



American Language Center
المركز اللغوي الأمريكي
Fes

NAWAT FES ANNOUNCES NEW ARTIST RESIDENCY AWARDS FOR FALL 2025-SUMMER 2026

Nawat Fes is pleased to announce our new awardees for residencies from Fall 2025-Summer 2026. These eight artists were chosen from among 215 applications from 61 countries.



Anguezomo Nzé Mba Bikoro

Multi-Disciplinary Visual Artist
Germany
Fall 2025

BIOGRAPHY

Anguezomo Nzé Mba Bikoro creates immersive installations and environments merging sonic radio, archival and botanical acoustics, ritual and live art, de-colonial urban archaeologies, mixed media sculpture, textiles, text, photography, film, and archives. Their work complicates linear readings and representations of histories contextualising para-fictions and black fabulation as radical feminist strategy to disrupt the notion of a single authorial voice. Their work analyses processes of the historical, critically engaging in migrational struggles and creating decolonial, ancestral, psycho-therapeutic, holistic and trauma-informed methods for generational de-traumatisation. They create spaces for untold narratives of resistance movements by feminist communities at the intersections of law, psychology, education, somatic therapy and herbalism. Through ancestral healing, soma-holistic body work and herbalist practices, their critical process turns historical violence into empowering strategies and collective modes of transformational justice focusing on discourses of histories, archives and theories on post-colonialist culture, migrations and identities.

IG: [artist_anguezomo_mba_bikoro](https://www.instagram.com/artist_anguezomo_mba_bikoro)

PROJECT

Anguezomo's research will focus on the historical contexts of healthcare, craft and botanics. They will create sonic recordings of the city's architecture to build somatic therapy approaches to enable immersive environments as 'exit pathways' against racial and gender-based violence. They reconnect people to their ancestries by embodying archives of botany, expanding on collective justice practices through sonic meditations for de-traumatisation. Their research reflects on the complex colonial history of the country, focusing on architectural domestic ruins and botanical plants—building forms of somatic healing and decolonial justice and connecting feminist and abolitionist economies in crafts. The medina's sonic politics are forms of ancestral navigation that vibrate in its architecture and soils. Their aim is to focus on the medicines practiced using Andalusian music and plants at the former Maristan Sidi Frej as one of the world's earliest archived multi-medical psychiatric hospitals, whose practices connect to Black protest ritual and botany from the artist's West African cultural heritage.



ãssia ghendir

**Transdisciplinary Artist & Somatic
Practitioner**
United Kingdom
Fall 2025

BIOGRAPHY

ãssia ghendir is a cross-disciplinary artist working at the convergence of voice, movement, and sound who is currently based in London. Their practice weaves together geological soundscapes, devotional and lamentation vocal techniques, and somatic, non-verbal expressions of voice and body. Through these modalities, ãssia investigates and embodies elemental and spiritual resonance of the body, drawing connections between land and human experience. Their work seeks to embody and channel potent, transformative and visceral forces, inviting audiences into immersive encounters rooted in vulnerability and transcendence. They aim to evoke deep, sensory experiences that resonate beyond language, revealing dialogues between body, land, and memory. In 2024, ãssia performed extensively internationally, in Tunisia, Spain, France, Italy, Corsica, Ireland, Austria, and Portugal. Beyond their artistic practice, ãssia works in a palliative care unit, singing to people at end of life, and they also work with adults that have complex and profound disabilities in somatic movement sessions. The majority of this work is non-verbal. IG: [assiaghendir](#)

PROJECT

During their residency, ãssia will continue shaping a long-form musical piece that interlaces geological soundscapes with experimental vocal work. Through intuitive vocal techniques, they will explore Fes' acoustic heritage—voicing into ruins, echoing chambers, and spaces of deep stillness. Listening closely to the archaeology of the medina, and reaching toward the mineral terrains of the Middle Atlas, they will collect field recordings that embody the untold stories and memories of the land.



Jori Lewis

Writer: Creative Non-Fiction
United States
Winter 2026

BIOGRAPHY

Jori Lewis writes narrative nonfiction that explores how people interact with their environments. Her reports and essays have been published in *The Atlantic* magazine, *Orion Magazine* and *Emergence Magazine*, among others, and she is a senior editor of *Adi Magazine*, a literary magazine of global politics. In 2022, she published her first book, *Slaves for Peanuts: A Story of Conquest, Liberation, and a Crop That Changed History*, which was supported by the prestigious Whiting Creative Nonfiction Grant and a Silvers Grant for Work in Progress. It also won a James Beard media award and the Harriet Tubman Prize. IG: [@jorilewis](#) (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter/X, Bluesky)

PROJECT

While at Nawat Fes, Jori Lewis will be working on a book of essays that examines the stories we tell about the natural and the supernatural, illuminating the ineffable in the world of nature and in ourselves. At its heart, the collection interrogates how we make meaning of the world by reading the land, the animals, the water, and the skies. Using elements of history, scientific research, myth, folklore, and cultural analysis, the collection takes the reader on an expedition through space and time that is mediated by her own observations, experiences, and reflections about the signs we see in our landscapes. Along the way, the collection meditates on themes of colonialism, racism, social and ecological change, and measures the palpitations we feel in the face of heartbreak and hope, desire and distaste, grief and joy. Jori will work mostly on a chapter that looks at our early understanding of science, as encapsulated in the knowledge-making at the world's oldest university, al-Qarawiyyin University, and the stories about the woman who is reputed to be its founder, Fatima al-Fihri.



Krzysztof Czyżewski

Poet & Practitioner of Ideas
Poland
Winter 2026

BIOGRAPHY

Krzysztof Czyżewski was born in Warsaw and graduated in Polish philology from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. In 1978-1983 he worked as an actor at the Gardzienice Theater. During martial law in Poland, he became co-founder and editor of the underground magazine *Czas Kultury*. In 1990, he was one of the initiators of the Borderland Foundation and became its president. In 1991, he moved to Sejny, where he initiated the establishment of the Borderland Center of Arts, Cultures, Nations and became its director. He runs the international flying literary café Café Europa, which he initiated during the wars in the former Yugoslavia, and whose meetings, combining poetry readings with music and discussion, have been held all over the world. He is Director of Borderland's theatrical works, including *Three Women: Metamorphoses of the Medea Myth in Ovid and Picasso*, and *Mystery of the Bridge*. He was artistic director of the European Capital of Culture Lublin project and ECC Wrocław 2016. Krzysztof lives with his wife and two children in Krasnogruda, a village on the border with Lithuania, where he runs the International Center for Dialogue with the Borderland team in a manor house that once belonged to the family of poet Czesław Miłosz.

PROJECT

In Fes, Krzysztof Czyżewski will be working on an epic poem of passage titled *The Invisible Bridge*. Understood as a more capacious form, the poetic tale will juxtapose different literary types. "Passage" refers to the liminal realm, hospitable to transgression. The poem will be composed as a palimpsest of different voices and poetics. It will be written in the form of a testament/manifesto, into which fragments of a philosophical-mystical treatise and excerpts from diary will be incorporated. The right context for his work will be the modern world in miniature. Crisis of multiculturalism. Shadows of genocide, the drama of refugees from the South, the new fascism. The Invisible Bridge once existed here. The secret of its construction has been lost. Deprived of it, the place and the community are experiencing decay. A drama of transition will play out between the Native, the Other and the Stranger. They will have to grapple with the boundaries of their identities, an increasingly common connective tissue disease, and a longing for love that transcends the horizon of their life experience.



Uchechi Kalu

Writer: Poet
United States
Spring 2026

BIOGRAPHY

Uchechi Kalu is a Nigerian-American writer based in Los Angeles. Having lived and worked on six continents, her work explores how her relationship to Blackness, Americanness, and Africanness transmutes as her body moves around the globe. She served as a Poetry Fellow for the 2024 Paris Olympics where she performed at the Théâtre de la Ville – Paris. Uchechi is currently working on her first book, which explores the lost history of the Biafran War and her family’s journey to the United States. She has received support for her work from PEN America, and her work can be found in an upcoming poetry anthology featuring fellow poets from the 2024 Paris Olympics. She received a BA from Princeton University. When she’s not writing, she can be found studying new languages, indulging in Bollywood movies, hiking around Los Angeles, and working as a financial planner.

PROJECT

Uchechi will be working on Guardian Martyr — a debut poetry collection that confronts the silence surrounding the Biafran Genocide (1967-1970). During this period, over two million Igbos were killed following a failed attempt to secede from Nigeria.

The collection seeks to honor the unnamed martyrs of the genocide and poses that, similar to the concept of the “guardian angel,” these two million lost souls became guardian martyrs, protecting the Igbos who survived, especially those who later migrated to and integrated into the same Western societies that funded the genocide. Blending narrative, verse, and hybrid forms, the work weaves personal and historical memory to examine colonial violence, diasporic inheritance, and Africans’ complex post-colonial identity.

Uchechi is particularly excited to be guided and inspired by Fes’ rich legacy of colonial resistance. And to learn how Moroccans define themselves and preserve their cultural identity, all while navigating Western influence.



Vladimir Bocharov

Multi-Disciplinary Sound Artist &
Musician

Russia

Spring 2026

BIOGRAPHY

Vladimir Bocharov is a sound artist, theater composer, and interdisciplinary artist based in Novosibirsk, Siberia, Russia. Born near Leningrad, he holds a professional qualification in Drama, Theater, and Cinema from the Novosibirsk State Theater Institute. His practice lies at the intersection of participatory art, sound, and spatial experimentation, developing sonic solutions for theatrical productions and interactive projects. He explores the acoustic potential of space, the temporality of sound, and the expressive boundaries between audio, performance, and installation. His work is often shaped by the specificity of time and place, as well as personal responses to unfolding events. Currently, Bocharov is engaged in a project-process that investigates the global crisis of communication, seeking both a personal sonic glyph and a universal sonic calligraphy—forms of expression that transcend lexical systems and resist the need for verbal decoding. In recent years, his focus has centered on field recordings and the possibilities of sonic recursion.

Website: <https://presidiomodelo.bandcamp.com>

IG: [@presidiomodelo](#)

[Youtube](#)

PROJECT

“Sound Archaeology of the Everyday” is a process-based project, a series of site-specific sound installations that explore the fractures of contemporary reality—borders, ruptured identities, and the breakdown of communication. Through the lens of sonic archaeology and autofiction, the project traces how deeply personal experiences reflect broader collective disconnections.

The artist conducts sonic interventions in both public and private spaces, studying architectural acoustic memory. Inspired by Amacher and Cage, the project blends field recordings, sonic recursion, and collaging to build responsive environments.

Each iteration of the installation becomes a resonant ecosystem, where sound is not only heard but listens back. It becomes a language in itself—one that seeks to restore lost connections and uncover hidden narratives embedded in place, memory, and perception.

In Fes, this project will invite visitors to enter a space of deep listening, where the universal and the intimate meet through the fragile, fluctuating medium of sound.



Aliya Al-Adwani

Visual Artist
United States
Summer 2026

BIOGRAPHY

Aliya Al-Adwani is an interdisciplinary artist working across multiple disciplines, such as drawing, textiles and installation. She received her bachelor's degree in architecture from Pratt Institute and her MFA from Parsons School of Design. Her practice revolves around notions of place and hybridity. Often through a play between legibility and illegibility, through what can be seen or recognized and what can't, her work lives in the spaces in-between—between borders, between languages, between cultures. She is interested in what gets lost in translation—in the movement from one thing to another, and in the coexistence of multiples.

IG: [@aliyaaladwani](https://www.instagram.com/aliyaaladwani)

PROJECT

Aliya's practice exists between multiple ongoing projects, intertwined by the idea of an in-between space. She sees these as creating a hybrid culture from the gaps and overlaps of her own multi-layered heritage. Fes, as a city rooted in tradition and the cultural heritage of the Arab world, provides fertile ground to engage with the themes in her work—the tensions between preservation and loss, between rootedness and hybridity, between language and identity. During her time in Fes, she will develop the ongoing work, "Phonetic Orthographics"—the characters of a fictional alphabetic system derived from a combination of the English 26-letter alphabet and its phonetic translation into Arabic. Concerned with the fickleness of language to communicate a singular truth, and a questioning of what gets lost in translation, in this system, an alphabet is not fixed, or solid, or a singular foundation, but something built out of pieces of a puzzle that are moving, shifting, changing over time—language as an in-between space, one in which the meaning of things can be found and lost over time.



Arabelle Sicardi

Literary Non-Fiction Writer
& Multi-Disciplinary Artist
United States
Summer 2026

BIOGRAPHY

Arabelle Sicardi is an award-winning writer and creative whose work has centered beauty, community, and political power for the past ten years. They are the author of *The House of Beauty*, a forthcoming adult-nonfiction book on the beauty industry. They are also the founder and facilitator of Perfumed Pages, a scent-centered creative incubator where perfumers and cross-disciplinary creatives work together on a series of prompts and limited-engagement events related to scent.

PROJECT

Arabelle Sicardi will be working on research for a nonfiction book on fragrance culture called *Perfume Kingdom*. *Perfume Kingdom* is a book that transforms the perfumer's organ into a vehicle to travel on through a sensorial kingdom that spans the world. Readers begin their journey with the stories behind the materials and spiral out to the people who farm them, formulate them, shape their stories, shill them, bootleg them, steal them, buy them, and who are memorialized through it in death, too. Scent is an ancient legacy, and readers will travel across time through the smoke of it, like the gods it was meant to honor.

Perfume Kingdom dismantles the convention that perfume began as a European story of luxury and glamour. It is centered around the reality that fragrance culture is older than civilization, and in that centering, it reveals how the oldest regions in the world have created much of the bounty we all profit from. Through this work, Sicardi charts a sensorial map of power, memory, and desire.

**NAWAT FES IS THE ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM OF THE
AMERICAN LANGUAGE CENTER FES / ARABIC LANGUAGE INSTITUTE IN FEZ.**

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