



**Call for artistic  
application for  
the Co-creating  
with Art and AI  
Residency**

## Call for artistic application for the Co-creating with Art and AI Residency

Seeking those interested in digital art, emergent storytelling, and research-creation! A call for art and artifacts that explore, investigate, critique, uncover, unpack, flesh out, highlight, or play with the ethical dimensions of AI and AI art. Applications should be done with a critical and socially engaged perspective.

How can we assert agency in designing spaces and practices where creative processes, AI thinking, and human-centered design are supported and can coexist?

We are looking for applicants who want to explore the ethical use of AI or its creative applications. Here are some of the directions that might be developed:

- **Transparency, Consent, and Privacy** (i.e., models that are trained on artists' work without their consent and lack of clarity around intellectual property).
- **Bias/Prejudice** (included in models' predictions).
- **Explore alternatives of "Western" rationalist-instrumentalist-individualist frameworks and approaches towards AI development (e.g., decolonial and indigenous approaches).**
- **Ecological Impacts** (sustainability, energy for training models, resources for hardware, as well as the rebound effect of this technology).
- **Economic and Labour Concerns** (exacerbation of income inequality, job displacement, collecting data for AI models using gig workers, worker exclusion in the tech sector).
- **Equity and Accessibility** (of AI tools for underrepresented groups).

More details about our intentions and the selection criteria can be found below.

Artists and collectives in all stages of their careers are invited to apply.

To complete your submission, complete [this form](#).



## **Details:**

### **How to apply:**

Interested artists should complete and submit their letter of intent by April 15th. We will connect short-listed artists with AI students for collaboration conversations and invite all parties to a mixer event on May 17th held at Mila. After that, the artist(s) and AI student researcher(s) (if applicable) should collaborate on completing the entire project application, which will be submitted jointly on May 23rd.

### **Compensation:**

If selected, each project will receive CAD 5,000 to support their creative process for the residency. In addition, each selected project is encouraged to partner with a student researcher in AI, who will also receive CAD 5,000 for full-time involvement in the project (part-time is also possible).

### **Support:**

The committee will meet the selected project applicants (around 5) a month before the residency to understand their individual needs in terms of travel support, space, and resources. Finally, teams will be given the opportunity to showcase their work in a public event in early September.

### **Timeline:**

Application open April 2nd.

Submission of intention deadline: April 15th.

Shortlist announcement: May 10th.

Mixer Event: May 17th.

Deadline for the full project submission: May 23rd.

Residency: July and August.

Showcase of the project: Early September.

### **Jury:**

The selection committee will comprise Gauthier Gidel, Sandra Rodriguez, Pierre Antoine Lafond Simard, Eilif Muller, Laurent Simon, Kory Mathewson, Manuelle Freire, and Arinka Jancarik.



**Funding Acknowledgement:**

This residency is co-funded by the Abundant Intelligences research program and a Google & Mila unrestricted gift funding research on the ethics of co-creation with AI.

**Intellectual Property:**

The creations from this residency remain the intellectual property of the participants who created them. The open-source release of developed code is encouraged but not required.

**What to Include in the Application:**

**Eligibility requirements:**

- Completed submission of intent form by April 15th (Documents can be completed in French or English).
- Completed the final submission form by May 23rd.
- Can commit to being in person in Tiohtià:ke/Montréal during July and August 2024 (please indicate if you will need additional support for travel and accommodation, and we will try to accommodate).
- Can commit to presenting a tangible prototype and process to be exhibited project in person on Tiohtià:ke/Montréal in early September.
- Artists who are underrepresented in digital art disciplines and technological media are encouraged to apply.

**Letter of Intent package: (Deadline April 15th)**

- **A short description of the project** (750 words maximum)
  - who are you, what is your project, and how does it connect to the call.
  - **Supporting documents + CV** (3 pages pdf maximum)
- Supporting documents can include literary, or graphic elements.



**Full application package (max 7 pages total):**

The application must be **a single pdf** with the following components:

- **Description of the project** (max 1 page) - the core artistic components of the project, including its concept, summary, and engaging mechanism that complements the selected format. What is the intended audience? How do you plan to implement a collaborative creation process in your project?
- **Statement of Intent** (max 1 page) detailing the artistic decisions and the unique creative obstacles associated with the selected format.
- **Connection with the Call** (max 1 page) describing what approaches will be employed or developed and how they connect to the call. Justifying that these objectives can be met with the AI student researcher(s) (if applicable) and the team's resources and expertise.
- **CV of the contributors** (max. 5 pages); it can include details on the previous works.
- **Supporting documents** (3 pages pdf maximum) including literary, and graphic elements.



## **Intentions for the Co-creating with Art and AI Residency**

**Seeking those interested in digital art, emergent storytelling, research-creation, and more! A call for art or artifacts that explore, investigate, critique, uncover, unpack, flesh out, highlight, or play with the ethical dimensions of AI and AI art.**

### **Background:**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly used by artists and creative industries, promising drastic changes in creative processes, outputs, and opportunities. While creative uses of AI make headlines, they also push for innovation within the research realm, opening doors to unexpected practices and real-world applications. Yet, there is a significant gap between high-level conversations about the opportunities of merging AI and art and how it is affecting artists on the ground. Industries and profit-driven stakeholders look to AI to decrease costs, test audience feedback, and accelerate productivity and sales. In contrast, many communities are often alienated by emerging technology and excluded from the critical conversations about the future of art. We believe that innovation in AI across creative applications can and should be done with more critical and social engagement. As we increasingly use machines to tell our human stories and shape our human imagination, what are the imaginaries we want to build around artificial intelligence? How do we assert agency in designing spaces and practices where creative processes, AI thinking, and human-centered design are supported and can coexist?



**Residency and Events:**

The project ideas of the selected applicants will be presented during the event. These projects can involve AI formally – as an approach to ideation or creation – or they can explore or comment on AI as content for the creation. Each project will be connected with a student researcher in AI to collaborate in the realization of the artists’ vision. The final art pieces or artifacts will be shared at our showcase event in September.

Applicants will be chosen based on the following **criteria:**

- **Creative Potential** (proposals showcase ideas that can engage diverse publics)
- **Explores Ethics** (addresses social, societal, or environmental challenges relevant to AI)
- **Originality of the medium and the project** (we will select a diverse pool of projects and media for our cohort)
- **Focus on AI** (either formally in the creation process or as content for the creation)

One of our focuses is to provide a space for under-represented communities to engage in the conversation around AI. Thus, specific attention will be put on how the media and imaginaries of the proposals as well as the background and identity of the applicants, contribute to the diversity of the discussion around co-creation and ethics.



