



2021





Transylvania Trust is a NGO based in Cluj working in all field related to heritage and crafts, creating cultural exchange locally, nationally and internationally. Currently we launch an open call to artists, designers, architects, makers, craftsmen and tech-savvies. The call for participation in this residency allows primarily two things, time and space, where the creators can practice their craft in a particular context for crafting stories. The Bánffy Castle creates the perfect ground for participants to work and create an artwork, which will be exhibited at the Castle and promoted in the context of the **ARTECH** project. Accommodation, meals and the production cost will be also covered by the organisers.

Built heritage itself, as part of the identity of a diverse Europe cannot be measured by its physical attributes alone; it must also serve people as a vital community resource in which function always trumps form. Heritage sites might be regarded as complex historic objects similar to museum artefacts, and at the same time, they are also heterogeneous sites due to their historical and cultural backgrounds, uses and meanings in their communities. When people of all ages, abilities, and socio-economic backgrounds can not only access a place, but also enjoy, experience it and play a key role in its identity, creation, and maintenance, that is a genuine place making in action. The creating and co-creating of places, forms, meanings and good stories could be a new and innovative way of reshaping historical sites through contemporary interventions.

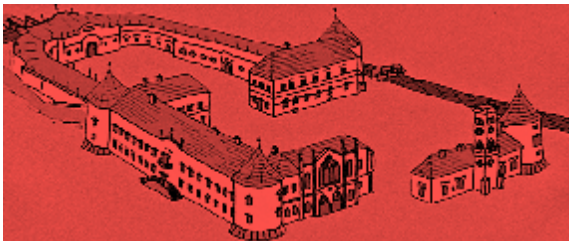
“Like all architecture, a historic site is not a static place, it has a constantly evolving narrative. Contemporary art has the potential to provoke a conversation between the site and its present context. Historic sites are preserved for their cultural - historic value or the aesthetic merit of the architecture or landscape; they have a distinct identity and cultural, emotional and mnemonic associations. Historic sites preserve the past, yet are always in conversation with their surroundings, shaped by the audiences passing through who bring their own contextualisation.”

(Cf. Annabel Sheen, Contemporary art and historic sites)

Rediscovery of traditional themes and ways of creative and artistic expression as an inspirational drive for young artists and creators in the multicultural context, employment of new technologies in design for built heritage areas, transfer of know-how and exchange of expertise are the main goals of this residency.

The context

Formerly known as the Transylvanian Versailles, **Bánffy Castle** was created in the Renaissance period by fortifying a previous manor house with walls and four bastions. The ensemble was surrounded with a grandiose French formal garden, later redesigned into an English landscape park. The Cour d'Honneur hosted the Stables and the Riding School; outside the castle walls a Mill was also built.



The Castle around 1930, as seen by art historian József Biró



The Neo-Gothic wing of the main building is the most prestigious and beautiful part of the ensemble. The main building hosted the famous library, the dining room, the bedrooms, and the wine cellars. On the first floor one could also find drawing rooms: the Blue Drawing Room, the Yellow Drawing Room, as well as the one named after the Maria Theresa of Habsburg.





The context

The most inspiring personality living here was its last owner, **Count Miklós Bánffy**, an avant-garde personality. He was born in 1873 in Kolozsvár (Cluj), as the son of count György Bánffy, and baroness Irma Bánffy. He married Aranka Váradi, and had one daughter: Katalin Bánffy.

He was Member of Hungarian Parliament; Manager and Artistic Director of the Hungarian Opera House and the National Theatre; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary. In 1926 he returns to Transylvania, becomes a Romanian citizen, and promises to not lead a political life for 10 years. This promise has been very beneficial for the development of cultural life in Transylvania, which he helped establish and then supported independent institutions for culture. He became the Editor in Chief for the liberal journal, Erdélyi Helikon; organiser of the writer's meetings in Marosvécs, modernising the Ellenzék periodical, and boosted the Erdélyi Szépmíves Céh editing house's activity. He was also the curator of the Transylvanian Protestant church and was actively involved in the Transylvanian Farmer's Association.

The most important work of Count Miklós Bánffy, the Transylvanian Trilogy, evokes the castle as a location of his novel that is why this place is a powerful landmark to literary pilgrimage.

Programme

During the 2 weeks period participants will take part to formative morning talks and co-producing activities for implementation of their concept and creation of artwork, installations, for crafting the new stories of the historic place.

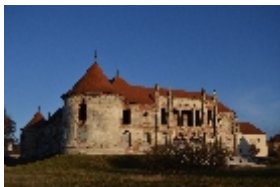
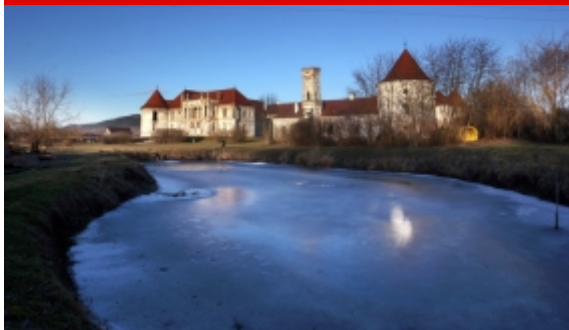
Technical Data

The results should not interfere with the historic fabric of the Castle in any way, and should be autonomous, reversible and removable. We encourage to use traditional building tools, which will be available in situ for the implementation of the concept.

The Romantic facade



The Romantic facade

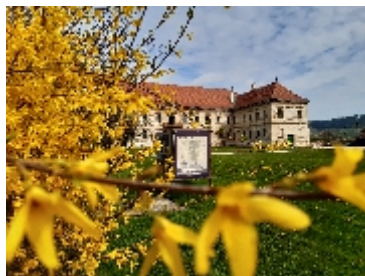


The main building - the former entrance





The main building

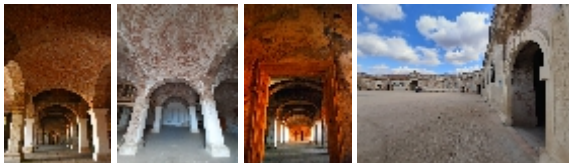




The former Kitchen block



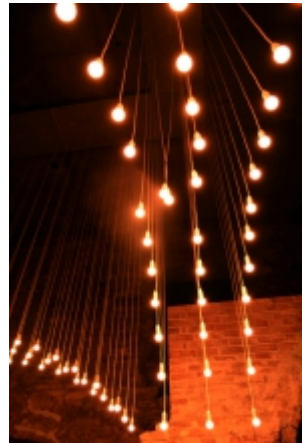
The Miklós building - office, conference room, accommodation



The former stables



The Arts and Crafts Centre



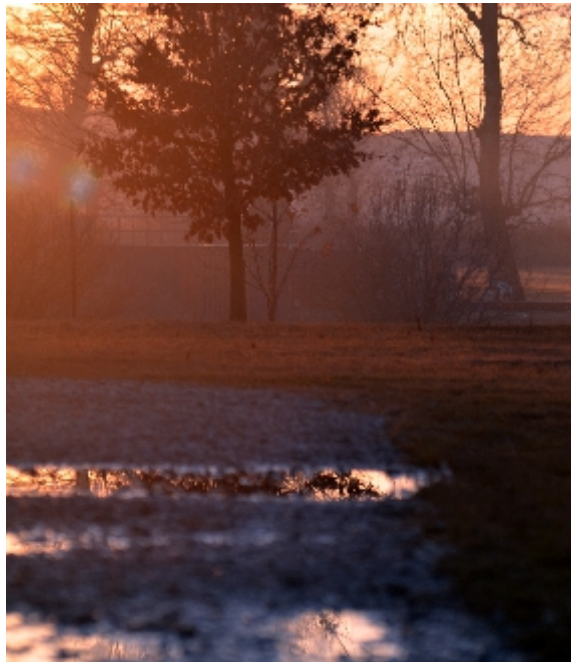


Cour d'Honneur





The Park





Accommodation

3 rooms with 4 beds,
1 room with 8 beds,
1 bathroom





The residency is part of project ARTECH. Arts, Rediscovery, Traditions, Eclectic, Contemporary, Heritage, implemented by Transylvania Trust and its partners: Archikidz, Gjirokastra Foundation, and Comarca del Maestrazgo, co-financed by the NKA and the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.

