical and poetic perspectives.

METHODOLOGY, RESOURCES AND CALENDAR

The timeframe for this residency will be three months, from March to June, 2026.

The research process will close with a public activity, to take place at the Museu Tàpies on Wednesday 10 June 2026, at 6 pm. This activity could take on any number of formats, including performance, live installation, performative visit or situated action.

The hosting institutions will offer the following resources for the development of this residency:

Museu Tàpies

- Access to the collection, library, archive and related documentation, facilitating dialogue between artistic practice and the museum holdings.
- Curatorial, conceptual and production support for the research process, as part of the museum's own line of research on the body, matter and memory.
- Hosting of public sessions and the final presentation, conceived as open spaces for encounter, reflection and knowledge exchange.
- Gathering and preservation of the imprint left by the process, contributing to the creation of a documentary registry that might continue to dialogue with future projects and research.

Graner

- Access to working and rehearsal spaces for the development of the artistic and research process.
- Support for the project from a methodological, artistic and technical perspective, offering assistance in production and mediation.
- Encouragement of collaborative work that might situate the body as the central focus of knowledge and practice.
- Participation in the collective construction of the process' documentation, ensuring its continuity and public presence amidst the live art ecosystem.

The sequence of the process is as follows:

Calendar	TASKS
Week 1	Presentation in the context of the residency, familiarisation with spaces and publics, internal meetings with working teams.
Weeks 2-4	Individual research: visits to spaces, exploration of materials and initial sessions of corporeal work.
Week 5	Follow-up session on the artistic research process.
Weeks 6-8	Delivery of an outline for a final presentation, including technical and material requirements.
Weeks 9-11	Rehearsals and production. Opening of the process to the internal public (working teams and collaborators).
Week 12	Public presentation.

FEES

Artist fees will be €1500 + VAT. The artist will be required to submit a corresponding invoice after having presented the results of the residency reflecting this open call.

Furthermore, relevant fees will be paid for production and documentation of the process, technical production and communication of the project.

DOCUMENTATION

To participate in the open call, applicants are required to include the following documentation:

- A motivational letter setting out the initial premises of the research project to be developed. It is necessary to relate the corporeal and interdisciplinary practice of the artist with research and study related to the archive, memory and the exhibition and museum context, doing so from a contemporary, critical perspective. The motivational letter should not be more than two pages long.
- A curriculum vitae or document reviewing the applicant's artistic career, maximum one page long.
- A document with visual information and/or audiovisual links, featuring a maximum of three recent projects connecting and resonating with the content of this open call. The document may be accompanied by an explanatory text. This documentation should be delivered in three separate files in PDF format. All documentation should be sent by email to convocatories@museutapies.org with the subject heading "Archival Body' Open Call – Applicant's Name and Surname/s]".

DEADLINE

The application deadline for the open call is 16 February 2026, at 2 pm.

The final decision will be made on or after 9 March 2026, and will be communicated by email to all applicants.

The residency is set to begin on 18 March 2026. On that day there will be a presentation and working session at the Museu Tàpies, in presence of the head of public programmes of the Museu Tàpies and the artistic coordinator of Graner.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Artistic interest and critical capacity of the initial premises, as set out in the letter of motivation (4 points)
- Adjustment of the artistic practice in question to the objectives of the call, paying particular attention to working processes and methodology (4 points)
- Experience in processes related to the archive and memory, and work developed in exhibition, museum and/or performing arts contexts (2 points)

EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The evaluation committee is comprised of Judith Barnés, head of public programmes at the Museu Tàpies; Maria Sellarès, head of Education at the Museu Tàpies; Sonia Fernández Lage, artistic coordinator at Graner; and Paula Moliner, project coordinator at Graner.

CONSULTATIONS

For all consultations, please write to: convocatories@museutapies.org