

Rules and Regulations for the University Open Call for Digital Art “Poetic Architecture”

SMTH -initiative born from Led&Go- is specialized in new technologies and digital experiences (www.smth-art.com) announce the fourth university call for digital art.

1. THEME

We inhabit houses, bodies, memories, and rituals.
We inhabit objects, sounds, wounds.
And we inhabit the world.

This call arises from a simple yet urgent question: what does it mean to inhabit? Home is not always a roof. It can be a gesture, a memory, a body that cares for us. Yet it can also be a border, an absence, exile, or conflict. Every room, every object, every corner carries stories that travel with us [1].

We invite students and digital artists to explore the intimate dimensions of inhabitation across all scales: from the everyday to the universal, from the bodily to the political, from the spiritual to the technological. Home can be imagined as a map of references, where objects and daily acts preserve memory [2].

We envision this digital art exhibition as a poetic architecture of the spaces we inhabit—visible and invisible: the familiar transformed into symbol, gestures as channels of understanding, objects as witnesses, and the body as refuge or battleground.

This open call invites a closer look at what grounds us: that which, beyond anonymous transit, connects us to a place. We propose to think of home as shelter and rootedness, yet also as a space that is light, mobile, and ephemeral [3]. We aim to turn the intimate into image, the personal into collective action, and art into a space for care, listening, and transformation.

What if home were not a place, but a way of seeing?

2. REFERENCES

Rem Koolhaas – Junkspace (2001)

A critique of globalized urbanism: impersonal, saturated, and homogeneous spaces

(airports, shopping malls), opposed to the notion of home as refuge, memory, and care.

Emanuele Coccia – Philosophy of the Home: Domestic Space and Happiness

Explores how domestic spaces (bedrooms, kitchens, bathrooms) shape the psyche, culture, and human happiness; how the architecture of home is not only a physical structure but also symbolic and emotional.

Witold Rybczynski – Home: A Short History of an Idea

A historical essay on the idea of home: how domestic life, intimacy, privacy, and comfort have evolved; how cultural changes influence the way we live in our houses.

Bill Bryson – At Home: A Short History of Private Life

Examines private life, everyday objects, and the architecture of domestic space — a rich perspective on how the private sphere shapes our understanding of home.

Kascha Semon – The Habit of Inhabitation

Explores the notion of “inhabiting” from a phenomenological perspective (Merleau-Ponty, Proust), and how preconfigured places and habits shape our relationship with space.

Dwelling, House and Home: Towards a Home-Led Perspective on Dementia Care – *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*

Examines “home/house/inhabiting” from an ethical, medical, and human perspective; showing how home is not only a physical space but also a space of care, subjectivity, and well-being.

Dallas Rogers – The Poetics of Cartography and Habitation: Home as a Repository of Memories (Taylor & Francis)

A study linking memory, imagination, and domestic space; how the home acts as a repository of recollections, transforming lived experience into a symbolic map.

Michael Pollan – A Place of My Own: The Architecture of Daydreams

Reflects on creating a personal space, imagining a personal architecture; explores the boundaries between nature, design, intimacy, and daily life.

Toyo Ito – Pao for the Tokyo Nomad Girl (1980s)

A nomadic architectural exploration that redirects focus from habitat to objects and devices: minimal, mobile structures adaptable to the urban environment.

3. REQUERIMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Students and recent graduates (BA & MA) in Visual Arts and Audiovisual Communication, of legal age (18+), may participate by submitting original work that does not infringe third-party rights and for which they hold all rights necessary to grant to the organizing institutions if selected.

Works created by more than one person (artistic groups or collectives) are admissible; in such cases, the prize will be shared among the group members.

Each artist may submit as many works as they wish, provided they follow the theme of the call; however, the jury may select only one winning work per artist.

4. THE OPPORTUNITY

- Winners will receive a cash prize and the chance to advance their careers by showcasing their work to a broad audience.
- Awarded works will be displayed on more than 150 screens across 13 venues in Spain: CC Lagoh, CC Plenilunio, CC Príncipe Pío, CC Max Center, CC Nueva Condomina, CC Palacio de Hielo, CC Boulevard Vitoria, CC L'Aljub, CC L'Illa, Nuga Castellana, CC Isla Azul, CC Oasis, CC Zielo Pozuelo.
- Selected artists may participate in international exhibitions and public installations of video art and digital art.
- Award-winning artists will become part of the SMTH Collection, with opportunities to exhibit outside the dates of the "Poetic Architecture" exhibition, always with prior notice from SMTH and with the artist's consent.

5. CODE OF CONDUCT

As these works reach a wide audience, please refrain from explicit sexual content, harsh language, extreme violence, or political messages. We encourage works that convey positive and also critical viewpoints grounded in respect for human rights and that do not incite hatred or violence toward any individual or group.

No brands, advertisements, or cigarette packages.

6. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Submissions must be made solely through the link provided on the official website: www.smth-art.com.

- Applicants may submit as many works as they wish, provided they follow the theme of the call.
- Each work must be a video or animation between 1 and 3 minutes long, created using digital techniques and responding to the central theme of the call (SECTION 1).
- Format: Apple ProRES or MPEG H.264/H.265 (HEVC), 30fps or 60fps.
- Resolution: Winners will be required to provide a square 1:1 UHD video (4000 px × 4000 px) that can be cropped to adapt to multiple screen formats.
- Alternatively, UHD videos in 16:9 horizontal (landscape) or 9:16 vertical (portrait) orientation may be submitted, on the condition that a square 1:1 UHD video will be provided when required by the organization.
- Audio is required to create a complete sensory experience.

7. AWARDS

A jury of art-world professionals will select 5 winners, each of whom will receive a €500 monetary prize (taxes and withholdings not included), paid via a single bank transfer within 30 business days from the exhibition opening. For artist collectives, the prize will be divided among all members. The five selected works will be shown on more than 150 screens across 13 venues in Spain.

Finalist works will be considered part of the SMTH Collection and may generate income from future exhibition opportunities.

8. CALENDAR AND DEADLINES

- This call will be open **from January 1 to March 28, 2026**.
- The jury's decision will be announced on **April 10, 2026** on the call's website (www.smth-art.com) and by email.
- Selected works will be part of the “**Poetic Architecture**” exhibition, opening on **April 30, 2026** and closing on **July 31, 2026**.

9. HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Artists interested in participating must submit their work via the online form available on the call's website: <https://www.smth-art.com/arquitecturapoetica>.

Within the form, artists must provide:

- **First and Last Name(s)**. For collectives, list the collective's name (if any) first, followed by the names of all members.

- **Nationality:** country of birth. If born in or residing in Galicia, provide documentation to verify this (National ID or municipal registration certificate).
- **Profile Photo:** high quality (minimum 1920 × 1080 px).
- **University/School:** document proving current student status.
- **Biography:** maximum 200 words.
- **Website or social media:** links.
- **Contact email:** for collectives, designate a single contact email.
- **Work:** upload the original file in the format indicated in these rules.
- **Title of the work.**
- **Description of the work:** maximum 250 words.
- **Year of production.**
- **Exhibitions:** if the work has been exhibited, indicate the institution, place, and dates.

Submitting a work to the call automatically implies the artist's willingness to participate and acceptance of these rules, as well as authorization for the organizing institutions to exhibit, reproduce, distribute, and publicly communicate the submitted works, with credit to the author, through any medium, worldwide, for the period of protection of the rights in accordance with **Royal Legislative Decree 1/1996, of April 12**, approving the consolidated text of the **Intellectual Property Law**.

10. LEGAL NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRIZEWINNERS AND THE ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS

The winning artists will sign a contract assigning all exploitation rights to the selected works, including the right of public communication, for their display during the exhibition period stipulated in this agreement.

Furthermore, the artists will grant all rights to their works for publication in catalogues, posters, promotional videos, websites, social media, and other media—digital, audiovisual, or print—always in connection with the communication and dissemination purposes of the organizing institutions' projects, in their own media or those of third parties, worldwide and for the maximum period permitted under intellectual property regulations. This is without prejudice to the moral rights held by the author regarding authorship.

The organizing institutions undertake to scrupulously respect the authors' moral rights, acknowledging their authorship at all times. The image reproduction rights for dissemination and promotion of the exhibition arising from this agreement are included in the prizes.

If the author has assigned their image and reproduction rights to a collecting society or management entity, the author and that third party will handle that matter

independently of this document, and under no circumstances will the amount of the contract be modified or other commitments generated.

11. PERSONAL DATA

By submitting their work to the call, participants authorize the organizing institutions to process their personal data for the purpose of executing this agreement and to enable exploitation of the rights transferred as established herein. No profiles will be created from these personal data, nor will automated decisions be made based on such profiles. The legal basis for processing participants' personal data is the performance of a contract, pursuant to Article 6(1)(b) of EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR). The personal data collected will not be communicated to any third party, except where there is a legal obligation to do so.

You may contact us at hola@smth.es.