DJERASSI
RESIDENT ARTISTS PROGRAM

Film photography by Jessie Barr, 2025 Djerassi Program Alumnus

2027 Artist Residencies

Program Details · Djerassi Resident Artists Program

For more than four decades, the Djerassi Resident Artists Program has given artists the rarest of materials: uninterrupted time. Set on 583 acres of ridgeline and redwood in the Santa Cruz Mountains, overlooking the Pacific, the residency offers a month to think, make, and wander, all at no cost to the artist. More than 2,700 writers, visual and media artists, composers, choreographers, filmmakers, and scientists have made new work here, sustained by a small community built for deep focus and generous exchange.

2027 RESIDENCY COHORTS

ARTIST COHORT

Session One

FEB 16 - MAR 16, 2027

A one-month residency for writers, visual artists, composers, choreographers, and media artists.

ARTIST COHORT

Session Two

MAR 30 - APR 27, 2027

A second one-month session with an identical program, welcoming a broader range of artists each year.

LEONARDO@DJERASSI

Session Three

JUN 22 - JUL 27, 2027

Five artists and five scientists in residence together, in partnership with Leonardo/ISAST. Includes public forums, features in LEONARDO (MIT Press), and Open Studios.

ARTIST COHORT

Session Four

AUG 17 - SEP 14, 2027

A one-month session with an identical program, open to a broader range of artists each year.

ARTIST COHORT

Session Five

OCT 19 - NOV 16, 2027

A one-month session with an identical program, open to a broader range of artists each year.

Applicants apply either to an artist cohort or to Leonardo@Djerassi, not both.

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THE RESIDENCY INCLUDES

- A private live/work studio with bed, linens, and a workspace suited to your discipline, at no cost
- Chef-prepared dinners on weeknights; kitchens stocked for breakfasts, lunches, and weekends
- Laundry facilities on site
- 583 acres of trails, redwoods, and site-specific sculptures to explore
- A small, cross-disciplinary community of fellow residents
- Artists get themselves to the Bay Area at their own expense; we do not pay for flights or reimburse travel costs. Once you arrive, we do most of the rest: airport pickup and return (SFO) and local transportation during your stay
- A full month of uninterrupted time for your work

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APPLICATION CATEGORIES

Applicants apply in the category that best represents their primary area of practice, one category per application cycle. If your work spans multiple fields, you may note this in your materials.

Literature Fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, translation, and librettos.

Visual Arts Painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, mixed media, and installation.

Music Composition Instrumental, vocal, electronic, and film or multimedia scoring.

Choreography Dance and movement-based practices.

Media Arts / New Genres Film, video, sound, performance, experimental theater, and interdisciplinary or technology-driven work.

Leonardo@Djerassi Artists and scientists engaged in research or creative practice within biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, environmental, agricultural, or related scientific fields.

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IMPORTANT DATES & FEES

Applications open	**September 1, 2026**
Application deadline	**October 9, 2026**
Notifications sent	**December 31, 2026 (tentative)**
Application fee	**$35**

Application webinars: Held at 11:30 a.m. California time on September 9, and September 23.

Applications are submitted online via SlideRoom. Remaining dates will be announced at djerassi.org/apply.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Merit of past work: the strength, originality, and ambition of the work you have already made, as demonstrated by your work samples
- Readiness to engage: your preparedness to make full use of a month of uninterrupted time, and to engage with and benefit from the residency experience at the Djerassi Program
- Potential for impact: the promise of your creative practice to develop, and to enrich the community at Djerassi and beyond

SELECTION PROCESS

- Djerassi staff review all applications for completeness and eligibility
- Submissions are then reviewed by a jury of knowledgeable and esteemed artists and arts professionals
- The jury evaluates each applicant's work samples, statement, and supporting materials, and selects finalists
- All applicants are tentatively notified by December 31, 2026

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WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO APPLY

- A statement of interest: why a residency at Djerassi, how it will impact your work, and why this is a pivotal moment in your career
- Descriptions of two recent projects or bodies of work that exemplify your process and goals
- A résumé or CV
- Work samples: 1–5 items in the formats listed below
- Your website and Instagram handle
- Ranked session preferences. Leonardo@Djerassi applicants apply to Leonardo only and may not list other cohorts
- Optional: a specific project you would like to develop while in residence

A short set of demographic questions is entirely optional and has no bearing on selection.

WORK SAMPLES BY DISCIPLINE

Visual Arts Up to 5 JPEG images (up to 5 MB each).

Literature Poetry: up to 10 pages in a single PDF. Fiction, nonfiction, and scripts: up to 30 pages, double-spaced, in PDF. Graphic narratives may exceed 30 pages.

Music Composition, Choreography & Media Arts MP3 or MP4 files, or Vimeo, YouTube, or SoundCloud links. Please include any passwords; inaccessible work will not be seen.

Leonardo@Djerassi Up to 5 items bridging art and science: images, PDFs, video, audio, or documentation of scientific and creative research.

File limits: images up to 5 MB · video up to 250 MB · audio up to 30 MB · PDFs up to 10 MB · 3D models via Sketchfab

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GOOD TO KNOW

- Residencies are awarded competitively to national and international applicants at every career stage; degree-seeking students are welcome to apply
- We accept artists aged 21 and over
- The Djerassi Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, or disability. All qualified artists are welcome to apply
- Residents commit to the full session; no shortened or partial residencies are offered
- Alumni may re-apply five years after their residency
- Couples and collaborators each submit their own application; if both are selected, we schedule you together. If you do not want to attend a residency without your collaborator, please make that clear
- The application form, résumé, and all support materials must be in English
- Residents must be able to speak English fluently
- We work toward an accessible residency experience, including ground-floor living and studio spaces. Please contact us about any accommodations

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Questions?

apply@djerassi.org