



Ponte d' Arte

A bridge to self-discovery

- Ponte d'Arte (Arts Bridge) is an artist's retreat, residency and meeting point for knowledge exchange, surrounded by 1,5 hectares of wild gardens, on the banks of the Rio Alva, in Ponte da Mucela, Mid-Portugal.

"Artists deserve a place to step out of the contemporary urban cult of speed, to devote quiet time for re-evaluating the quality and meaning of their artistic practice. We believe that slowing down is the secret to developing artist's unique knowledge and pleasure."

Prof Kris van 't Hof & Celia de Villiers.

- **Strategy:** We aim to host expert knowledge exchanges of all kinds and to offer accommodation and meeting facilities for students, lecturers, artists, designers, architects, ecologists, musicians and other creative persons.
- It is a place where both conceptual development and technical skills in different media share equal importance.
- At Ponte d' Arte we can accommodate several groups and individuals who want to work independently, or in collaboration with professors, initiators and/or those who prefer to work autonomously.
- **Location:** A fairly remote village, 30 km from Coimbra with a charming historical bridge. The residency consists of a refurbished neoclassical villa (1930-40) and a newly renovated stone farmhouse (1888) built on top of an ancient Roman road. Accommodation: two 'artist in residence' apartments, two three-bedroomed houses and four studio-rooms (single or double), arguably the smallest gallery in Portugal (a former gasoline pay-station) and three big terraces with magnificent vistas on the river, bridge and wooded hills.
- This complex is currently undergoing conversion to become a meeting centre with large and small exhibition spaces, 300m² gallery/concert hall, video rooms, a conference room, an art library, studios and workshops.
- The venue is not far from: Conimbriga, a unique Roma archeological site with exquisite mosaics, Moinhos (windmills) and ancient stone-age housing.

- A future intention is to establish a 'Museu de Ponte da Mucela'. The cellar of the former stone-built farmhouse with its (fairly well preserved) Roman road is an ideal place for a museum about the historical village and its typical rural environment. There will be no permanent collection, but we will offer a space for educational exhibitions, which can be held by an established curator or a teacher, artist and perhaps even budding young curators.
- **We offer:** A day, week or month's stay (we can accommodate up to 15 people) for a variety of workshops and/or conferences where artists can experience life in the countryside in this forgotten village.
- During March and September, we host international contemporary art students for conceptual development, drawing, painting, sculpture and site specific master classes and workshops.
- For longer term visitors such as: writers, artists, performers, poets, ecologists, musicians or academics on sabbatical, we offer our two private 'artist in residence' apartments.
- We are convinced that the site is an exceptional meeting place. The gallery/ concert hall, studios, accommodation, the landscape, and cultural settings have already inspired all manner of people.
- Seven successful workshops for international University students were hosted in the past 3 years. These students produced an exciting array of works during their stay. We have also hosted a scriptwriter and a professional artist.
- **Invitation:** Make time for your creativity. The setting is ideal for quiet retreats and getaways to focus on creative projects, art-making or writing. Take long walks in nature or in our small village. Fresh bread delivery daily, and fresh fish twice a week, a 15-minute drive to the supermarkets, banks and 7 minutes to a smaller grocery store.

Applications for selection and to share our facilities (state which aspects of our features you are interested in): Please send a 150 – 250 word proposal, CV and 3-5 work samples to ponte.d.arte.portugal@gmail.com.

Workshop Cost:

All artists and students		Mark with an X
€20	room per day	
€15	3 meals per day	
€35	TOTAL per day full pension	
€10 to €30	Additional costs for facility studios /day	
€100 to €500	Additional costs for gallery exhibitions or functions	

Transport:

Air travel to Porto, train to Coimbra. Collection from Coimbra can be arranged. Collection from Porto Airport can be arranged if necessary.