

# Call for bids



## festival international de jardins Hortillonnages Amiens

15<sup>th</sup> edition  
2024

**Application deadline:**  
**the 22<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (11:59 pm, French time)**



*Panta Rhei* by Barreau et Charbonnet © Yann Monel

Art & jardins | Hauts-de-France  
Festival international de jardins | Hortillonnages Amiens  
15<sup>th</sup> edition  
56, rue du Vivier / 80 000 Amiens / France



une création  
**art & jardins**  
Hauts-de-France

## General presentation

*The International Garden Festival - Hortillonnages Amiens* offers landscape creations and works of art accessible to the public, on foot or by boat, on islets of the *Hortillonnages* in Amiens and along the Somme river. Spread over this exceptional site, these creations pose a quirky or poetic view, sometimes funny or critical but always unexpected, a view on this complex environment, on its history, on its future and on the link between nature and culture.

Created in 2010 by the Maison de la Culture d'Amiens, this garden festival is - since 2018 - organised by the association **Art & jardins I Hauts-de-France**: it is now part of a larger garden project that extends to the whole of the Hauts-de-France Region, the Grand Est Region and also internationally. The website <https://www.artetjardins-hdf.com> allows you to discover the projects in progress. Between 50,000 and 60,000 people visit the festival each year. Many prizes have been awarded to different projects created in the *Hortillonnages*, a 1<sup>st</sup> Special Prize of the International Jury of the European Garden Award (EGHN) was awarded for the *Peace Gardens* in 2022 and a 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for the design and concept of a contemporary garden was also awarded by the same jury in 2021 for the Franco-German garden in Compiègne. Many journalists follow the Festival: in 2023 nearly 80 of them visited it.

This 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the *International Garden Festival* will take place from 24<sup>th</sup> May to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Landscape designers, architects, visual artists are invited to apply to this call for bids to create works in situ in the *Hortillonnages* in Amiens.

A detailed description of the *Hortillonnages* site, where these works will be executed, is appended.

### This project has several objectives:

- to support creators
- to develop and preserve natural and man-made heritage
- to query the feeding function of Hortillonnages
- to develop a cultural project for existing populations that also attracts new populations
- to promote professional integration for young people and people in difficulty
- to participate in economic solidarity
- to develop the touristic attractiveness of the site

## Eligibility criteria

### This call for bids targets:

- landscape architects, landscape designers, architects (**landscape category**) and visual artists (**visual art category**), aged 45 and under who have graduated (born after the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1977).

### The following are excluded from this consultation:

- designers who have created a garden or a project in the last five editions of the festival
- the persons participating in the jury

The organizer reserves the right to invite artists of its choice outside the competition.

Applicants can be individuals or groups.

## Selection

An international jury comprised of qualified members (landscape architects, architects, exhibition organisers, representatives of Art and Landscape schools and community cultural stakeholders) will select applicants.

Applicants will be invited to compete in one of two categories: landscape or visual art. Architects applying in the landscape category must be accompanied by a person with expertise or experience in the field of plants. Applications can be individual or collective.

The Artistic Committee will select them based on the following criteria:

### For the visual art category :

- The artistic quality of the applicant's past educational and professional experience / 60%
- The quality of the cover letter / 20%
- The consistency of the preliminary project with the artist's general approach / 20%

### For the landscape category :

- The artistic quality of the applicant's past educational and professional experience / 60%
- The quality of the cover letter / 20%
- The applicant's innovative approach to ecological and environmental issues / 20%

Generally, for landscape architects, the jury will be sensitive to innovative experiments that encourage inventive approaches.

The *Hortillonnages* can be seen as a productive landscape (market gardening, plant production, energy production, etc.) that generates ecosystem services.

Gardens will have to take into account the question of the fragility of the site: the work of raising awareness or questioning of the preservation of the site as well as those related to the safeguarding and the restoration of the banks will be particularly appreciated.

As the history of the *Hortillonnages* is closely linked to market gardening, one of the selected landscape works will be linked to this theme and will involve a redistribution of the harvests to charities.



# Conditions for participation

## Calendar

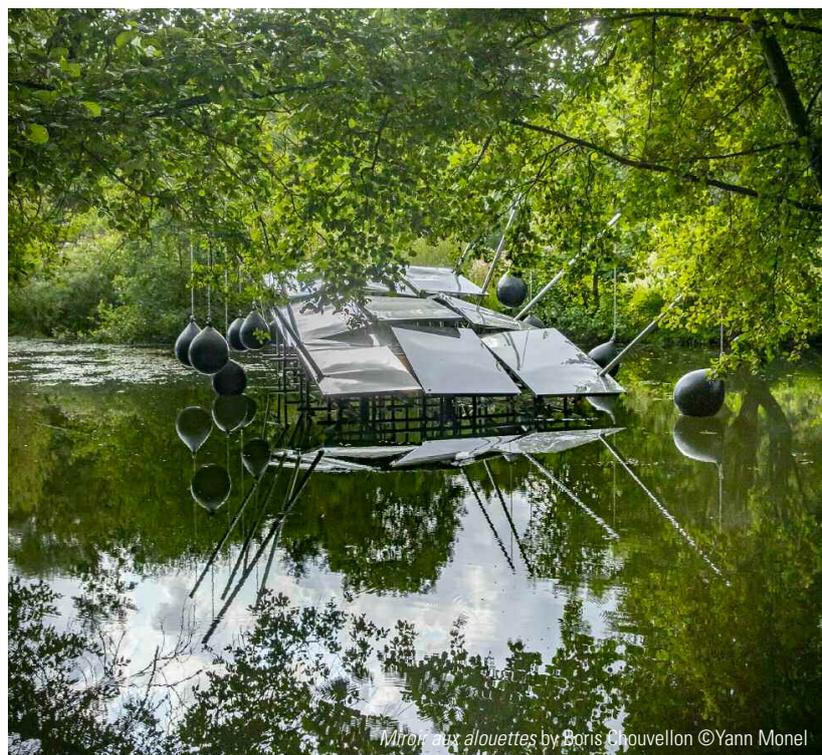
Application deadline: **the 22<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (11:59 pm - French time)**

Selected applicants agree to:

- **from 14<sup>th</sup> December to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023** in Amiens: visit the site where they will be working. The accommodation costs will be paid for by the organisers.
- **on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024** in Amiens : to take part in a mandatory seminar on the site. During this weekend, the selected applicants will present their projects to other selected artists and members of the Artistic Committee. The accommodation costs will be paid for by the organisers.  
During these two days, Artists will then have to specify their project (ground plan; provisional schedule and budget).
- **between 4<sup>th</sup> March and 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024** : to take part in a creative residence to carry out their project in Amiens. Accommodation costs will be paid for by the organiser. Travel costs and food are included in the production costs.
- **on the 29<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024** in Amiens : be present to take part in the Festival's vernissage. Accommodation costs will be covered by the organiser.

## Duration

The works may be short-lived (i.e., present at least for as long as the works are open to the public, **from 24<sup>th</sup> May to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024**) or long-lived (open for several editions).



# Funding

## ■ LANDSCAPE CATEGORY:

**Production budget:** € 12,000 (incl. VAT) maximum, and based on the real expenses incurred for the creation. The Organiser will work with the artists and directly manage this budget.

**Fees:** € 4,400 (incl. VAT) for individual artists  
An overall amount of € 5,500 (incl. VAT) for group artists.

## ■ VISUAL ARTS CATEGORY:

**Production budget:** € 12,000 (incl. VAT) maximum, and based on the real expenses incurred for the creation. The Organiser will work with the artists and directly manage this budget.

**Fees:** € 4,400 (incl. VAT) for individual and group artists



# Applicant files

The files must be submitted in French or English.

Applicant files comprise:

- a cover letter of no longer than two pages (if possible with a visual / scheme)
- an updated artistic dossier of a maximum of ten pages in A4 format including visuals relating to a selection of works already produced by the applicant(s).
- a curriculum vitae
- an completed registration form
- a copy of the applicant's national identification card or passport
- proof of professional status (VAT number, company number registration...)

**Application deadline: the 22<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (11:59 pm - French time )**  
in electronic form (a single PDF document) to the following address:  
[hortillonages.avp@gmail.com](mailto:hortillonages.avp@gmail.com)

You can download the call for bids on our website : <http://www.artetjardins-hdf.com>

For your information, the results of the call for bids will be sent to the candidates no later than 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023.



# Registration sheet

This sheet must be completed and submitted with the candidature file  
**Application deadline: the 22<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (11:59 pm - French time)**

Project title (even if only temporary):

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Category

VISUAL ARTS Category

*You may only be a candidate in one category.*

Individual application

Group application

## For individual applicants

<b>Name</b>
Date of birth
Nationality
Address / Town
Country
Telephone
E-mail address
Website

## For group

<b>Name of group</b>
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**Name of group members participants in the project:**

Please list the person responsible for the group's communication at the top of the list

<b>Name 1</b>
Date of birth
Nationality
Address / Town
Country
Telephone
E-mail address
Website

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<b>Name 2</b>
Date of birth
Nationality
Address / Town
Country
Telephone
E-mail address
Website

<b>Name 3</b>
Date of birth
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Address / Town
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<b>Name 4</b>
Date of birth
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<b>Name 5</b>
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<b>Name 8</b>
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<b>Name 9</b>
Date of birth
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E-mail address
Website

## Appendix

### Description of the Hortillonnages site, Amiens

Irrigated by the Somme and Avre rivers, the *Hortillonnages* (from the Latin *hortulani* < *hortus*: gardens) at the heart of Amiens form a three hundred-hectare mosaic of water and greenery. The *Hortillonnages* came into being when the Somme widened into several indistinct ponds, thereby creating a sort of puzzle of land-based and aquatic terrains. In the Middle Ages, the inhabitants dug irrigation canals by raising levies to make the Hortillonnages an area of productive market gardens. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were as many as 950 such market gardeners (or *hortillons*). The gardens provided the entire city with fruits and vegetables.

The *Hortillonnages* have expanded over time, and today they reach the villages surrounding Amiens: Camon, Rivery, Longueau. Although some of the large land parcels are still being used professionally, only 8 *hortillons* gardeners remain today on 36 hectares of parcels of land suitable for cultivation. Much of the land has been purchased by individuals to be developed as ornamental gardens that can be reached by small boat. This wet, semi-natural area is conducive to the growth of diverse aquatic flora and fauna and serves as a nesting site for many birds. The *Hortillonnages* represent the second most popular tourist attraction in Amiens, after the cathedral.

Created and shaped by humans, these *Hortillonnages* are fragile and require constant care. The areas that emerge about one meter above the water level can very easily become submerged when water levels rise, thereby causing the banks and the earth they contain to collapse. Furthermore, fallow land develops rapidly in non-cultivated areas, transforming gardens into marshlands and making waterways unusable. This phenomenon has accelerated due to the gradual disappearance of *hortillon* gardeners (vegetable gardeners), who had the expertise needed to maintain the sites.

### The project bid site

The site dedicated to the Garden festival is 95 hectares of Hortillonnages, and more specifically, the **Île aux Fagots** and the **Étang de Clermont** (see the appended map).

The gardens are visited by the public, either by foot or by water using electric motor wooden boats that allow them to move from one islet to another from May to October.

Projects must take into account the fragility of the site and the banks : work to raise awareness or question the preservation of the site as well as work related to the protection and rehabilitation of the banks will be particularly appreciated.

One of the selected landscape works will necessarily be linked to market gardening and will involve a redistribution of the harvest to charities.

Water projects are possible, for landscape and visual artists, but the location of the work must be validated by the Organiser.

The visual art creations can be installed on independent parcels (or on the water), or on landscape parcels if the landscape architects agree.

## Obligations related to the site

The *Hortillonnages* are in a natural area classified as *Natura 2000*: the fauna and flora are protected. The use of plant protection products is prohibited. Care must be taken not to introduce invasive plants and to avoid the use of materials that can permanently corrupt the environment.

The *Hortillonnages* being composed of water and floating gardens, this induces certain constraints for the realization of the works (transport of the material in a boat, no electricity on the islands) and for their conservation and evolution. These constraints must be assessed and integrated into the implementation of projects: technical implementation, planning, budget, etc.

This site is a shared space: hunters, fishermen, market gardeners, private owners still have their own parcels there.

Finally, over the years, a heritage of landscape and art works has been created: some fifty works from previous editions are present on the site and continue to occupy the space. Some of them are visible on the website of Art & jardins I Hauts-de-France.

The location of the new works will be done in consultation with the Organiser: it will have to take into account and respect the different existing uses as well as the presence of the previous works.

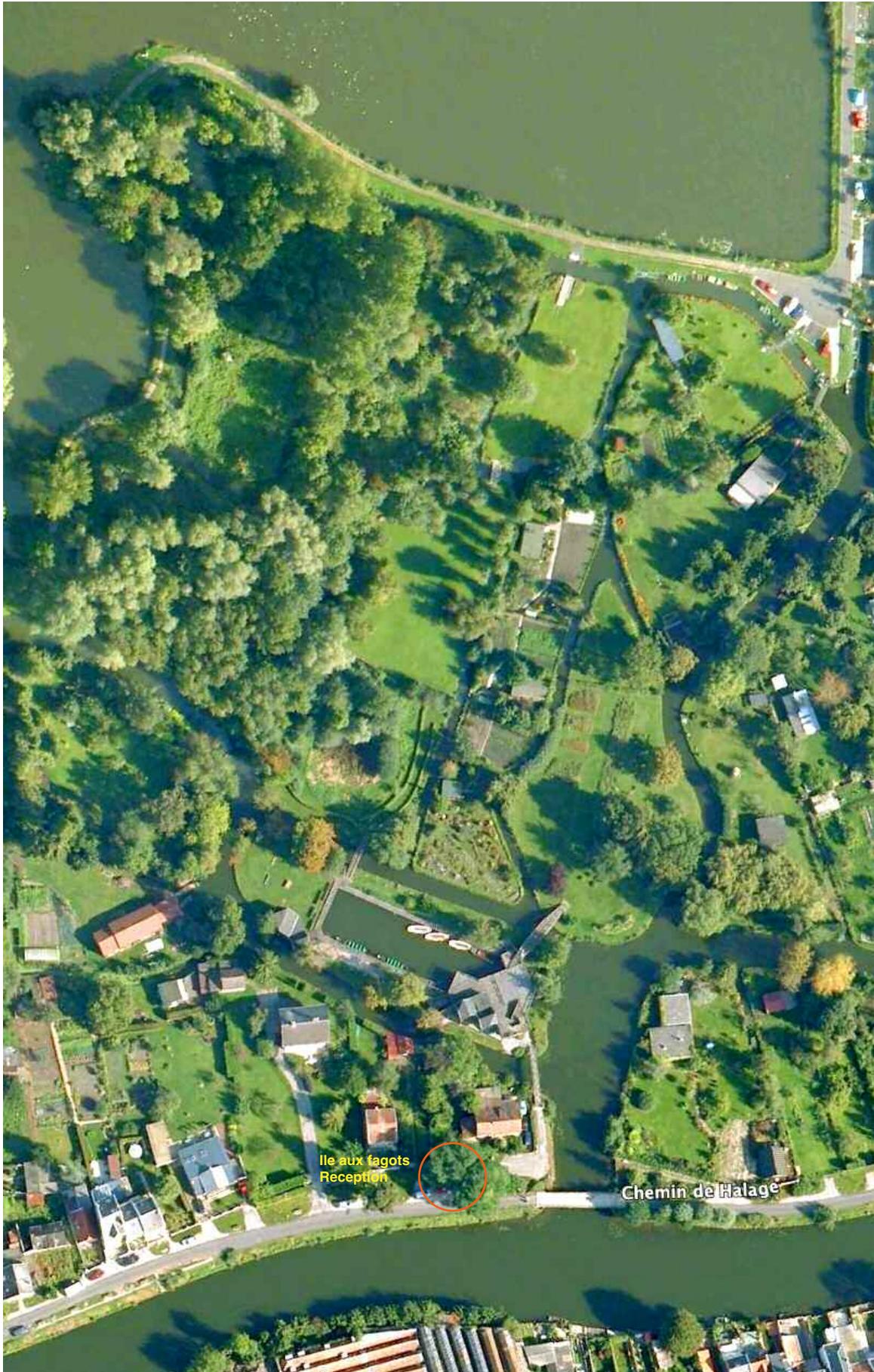


*Cabotais marcheurs* by Larcin/Demeulemeester ©Yann Monel



*Remnant* by Andrew Fisher Tomlin / Dan Bowyer ©Yann Monel

# The Île aux fagots site



# The Étang de Clermont site

