Arquetopia Foundation – Puebla, Mexico
Art History or Cultural Research Residency
Fall and Winter Sessions 2017

**Deadline: Apply Now Through Sunday, August 13, 2017**

Explore magnificent southern Mexico’s unique archives and resources from pre-Hispanic to contemporary. Self-directed sessions of 3 to 8 weeks during Fall or Winter 2017 in the magnificent central historic district of Puebla.

Spaces are limited. Our selection committee evaluates all residency applications when they are received vs. after the deadline has passed.

[http://www.arquetopia.org/our-artist-residencies/art-history-or-cultural-research-residency](http://www.arquetopia.org/our-artist-residencies/art-history-or-cultural-research-residency)

**ART HISTORY OR CULTURAL RESEARCH RESIDENCY**
The Art History or Cultural Research Residency is a self-directed, non-production based, non-instructional residency designed for curators, art historians, and researchers as well as art history, visual culture, and cultural studies graduate students. Residents work independently in our spaces and special partnered facilities. As part of Arquetopia’s mission, we promote international experiences in the field of culture by facilitating research addressing Mexico’s rich and diverse, cultural and artistic heritage.

We acknowledge the role of serious academic study in enriching the foundation for all interpretations of art; therefore, we encourage our curators- and art historians-in-residence to make a scholarly commitment to the investigation of identity in art and visual culture examining race, gender, sexuality, and class through visual expression. Our programs are distinguished for their commitment to international diversity in the approach to art history subjects. We are aware that understanding Mexico’s cultural context and complexity is key for a successful cultural exchange; thus our residency opportunities revolve around researching, learning and creating by addressing subjects that are specific and/or relevant to Mexico.
Each residency is a unique research experience in which residents pursue their own projects free from academic obligations, make use of diverse collections, and participate in the intellectual life of the city. We welcome students and professionals from diverse backgrounds using different methodologies including but not limited to: formalism, social and cultural history, semiotics, and psychoanalysis, interested in immersing themselves in the research of Mexican culture and spending time in the magnificent and historic Spanish colonial city of Puebla.

**Access to Archives, Libraries, and Experts**

We encourage all residents to develop interdisciplinary investigations for a richer understanding of the subject and artistic practice. Therefore, we provide research guidance and access to experts in the humanities, unique archives and resources such as:

**Palafoxiana Library**

The libraries of the religious orders of Mexico were located in Puebla, Morelia and Oaxaca. Palafoxiana in Puebla is the oldest library in the Americas, and is the only library of the three that remained intact and authentic, as it was continuously conserved. The origins of date to 1646 when a personal collection of approximately 5,000 volumes was contributed to the Colegio de San Juan y San Pedro by Bishop Juan de Palafox y Mendoza. In 1773, Bishop Don Francisco Fabián y Fuero ordered the construction of the Palafoxiana Library in the historic center of the city of Puebla to house Bishop Juan’s donation. The walls of the 43-meter-long library were fitted with two tiers of bookshelves made of ayacahuite pine, cedar, and coloyote wood. The western wall displays the mid-14th century retable of the Madonna of Trapana, painted by Nino Pisano. Throughout the colonial period large quantities of prints and manuscripts were donated by other bishops, other religious institutions, and private individuals, and the library grew to rival the finest libraries of 18th-century Europe. The library’s collection grew to over 41,000 volumes in the 19th century, requiring a third tier of bookshelves. The baroque cloistered building still has many architectural and decorative elements, including the original 18th-century wooden bookcases.

**José María Lafragua Library**

José María Lafragua is the main library of the Universidad Autonoma de Puebla BUAP. This University has its origins in the late 16th century at the College of the Holy Spirit of the Society of Jesus, and it was opened in 1885 as the library of the College of the State of Puebla. This library gathers books from some local religious orders and 2300 volumes belonging to the personal collection of D. José María Lafragua and other historical documents. Now, the ancient School is the Autonomous University of Puebla and its Historical Library contains about 90,000 volumes of which over 65% are Rare Books, very important printed books and a collection of newspaper from the 1800s, archival documents and many other heritage objects.

**Photo Archive Juan Crisóstomo Méndez**

The Photo Archive Juan C. Méndez belongs to the Government of the State of Puebla and hosts a public collection with 230,000 images grouped in 15 funds. The collection includes part of the production of Juan Crisóstomo Méndez: negatives, positives, planners, albums and other objects. The mission of the archive is to continue studying and researching visual culture and the visual heritage of the 15 funds, as well as contemporary photography.
Museum of Religious Art Ex Convento de Santa Mónica
The Museum of Religious Art is one of the largest collections of religious art with a special focus in femininity. It has four main collections from the 1600’s to the 1800’s, originals from the Convents of Santa Monica (Augustinian Recollect), Santa Catalina (Dominican), Sts. Joachim and Anne (Capuchins) and Soledad (Discalced Carmelites). The collection contains art work of important artists including: Juan Correa, Pascual Pérez, Juan de Villalobos, José Patricio Polo, Luis Berrueco, José de Marimón, Miguel Cabrera, Nicolás Rodríguez Juárez, Francisco Castillo, Miguel Jerónimo de Zendejas, Lorenzo Zendejas, Rafael Morante, as well as attributed to Juan Tinoco y Joseph Magón. The collections also include gilded sculptures, paintings, books, documents (including recipes), textiles and objects.

OUR ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMS
Our Artist-in-Residence Programs offer competitive professional opportunities for emerging and mid-career, national and international artists, designers, curators, art historians, art educators, journalists, writers, and cultural researchers age 22 and over. Our programs are based on a non-exploitative model promoting social consciousness. Residents are strongly encouraged to explore various ways of cultural exchange as part of their artistic and/or research goals and to actively engage in critical discussions as part of their residency experience. Understanding Mexico’s context, and specifically Puebla and Oaxaca’s cultural complexity, is key for a successful cultural exchange. We welcome applicants from diverse backgrounds and disciplines who are interested in creating work or inspired by art, elements, techniques or processes specific to Mexico and/or unique to Puebla or Oaxaca.

Arquetopia is distinguished worldwide for its array of unique residency programs with substantial content. In contrast to various property rental schemes, tourist resorts, B&B’s, and sublets elsewhere, our residency spaces function exclusively for productive art professionals, writers, and researchers and include structured, informative programs; a network of collaborative workspaces, institutions, and studios; and individualized project support.

RESIDENCY GUIDELINES
- Selection decisions are based on quality of applicant’s work and proposed project. Candidates at all stages of their careers (emerging and established) must demonstrate a clear sense of potential.
- Our pool of applicants and residents is diverse in all aspects.
- Our residency programs are competitive opportunities for artists and researchers to pursue their own work, free of pressure (especially work that in their particular circumstances would normally be difficult to produce).
- Selection priority is given to projects that explore a responsible connection between the applicant’s artistic practice and the cultural context of Mexico, of Puebla, or of Oaxaca. The connection can be as broad as an artistic technique or as specific as a local theme.
- The creation of community with fellow residents and staff during the residency period is important.

ARQUETOPIA
Founded in 2009, Arquetopia is an internationally established, award-winning nonprofit arts and cultural foundation with a social scope that emphasizes critical thinking through artistic practices. Our Artist-in-Residence Programs are the largest and most reputable in Mexico and Latin America, with an array of contents
anchored in a solid structure of collaborations with prominent cultural institutions, renowned experts, and notable artists.

We are invested in approaching art and art history with a critical perspective by understanding Mexico’s complexity in context and incorporating nuances in narratives and interpretation of Mexico’s 3,000-year heritage of visual culture. Since its founding, Arquetopia has raised the bar in the residency field, becoming a reference to every residency program in Mexico and influencing most of them in approaching artmaking with more rigorous practices, critical perspectives, and high standards.

**ARQUETOPIA PUEBLA**

A spectacular, four-story 1939 Mexican Colonial California-style compound conveniently located in Puebla’s central historic district and close to the Zócalo (city square) accommodates the offices, residency space for up to 12 artists-in-residence, and numerous production spaces of Arquetopia. Recently renovated and expanded, the residency offers a large, natural-light studio; a darkroom; a printmaking studio, a ceramics firing facility with a medium-sized gas kiln; a natural pigments laboratory; ten furnished bedrooms; a large dining room; an open-access kitchen; furnished outdoor terraces and viewing decks; a small botanical garden; a research library; and a rooftop lounge with panoramic views of the city.

**PUEBLA, SOUTHERN MEXICO**

Accessible via two international airports in Puebla (PBC) and Mexico City (MEX), Puebla is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that lies 136 km (84 mi) from Mexico City and has approximately 5,000 colonial buildings. With a population of 2.7 million, Puebla is famous for a deep cultural identity, delicious cuisine, Talavera ceramics, and traditions rooted in the 16th-century baroque and enriched by a blend of five pre-Hispanic/indigenous cultures, Arab, Jewish, French, and Spanish influences. Puebla lies 45 km (28 mi) east of the Popocatépetl and Iztaccihuatl volcanoes, giving the residents a magnificent view of their snow-topped peaks. At an elevation of 2,200 m (7,200 ft), Puebla features a temperate subtropical highland climate, resulting in an average of only three days per year seeing temperatures above 29°C (84°F).

**WHAT THIS RESIDENCY INCLUDES**

**Staff Support:**
- Each resident meets weekly with our staff for individualized research assistance/resources, project guidance, and critiques
- Our residencies are process-based; residents are not expected to give talks, exhibitions, or workshops

**Accommodation and Meals:**
- Furnished, private bedroom
- Meals and 24-hour access to the kitchen and dining room
- Wireless Internet
- Use of Arquetopia’s residency spaces including 4th-floor lounge and outdoor terraces
- Shared bathrooms with modern fixtures and showers
- Housekeeping

**Workspace:**
- Personal workspace with desk or table
- Access to special facilities (such as our partnered museums and other research facilities) provided
RESIDENCY FEE, DATES, AND TERMS
Term Length: 3 to 8 weeks during Fall or Winter 2017. Applicants nominate their own range of dates.
Fee: USD $529 per week.
Payment Deadlines: Deposit of 20% of Residency Fee due within 1 week of selection. Balance of Residency Fee due by 60 days prior to residency start date.

HOW TO APPLY
E-mail Chris at info@arquetopia.org
Visit the Arquetopia website at www.arquetopia.org
Complete and submit the Arquetopia Artist-in-Residence Online Application Form, following the instructions on the web page.
Following selection, applicants are notified immediately via e-mail.

Arquetopia is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our diverse local and international community. Arquetopia’s resident artist and staff backgrounds vary in all aspects. As part of Arquetopia’s mission is to promote diversity, Arquetopia actively fights discrimination by offering access to its programs and activities without regard to race, color, gender or gender expression, national origin, age, religion, creed, or sexual orientation.

Arquetopia on the Web: www.arquetopia.org
Arquetopia on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Arquetopia