



CALL FOR CONCEPTS



Deadline: 13.09.2026

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Steiger Gallery
Am Bergwerk Reden 10
66578 Schiffweiler

The Steiger Gallery is seeking artistic concepts for the Wassergarten at Erlebnisort Reden.

To apply, emerging and established artists from all disciplines are invited to participate. Regional, national, and international submissions are expressly encouraged.

We are seeking concepts for permanent artworks to be installed within the Wassergarten. The proposed works should establish a connection to the site and engage with themes such as mining heritage, industrial history, change, transformation, the future, the site's architectural features, or the surrounding natural environment. The total project budget, including artist's fee, production, and installation, should range between €2,000 and €60,000.

Selection and Fee:

The Open Call follows a two-stage process:

1. Once the application deadline has passed, all submitted concepts will first be assessed against formal, content-related and technical criteria. Concepts that meet these requirements will be presented [online](#) and on-site at the Wassergarten Reden during the Steiger Gallery's pilot phase from 25 September to 25 October 2026.

During this period, visitors will be able to familiarise themselves with the concepts and rate them. At the end of October, a panel of experts will meet to select suitable concepts for further development. The visitors' votes will be taken into account in the decision.

2. The selected artists will be invited to develop their artistic, technical, and financial plans in greater detail. The selection of a concept and the award of a fee up to €1,000.00 for this development do not automatically mean that the work will be realised in 2027.



→ Technique

No specific material or medium is prescribed for the realization of the artwork.
In particular, the following media may be used:

- Light or media art
- Sculpture
- Sound art
- Installative and interactive works
- Film, murals
- Kinetic artworks
- Land art
- Other techniques

→ Prerequisite

- The concepts must be feasible for the artists to implement independently.
- To protect the local wildlife, installations that produce loud bangs are excluded from the application process.
- Artworks containing racist, anti-Semitic, sexist, transphobic or ableist content, or which are otherwise inhumane or discriminatory, are excluded from participation.
- The concepts must be suitable for installation in a public outdoor space.

In particular, weather conditions and the risk of vandalism must be taken into account when selecting materials and designing the construction.



→ Submission

Applications must be submitted exclusively via the [application portal](#).

- project description (max. 800 characters) – at this stage, a detailed concept is not required; a rough outline of the idea is sufficient. Please address the chosen location, the chosen artistic medium, and the artistic concern that the proposed artwork is intended to convey.
- Project presentation (A2 portrait format) – this presentation serves to introduce your idea, both for the public vote on the website and to the jury. Use this format to make your project understandable through both visuals and text (e.g., sketches, visualizations, reference images, references to the location or materials, and a brief explanatory text)
- Portfolio (with a maximum of 3 selected, previously completed works)
- Additional visualizations, sketches, or reference images (optional)
- Short biography (max. 250 characters)
- Link to your online portfolio
- Portrait photo

→ Information

The Wassergarten Reden is a landscape-architecturally designed area within the Erlebnisort Reden. Located on the grounds of the former Reden coal mine, it is part of the transformation of the historic mining site into a destination for recreation, culture, and leisure.

The Wassergarten is freely accessible to the public 24 hours a day and is open to visitors at all times.





1. WALL

WALL refers to a striking gabion wall within the site. The structure is made of wire baskets filled with stones and forms a large-scale, vertical surface with pronounced texture and depth. Due to its irregular surface, varying light and shadow patterns emerge depending on the time of day.

A gobo projector will be permanently installed in front of the wall, and its projection can be incorporated into the artistic concepts.



SPOTS



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2. SUN DROP

SUN DROP is located beneath a striking steel structure of the former industrial facility at Shaft IV. The area is defined by a large-scale concrete wall, which is only visible from a distance and not directly accessible. Between the path and the wall lies a rainwater basin that – depending on the water level – creates reflections and alters the spatial perception. The combination of steel structure, wall surface, and water creates an open, architecturally defined space with shifting light moods. Permanently installed in the steel framework above the area is the large-scale light installation The Sun, which further defines the character of the place.



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3. NICHES

The NICHES are located along the water basins and are formed by existing architectural recesses and gaps. They lie predominantly in the shade and differ clearly from the open areas of the Wassergarten. Their sheltered position creates quiet, intimate spaces with a distinctive atmosphere and their own acoustic quality.



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4. SANDS

SANDS is located beneath the massive steel structure of the former screening and loading hall. The area comprises two rainwater basins as well as a generous surface filled with grey sand. The open steel architecture divides the space into different areas through its columns and beams. Several large openings in the roof structure allow daylight to enter, creating a shifting interplay of light and shadow. A central path leads through the area, offering diverse sightlines within the space. Mounting systems for large-format banners and prints will be installed beneath the steel structure, providing hanging surfaces for two-dimensional works.



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5. CAGE

CAGE refers to the freestanding steel structure of the former screening and loading hall. The open framework consists of a regular grid of steel columns and beams and ranks among the most striking architectural elements of the site. The structure is visible from a great distance and offers both expansive sightlines and varying perspectives as visitors move through the parcours. Its open construction creates a strong spatial presence and shifts in effect depending on the time of day and viewing angle.

The steel structure offers numerous existing attachment points within its framework.





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6. REED

REED refers to the vegetated wetland area along the tapering rainwater basins. The site is characterized by dense vegetation, reeds, fluctuating water levels, and moist ground conditions. Here, relics of the former industrial facility meet a landscape that is developing on its own. The transition between technical infrastructure and natural renaturation gives the area a calm, primal atmosphere.

Depending on the season and weather conditions, the water level and vegetation can vary significantly.



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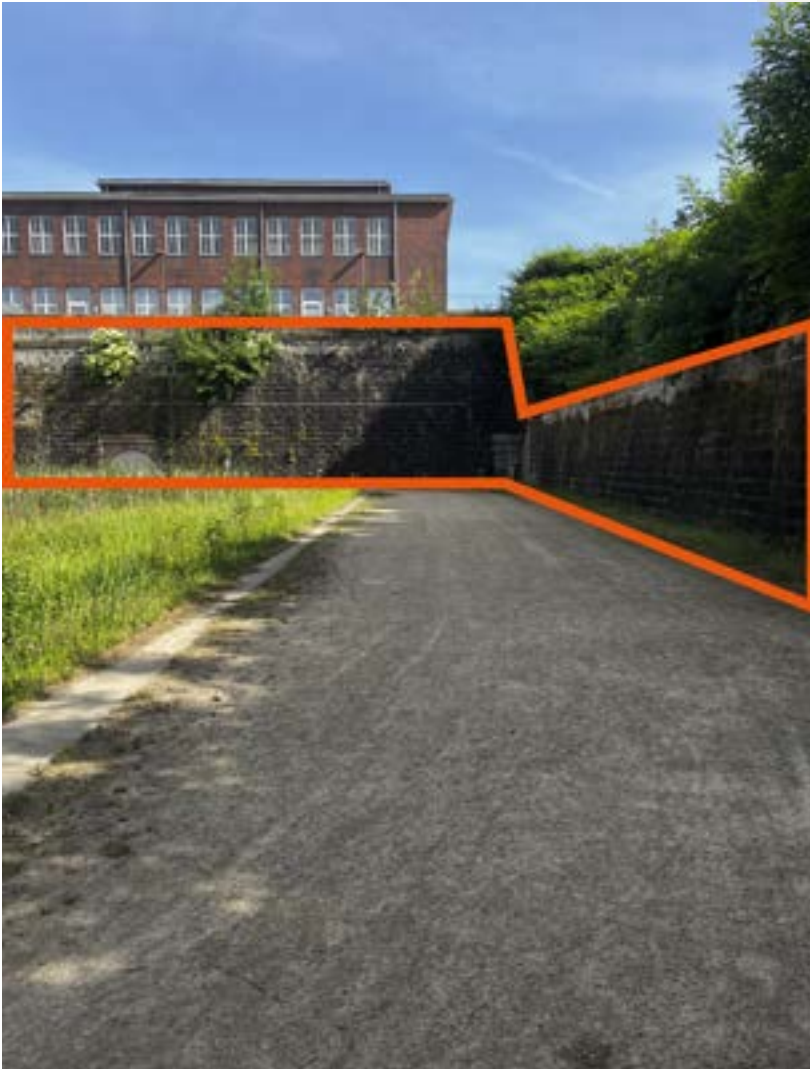


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7. COURT

COURT describes a courtyard-like area enclosed by two massive stone walls. A path leads between the walls and connects different areas of the parcours. The tall natural stone walls create clear spatial edges and open up shifting sightlines between architecture, vegetation, and the adjacent water surfaces. The place feels both open and enclosed, and its linear pathway gives it a distinctive spatial dramaturgy.



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