

Selection Call for Designers for the Textile Residence 2025 of the "Pro Tessitura in Valposchiavo" Project

Introduction

The "Pro Tessitura in Valposchiavo" project is an initiative dedicated to the safeguarding of the traditional hand weaving craft and the enhancement of the textile heritage of the Valposchiavo (Graubünden, Switzerland).

As part of this project, a Textile Residence will be held, offering an opportunity for three young designers from the Alpine region to collaborate on the creation of innovative prototypes, developing new fabrics that will become part of the production at Tessitura Valposchiavo.

The selected designers will work closely with the team at Tessitura Valposchiavo and the Musei Valposchiavo, using local natural materials such as Alpine wool, drawing inspiration from the historical textile archives.

Objective of the Call

The purpose of this call is to select three designers who, as part of a multidisciplinary team, will develop innovative fabric prototypes using local or Alpine wool, for example by drawing from historical models preserved in the archives of Tessitura Valposchiavo and the Musei Valposchiavo. The prototypes will be produced and realized at Tessitura Valposchiavo, combining tradition and innovation.

Duration and Location of the Residence

- **Duration:** The residence will last up to two months during the period from April to May 2025.
- **Location:** The residence will take place at Tessitura Valposchiavo and Musei Valposchiavo, located in Valposchiavo, Canton Graubünden, Switzerland.

Who Can Participate

The call is addressed to:

- Students and recent graduates from textile design, hand weaving, product design (for clothing, furniture, or accessories), and related fields from the Alpine region (Switzerland, Italy, Austria, France, Slovenia, etc.).
- Designers with academic or professional experience in textile design, fashion, textile craftsmanship, or product design.

Requirements for Participation

1. Education and Experience

- A degree in textile design, hand weaving, product design, or related disciplines (Bachelor's or Master's degree).
- Experience in textile design, preferably with skills in the use of handlooms, designing fabrics for clothing, furniture, or working with natural fibers.

2. Motivation Letter and Portfolio

- The motivation letter should explain the interest in the project, passion for textile tradition, and the cultural heritage of the Alps, and how the designer plans to approach the textile tradition of Valposchiavo within the scope of the project. It is also required to describe how the designer intends to reinterpret historical models from the archives of Tessitura Valposchiavo and Musei Valposchiavo and integrate the use of local or Alpine wool in an innovative way.
- The portfolio should showcase examples of previous work (preferably related to textile design or textile prototyping).

3. Technical Skills

- Knowledge of hand weaving and traditional loom usage, or experience in designing fabrics for clothing or furniture.
- Ability to design and develop textile prototypes using natural fibers, with particular attention to sustainability and innovation.

4. Collaboration and Teamwork

- Ability to work in a multidisciplinary team with designers of different competencies, including experts in hand weaving, fabric design, and product design.
- Willingness to collaborate openly, sharing ideas and creative solutions for prototype development.

5. Motivation and Interest in Cultural Heritage

- Passion for working with natural materials and interest in safeguarding and enhancing local traditions.
- Ability to combine textile tradition with innovation and sustainability, contributing to the revitalization of the local textile sector.

Collaboration Between the Selected Designers

The three selected designers will work together in a collaborative environment, combining diverse skills and creative approaches to develop prototypes. The team composition will be multidisciplinary, with each participant contributing their unique expertise. Possible competencies include **textile design**, **product design** (such as clothing or furniture), or **hand weaving**.

This diversity of skills will enable synergistic work, with each designer bringing a unique perspective to the project, fostering interaction and idea exchange. The goal is to develop prototypes that combine the tradition of hand weaving with contemporary design innovation, using local natural materials such as Alpine wool.

Selection

Selection will be based on:

- Evaluation of the motivation letter and portfolio, which must demonstrate the ability to reinterpret local textile traditions innovatively, using local materials, and the designer's experience and/or skills in textile design and/or textile prototype development.
- Language skills, demonstrating the ability to communicate in Italian and/or German.
- An interview to evaluate motivation, teamwork approach, and the ability to integrate into a group project with designers from different disciplines.

Benefits and Support for the Selected Designers

- **Scholarship:** Each selected designer will receive a scholarship to cover living and work expenses during the residence period, amounting to CHF 50 per day. Accommodation will be provided (single room in a shared apartment).
- **Access to the Archive:** Designers will have access to the historical archive of Tessitura Valposchiavo and Musei Valposchiavo for inspiration in developing prototypes.
- **Collaboration with Experts:** Designers will work closely with the team at Tessitura Valposchiavo, who will support them in the practical and production aspects.
- **Visibility:** The prototypes developed will be presented to the public during a concluding event and may become part of the production at Tessitura Valposchiavo.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit their application, which must include:

1. Detailed CV

2. Motivation letter explaining interest in the residence and the project, with details on how the designer intends to approach the textile tradition of Valposchiavo.
3. Portfolio with examples of previous work (preferably related to textile design or textile prototyping).

Applications must be submitted by **February 3, 2025** to the email address: [info@polo-poschiavo.ch].

Contacts

For further information, please contact:

Email: [info@polo-poschiavo.ch]

Website: [www.tessitura.ch]

Personal Data Processing

Personal data provided will be processed in accordance with the **Federal Data Protection Act (LPD)** and applicable regulations, exclusively for purposes related to participation in the call and project management, ensuring maximum confidentiality and security.