

Open call 2026

AUTO-STOP



Residencies at
L'Automàtica

ENG

L'Automàtica is a collective of graphic designers, poets, artists and illustrators who recovered a letterpress printing shop in Barcelona since 2012 and turned it into a self-managed cultural association. With the printer and machinist as tutor and mentor, we have turned a traditional business into an active space for dialogue, holding workshops, printing jobs, and experiencing and learning the craft.. We believe in the transmission of knowledge, in the regeneration of spaces, in self-management, in the need to slow down the pace, to work from the local context and, above all, to join forces to defend the things we care about.

L'Automàtica is located in the basement of the Gràcia neighborhood, in a space reclaimed for the city that was an old car repair shop. It is an open and diaphanous space, with natural light, and direct access from the street. We have tables for the manipulation jobs, and we have recovered several fonts from print shops all over Catalonia which are closed or in crisis. Among others, we have on loan the furniture and typographical collections of the Montalt printing house from Malgrat de Mar, wood engravings by Enric Tormo or the engravings of various editions of books from the sixties, as well as engravings and typography of Colombia and other countries.

We have among our typefaces the famous Super Tipo Veloz, designed in Barcelona by Joan Trochut in the mid-twentieth century.

Our objectives are:

- To promote the exchange of experiences and creation in a space for reflection and practice of printing systems with letterpress and offset.
- To promote and spread the culture and origin of letterpress.
- To recover the craft practices and technologies that have fallen in disuse in the field of graphic arts.
- To create a space for experimentation and the practice of graphic arts, design and books.
- To stimulate the publication of publications produced using these techniques.
- To organize workshops and meetings that promote the knowledge of printing, while adapting the training offer to the users needs.

- To offer multiple types of workshops and educational activities covering a wide range of specialization.
- To become a meeting place and public presentation of cultural projects related to the values and activity of the collective.
- To become an open space for cultural programming linked to the visual, sound, poetry and other arts while establishing work and research spaces that bring the participating artists into dialogue with printing techniques.
- To foster alliances so that the space remains a living and functional workshop, open to collaboration with multiple institutions and collectives in the city.
- To generate an open space for active collaboration with other collectives, creators and platforms, both in the city and internationally.

At our workshop we have two Heidelberg platen-presses — a semi-automatic Iberica minerva — a universal Iberica for finishing — a Haas guillotine — more than a hundred sets of lead and wood typefaces — a Heidelberg GTO 52 offset — a wire stitcher — a microperforator — two boston-type presses — a vertical press — two test machines.

BASES OF THE CALL

This year, and for the third time, we present this open call for the selection of **3 projects** to be developed in a one-week residency format each. The residency dates will be from **October 19 to 24**, the week of **November 9 to 14**, and the week of **November 16 to 21**, 2026.

This call for residency is aimed mainly at artists, designers, publishers, writers, musicians or any other creative discipline that take letterpress printing techniques into account in their proposal. The call is open to all types of disciplines who want to carry out a project using our tools, space or machinery.

Each of the three projects will have throughout an entire week tutors and technical support, and all the necessary materials (papers, inks, typography, prints...), with a work schedule of 8 hours a day and with access to all our workshop and our knowledge. The specific dates of each residency will be closed and specified later and directly with the three selected projects.

All persons of legal age may participate in this call, either individually or as groups, and in the case of groups, they may be made up of minors as long as there is a person of legal age in charge.

Those individuals who have already been selected in a previous call cannot apply.

Each selected project will receive a single total payment of **€350 + VAT as fees** via invoice in the name of the project leader. **Travel expenses** are also included up to €150, along with a payment of **€20 per day for meals** (5 days, totaling €100). The call **does not cover accommodation** expenses. In this regard, although the call is open to everyone, accommodation—if necessary—will be the responsibility of the resident.

The selected projects must make a public presentation of the final result at the L'Automàtica venue. Additionally, L'Automàtica will reserve copies of the final print run in case the outcome of the residency is in a serialized printed format for distribution.

Although our work framework is letterpress print, we accept projects of all kinds as long as they are related to our equipment, our tools or our knowledge. The projects, in this sense, do not necessarily have to be a work of printing. They can be specific installations that have letterpress and printing at their core and can be carried out in our workshop, or sound compositions made with the machines, for example, or any other format that takes into account our characteristics and the possibilities offered by our space and our identity.

- Selection of 3 projects
- Dates to be confirmed within the mentioned weeks of 2026
- 1 week of residency (5 days, maximum 8 hours per day)
- All materials included
- Mentoring and technical support
- Fees of €350 (+ VAT)
- Travel expenses (up to €150)
- Meal allowance of €20 per day
- Public presentation of the residency results

PROCEDURE

Open call:
from July 15 to September 10, 2026

Resolution and communication to artists:
September 22, 2026

To apply for the residency, it will be necessary to send a proposal in **a single PDF file of a maximum of 10 pages** to the email address auto-stop@lautomatica.org which should include the following information:

- Personal data (name, surname, telephone, etc.)
- Brief curriculum vitae or background
- Description of the project
- Planning the execution of the project
- Printing materials/processes if necessary
- Graphic dossier, briefing or sketch of the project
- Proposed public presentation of the result

You can add other files (videos, websites, audio files, images, etc.) adding the download or viewing links in the same pdf file.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The jury in charge of selecting the candidates submitted to the call will keep in mind a series of criteria to ensure equal opportunities for participation in the residency. These criteria have been established by taking into account the values that characterize L'Automàtica's character and *raison d'être*, the characteristics of the space and the feasibility of the project.

- The idea of the project to develop and the motivation to carry out the residency.
- The consistency between the project idea to be developed and the suitability to the technical and material possibilities of L'Automàtica will be positively assessed.
- The applicant's career will be assessed taking into account other criteria such as knowledge of printing techniques or experience in self-publishing or the realization of similar projects.
- The feasibility of executing the project during the residency period (one week).
- Consistency with L'Automàtica's values and activity.
- Equal selection between women, men and/or other gender identities.
- Any proposal that has signs of hatred towards any person, community or organization will be rejected. Neither will we accept projects with denialist speeches towards climate change, nor work that, in its content and form, violates human rights.

The selected projects can be modified depending on the resources and specificities of L'Automàtica, always in agreement with the artist.

THE JURY

The jury consists of the following members of L'Automàtica:

Gerard Altaió, poet and cultural agent. He directed the objectual magazine "Al Buit" 2000–2004. He has written and directed the plays "Wamba Va!" and "La Belbel Underground" premiered at Mercat de les Flors in 2004 and 2005 respectively. He has exhibited in several collective exhibitions, such as the Beijing Art Biennale (Cafa Museum). He has been the chief curator for the exhibitions and activities of Barcelona as the Guest City of the Beijing Design Week for Barcelona City Council and the Ramon Llull Institute. He currently directs the magazine and publisher Sonhoras and the LP collection of sound poetry VOXXX. He has participated and organized numerous poetry activities.

Renata Gelosi, bookbinder and editor. She directs the publishing house Ninja Papel, founded in Buenos

Aires. She has edited multiple books of poetry and has been actively linked to the creative and cultural scene in Argentina until her arrival two years ago in Barcelona, where she has entered into a relationship with independent publishing houses and feminist groups. She has directed and organized the cycle Guash!, a series of meetings of independent publishers together with Jordi Oms.

Maria Conill, graphic designer and illustrator. She works developing graphic and editorial design projects, visual identity, poster design, and communication. She collaborates mainly with cultural, social, and independent projects and initiatives. She combines her professional practice with personal projects that share a common thread based on graphic metaphor and visual poetry. Her visual language is simple and direct, combining critical thinking, political denunciation, and satire through one- or two-color images with clean, essential linework.

Catalina Giordano, studied Film Direction at the University of Cinema of Buenos Aires (FUC) and a master's degree in Film Archiving and Preservation at the Elías Querejeta Zine Eskola (Donostia, Basque Country). She has recently made "Luz Ígnea," her first short film shot on 16mm, which has been screened at festivals such as FIDBA (Argentina), the London Short Film Festival (England), D'A (Barcelona), and Antimatter (Canada). She currently lives in Barcelona, where she works as a filmmaker and programmer and coordinates workshops on image and cinema.

Dominik Thieme, a German designer and typographer graduated from the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences and the Plantin Institute in Antwerp. He currently resides in Barcelona, where he has collaborated with TwoPoints and Todojunto, among others. He is the founder of the typography and publishing project DDOTT and directs the branding studio ANEU. In addition to his work, he teaches typography courses at Elisava and has been invited to give lectures at industry events.

Laia Guarro, graphic designer. She earned a degree in Technical Engineering and Industrial Design from the Elisava School of Design and Engineering. She has worked at various design studios in Barcelona and Milan. In 2010, she co-founded Creative Affairs together with members of Fragmento Studio. She currently runs her own graphic communication studio. She has been recognized with 5 Laus Awards and 1 ÑH Award, and has given talks at design festivals and in academic settings.

If you have any doubts, you can write an email to: auto-stop@lautomatica.org

