

Situated Creative Practices
for the Pluriverse

SIT-RES at ZEMOS98 (ES)

Future Energies

Terms and Conditions

Future Energies is a research and production residency located in the Cantabrian-Leonese mountain range (Northern Spain). Through the cultural mediation of ZEMOS98, it invites an artist or artistic collective to develop a work exploring the intersections of art, social research and environmental activism, engaging with communities fighting for an energy transition that is fair, socially distributed, and respectful of the biodiversity of their territories.

Institution

ZEMOS98 is a cooperative that has been dedicated to cultural production and social research for over twenty years. We are committed to social change through the design of mediation processes that foster a culture of participation and promote a critical citizenship capable of questioning dominant narratives.

ZEMOS98 has been deeply engaged in cultural mediation practices beyond the institution, intervening in various projects and processes to build temporary conditions that promote co-creation, collective intelligence, and democratic processes.

We use methodologies that ensure equality and diversity in participation, and that aim to explore other forms of knowledge and learning beyond traditional academic language. ZEMOS98 is known for its work across a triad of civic engagement, media literacy, and new media art.

www.zemos98.org

Local Context

In Northern Spain, particularly in the Cantabrian mountain range of León, strong social and environmental resistance is growing against the current model of large-scale wind farm development. Many of these projects are planned in protected areas of high ecological value and represent a new wave of extractivism disguised as a green transition. Far from being a move toward sustainability, these mega-projects are led by large corporations that disregard both environmental balance and the needs of rural communities.

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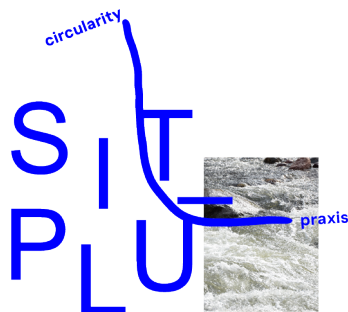
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MEDIATING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

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Local grassroots and environmental movements are raising their voices in favor of a just energy transition—one that is decentralized, grounded in biodiversity protection, and centered on the participation of local communities. What's at stake is not only the landscape, but the future of these territories and the integrity of truly just climate policies.

Key Themes

During the residency, and with the support and mediation of ZEMOS98, we propose as a starting point the continuation and expansion of the Commonsopoly: Future Energies board game prototype. Commonsopoly: Future Energies is a prototype board game that combines the mechanics and spirit of Commonsopoly (a game that promotes cooperation against wild neoliberal privatization) with the current challenges around renewable energy in Spain. It brings to the table the debate around a model that allows large energy corporations to install solar panels and wind turbines indiscriminately in rural areas, where the eco-social impact will be negative. The prototype currently includes a game board, a set of rules, and playing cards.

The residency is conceived as a space for co-creation, rethinking, expanding and testing the cooperative board game as a tool for critical thinking and debate around the energy models that shape and will continue to shape our territories in the years to come.

The creative process will be collaborative and will involve both in-person and online meetings. The artist will work alongside the core working group as well as other groups that may be formed throughout the residency. The project involves the active participation of members of the Platform for the Defense of the Cantabrian Mountains (PDCC), and we expect representatives from other territories involved in similar struggles to join as well.

In addition to their creative role, the artist will take on a facilitation role involving active listening to communities. We expect the artist to be able to facilitate play sessions, gather and analyze feedback from various audiences, iterate on the design based on insights gained, and propose new extensions or uses for the game.

It is essential to understand that the artistic work must be socially meaningful. This does not mean art must completely submit to a social cause or neglect aesthetic or narrative concerns. Rather, it acknowledges that artistic practices often take place in contexts detached from the desires and

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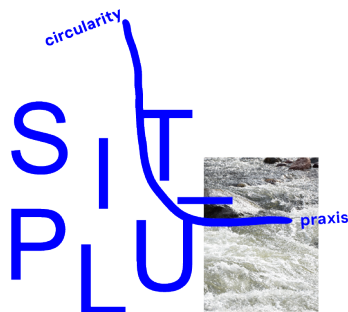
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concerns of communities—and we seek to place the dialogue between art and civil society at the center. We expect the artist to engage with the core group, listen and understand their motivations, and co-create a shared "game field" that reflects their aspirations, demands, and concerns in one form or another in the final result.

The artist should be flexible and adaptable to rural contexts and willing to take on some production tasks, including coordinating participants, organizing meetings, and collaborating in the design of a public program to share the process and outcomes with broader audiences.

Eligibility

We are looking for an artist with ecological sensitivity and social commitment, able to work closely and respectfully with communities engaged in the fight for a just energy transition. The selected person must have skills in active listening, mediation and co-creation, and the ability to translate complex issues into accessible, playful proposals.

We especially value profiles with experience or interest in designing board games as critical and participatory tools. The artist should be capable of developing a game with strong playability and appealing design, encouraging debate, collective imagination, and the exploration of possible futures.

The selected artist or collective will receive support from the mediation team throughout the process and in the design of the public program. They will also become part of a committed and motivated community eager to share spaces, knowledge, and networks.

*The application can be submitted in Spanish.

Timeline and Commitment

The residency will begin in January 2026, and the resident(s) will commit to one year of work (January–December 2026).

The artist must be available and autonomous enough to travel to and stay in the involved territories for at least 8 weeks over the course of the residency. The rest of the work may be carried out remotely or in person, depending on the artist's preference.

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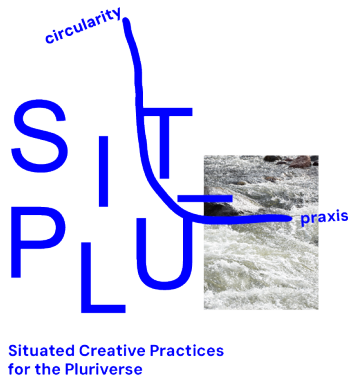
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The resident(s) must submit a provisional project calendar in advance, to be discussed with the ZEMOS98 team.

Residency Grant and Facilities

€13,500 for fees and expenses (artists must be VAT registered).

€10,000 production budget to cover materials and out-of-pocket expenses, managed by ZEMOS98 and transferred to the artists on the presentation of proofs of purchase.

Contact and Q&A online session

Do you have questions about this residency? You can email us at info@zemos.org

We are hosting a Q&A online session about this open call on 20 May, 5–6pm.

You can register [here](#).

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