

# Sonnenbers

## Artist in Residence – Call for applications 2025

### Villa Sonnenberg

At Villa Sonnenberg in Lenzburg, we live hospitality and culture – *honestly, heartfelt, and reciprocally.*

### Sponsor

The sponsor of the Villa Sonnenberg is the «Villa Sonnenberg Foundation», which is committed to preserving and revitalising the listed property. This also includes art and cultural projects as well as *an Artist-in-Residence programme for professional artists.* Through the residencies, the foundation promotes intercultural exchange and international networking. The artistic work of the studio guests should experience new impulses and find time to develop further at Villa Sonnenberg.

### Annual theme

As an artist in residence, you will have the opportunity *to realise a project related to the annual theme* and to participate in everyday life at Villa Sonnenberg. The estate with its historic buildings and picturesque garden has been recently renovated and is open for events, conferences, and overnight guests. Your stay will conclude with a public exhibition or presentation of your work.





Villa Sonnenberg

**Annual theme 2025:**  
**InterGeneration**

«I hope I die before I get old! » sang The Who in their 1965 song *My Generation*, capturing the defiantly rebellious spirit of their generation. Today, as the baby boomers retire, we read almost daily about «Generation Z», described as media-savvy, eco-friendly, but also rather non-committal and work-shy.

Does it have something to do with the attitude to life of an entire generation, or are these characterizations merely gross simplifications? What defines a generation, and what is the point of categorizing people by age? Or does it divide us unnecessarily? Do we have to feel that we belong to our own generation, or is it just a concept that we can safely ignore?

What could a more intergenerational relationship look like? And how do other cultures deal with this issue and how does it evolve?

These questions can also be linked to Villa Sonnenberg and artistic expression. The 250-year-old Villa Sonnenberg has been a country estate, a family residence, a restaurant and, most recently, the artist's residence of the composer, painter, and writer Peter Mieg. Several generations have lived under the same roof, exchanging experiences, ideas, and perspectives. Through this dialogue, the house has been constantly filled with new ideas and revitalized so that it is still with us today. This process should continue and develop.

For our *Artist in Residence Programme 2025*, we are looking for artists who explore the theme of generations in their work, and who challenge and rethink social beliefs.

The Villa Sonnenberg Foundation's *Open Call «InterGeneration»* is addressed to professional artists of all disciplines with a project proposal that has the potential to question existing concepts on the subject of generations, to create new approaches and to appeal to people of different age groups and inspire them to participate.

### Residencies 2025

Studio residencies at Villa Sonnenberg usually last three months:

- Mid-January to mid-April 2025
- Mid-May to mid-August 2025
- Mid-September to mid-December 2025

Please indicate all time slots that are possible for you in your application. Attendance of at least 80 % is a prerequisite.

### The place

Villa Sonnenberg is in Lenzburg, a small town between Zurich and Bern with a rich cultural life. The property is a 10-minute walk from the old town and shopping facilities, with a view of Lenzburg Castle, and is surrounded by a picturesque garden and features a natural water source.

### Living and working

You will stay in a modern studio on the top floor of the main house with a small, equipped kitchen and private bathroom. Bed linen, bath towels and cleaning materials are provided. You are responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of the studio and the infrastructure used. The studio has a WIFI connection. Smoking is prohibited in the entire house and all outbuildings. We cannot accept pets. The studio is for single use.

As an artist in residence, you may use *the studio house* which offers a workshop, a music rehearsal room and the garden.

### Contributions

You are responsible for your *own meals*. The foundation pays a contribution of CHF 20 per day (CHF 600 per month).

### Return journey incl. entry visa

You are responsible for organising your own travel to and from the Foundation as well as any necessary entry visa. The foundation offers organisational support. If possible, the journey should be made by train.

### Personal contribution

During your stay, you will contribute in the form of high-profile events (workshop, exhibition, reading, concert, etc.).

The Foundation also enables you to bring in your interests and skills to the daily life of the Sonnenberg, for example in the form of a cooking event, gardening, or similar. We look forward to receiving your written proposal (optional).

### Language skills

Good knowledge of German or English or French is required for the stay.

### Application documents

- CV with photo & career as an artist
- Project outline with reference to the annual theme incl. motivation for the stay
- Proposal for your contribution to the daily operations of Villa Sonnenberg (optional)
- Examples of your work (including current work)
- Proof of insurance in case of illness or accident (at the latest upon acceptance or agreement)



### Application deadline for 2025 residencies

The application deadline for *all residencies in 2024 is 31 May 2024*. There is no entry or application fee.

Please send your documents electronically to: [artist@villasonnenberg.ch](mailto:artist@villasonnenberg.ch)

The selection will be made by the Board of Trustees of the Villa Sonnenberg Foundation. After the initial selection will be followed by a personal interview via Zoom. The final decisions will be made by *the end of August 2024*.

### Contact

Your questions can be directed to the President of the Foundation Board Ms Christine von Arx: [artist@villasonnenberg.ch](mailto:artist@villasonnenberg.ch)

We look forward to receiving your application!

Address:

Stiftung Villa Sonnenberg  
Schlossgasse 50  
CH-5600 Lenzburg  
[villasonnenberg.ch](http://villasonnenberg.ch)

Studio in the attic



Workshop in the Studio House

