NAWAT FES ANNOUNCES
NEW ARTIST RESIDENCY AWARDS
FOR FALL 2026-SUMMER 2027

Nawat Fes is pleased to announce our new awardees for residencies from Fall 2026-Summer 2027. These eight artists were chosen from among 193 applications from 51 countries.



Felipe Pérez Santiago

Multi-Disciplinary Composer & Musician
Mexico
Fall 2026

BIOGRAPHY

Felipe Pérez Santiago is an award-winning composer and conductor whose work has been recognized throughout Europe, the United States, Latin America, and Asia. He has composed for world-renowned orchestras and held residencies as a guest artist and educator at leading international universities and conservatories. With a portfolio spanning over 40 countries, his music is featured in nearly 30 discographic productions, as well as films, contemporary dance, video art, and multimedia installations. He is the founder of Vórtice Ensamble and Vórtice Orquesta—both based at the historic Churubusco Studios—and currently serves as the musical director of the acclaimed ONIX Ensamble. A pioneer in bridging art and science, Pérez Santiago collaborated with the SETI Institute in California to create “The Earthling Project.” In partnership with NASA, this initiative successfully sent a disc representing the collective sounds of humanity to the lunar surface, where it remains today as a cultural archive for the future.
Instagram: @felipeperezsantiago
Website: felipeperezsantiago.net

PROJECT

Felipe Pérez Santiago’s project, “Resonant Labyrinths,” focuses on the shared musical DNA found in Moroccan traditions and Mexican folk styles such as Son Jarocho. The core of his work in Fes is a direct exchange with local musicians. By bringing the Jarana, a traditional Mexican stringed instrument, into sessions with local artists, he intends to find a common language between their scales and histories. These collaborations, along with field recordings of the Fes medina and the local environments, will be processed through electronic synthesis to create an electroacoustic composition. The project explores how folk heritage can be reimagined through technology without losing its soul. This dialogue will lead to “Sincronía,” a live concert where Felipe Pérez Santiago and local performers merge acoustic textures with electronics, marking a sonic path from ancestral roots to a contemporary global sound.



Danielle Wolff

Screenwriter
USA
Fall 2026

BIOGRAPHY

Danielle Wolff has written and produced numerous television series, including the 2025 Netflix hit Winx Club: The Magic Is Back, Marvel's Ultimate Spider-Man, Avengers Assemble, Guardians of the Galaxy, and Marvel Rising: Playing with Fire. She has also written for prime-time dramas Wicked Wicked Games and American Heiress, as well as for films and web series across multiple genres. Her work on an alternate reality game for the series Kyle XY received an Interactive Media Programming Emmy nomination. She is currently developing and writing television projects in Poland, Italy, and Canada, and her action-drama series Syros is in development in Greece. In addition to her writing and producing work, Danielle frequently speaks on storytelling, transnational production, and creative collaboration. She has been a guest speaker at film festivals and universities in the US, the UK, Cyprus, and Greece.
Website: daniellewolff.com

PROJECT

While in Fes, Danielle will be developing a television project that sits at the intersection of geopolitical fiction, speculative science, and character drama. The series moves across international settings, using the tradecraft of cross-border espionage and cutting-edge science as a framework that forces the characters and the audience to confront questions of what it means to measure a life in time, how identity accumulates and shifts across decades of experience, and how much truth we owe to the people we love. Because part of the series takes place in Morocco, the residency in Fes will help work toward representation that's as authentic as possible while building collaborative relationships with the local creative community. The series is built for international coproduction, which brings together creative cultures to make work that reflects the full complexity of an interconnected world.



Dimitrea Tokunbo

Cartoonist, Memoirist, & Painter
USA
Winter 2027

BIOGRAPHY

Dimitrea Tokunbo is a writer, researcher and cartoonist living in Oakland, California. Tokunbo's comics combine her love for the musicality of language, her fascination with history, and her compulsion to draw pictures. She has published children's books with Tilbury House, Boyds Mills Press, and Scholastic Press, and created artwork for Harriet's Apothecary, The Center for Anti-Violence Education, and Brooklyn's Children's Museum. Tokunbo completed an MFA in Comics at California College of the Arts in San Francisco, California, after raising her family in Brooklyn, New York. Her current project is a graphic hybrid memoir blending a biography of the 18th-century poet Phillis Wheatley with her own journey creating books.
Instagram: @comix.dimitrea
Facebook: Dimi Comix
Website: dimitrea.com

PROJECT

At Nawat Fes, Dimitrea Tokunbo will be working on a graphic hybrid memoir that interweaves the lives of two Black women book creators, herself and the 18th-century poet Phillis Wheatley. Though separated by centuries, they both grappled with the challenges of being young Black artists in an American context. Dimitrea and Phillis Wheatley are tethered by an uncanny link across time, somatic memories of West African cultural heritage and aesthetics influenced by Islam. Highlighting women who found power and purpose despite systemic erasure, Dimitrea Tokunbo braids personal and ancestral stories to examine the present.

Graphic memoir and nonfiction comics have proven to be effective ways to explore history, identity, and social issues. This motivates Dimitrea to teach comic memoir workshops and build inclusive spaces to amplify marginalized voices. Celebrating the creativity that fosters liberation, she is excited to experience connection within a thriving range of artistic traditions as well as the rhythms of daily life in the ancient medina of Fes.



Sandra Lawson-Ndu

Composer, Vocalist, and Music Producer
USA
Winter 2027

BIOGRAPHY

Sandra Lawson-Ndu works as a composer, vocalist, music supervisor and producer for podcasts, visual art, film, and dance. Her work and the work that she's aligned with over the last few years consider how misrepresentation and exclusion in social storytelling contribute to cultural erasure, the myth of monsters, and an overall disconnection with ourselves and our communities. As a musician, her commitment to movement-building has taken the form of storytelling and creating spaces for others to do the same. She believes that by archiving new stories and possibilities onto our timelines, we contribute to building empathy and collectively reinforcing our ability to shape a more liberated world. She worked as the music supervisor for Mind Your Own, a podcast produced by Lemonade Media that brings together a deeply textured tapestry of African stories. Her focus has deepened at the intersection of creative expression, mental health, and collective wellness, particularly in how shared practices of sound and storytelling can reconnect us to land, place, and one another.

PROJECT

Synth Sensory Scores is a music technology project exploring music as a tool for deep listening, communal healing, and connection to land. It takes the form of a sensory scoring web page and a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) designed to be used by anyone, regardless of musical or technical experience. The goal is to create a deeply personal and flexible space for people to compose sensory scores that reflect both their inner and outer landscapes. The eventual site will serve as both a personal and communal sound archive, a place where users can contribute their own recordings, layer and respond to others, and develop a shared musical language of care and connection. The foundation of the system is an evolving sound library that allows one to engage intuitively with sound as material for emotional mapping, reflection, and care, with themselves or in community.

During the residency, Sandra will compose a range of musical gestures and textures for the sound library. Through sonic journaling and situational awareness, she will explore how musical gestures surface through interaction with community, land, atmosphere, and architecture and how they shape our emotional and physical states. Sound creation and collection will include field recordings, both raw and experimental, as well as composed musical phrases on synthesizers and found objects. Research will also consider how music has been used for wellness in ancient, non-Western, and some Indigenous practices, even when not explicitly defined as wellness practices, and whether specific resonant tones or frequencies contribute to health and care.

Sandra is curious about the layered history of Fes, its role as a site of learning, craft, and transmission, and how the city’s sonic environments, rhythms, and histories might quietly inform the textures, gestures, and listening practices that emerge through this work.



Christina Villamor

Visual Artist
USA
Spring 2027

BIOGRAPHY

Christina Villamor is a Cuban-American artist, fashion archivist, and filmmaker based in Los Angeles. Her interest in storytelling and myth enters her work through photography, video, sculpture, fiber, and installation. Her practice focuses on the production and commercialization of the cultural imaginary surrounding Florida, her home state. The relationship of aquatic and climate change to the Anthropocene, the historical narratives surrounding cultural erasure and socioeconomic disparities are all part of the aggregated story that she wishes to tell. Her research-based practice additionally consists of hybrid Caribbean religious practices and its subsequent institutional clashes, film history and theory, pop-culture studies, industrialization, geological deep time, folklore, and the climate crisis. Her study of these disparate subjects resonate in her hometown of Miami and in Florida, Cuba, and the Caribbean as sites of colonial inscription. Villamor received a Bachelor of Science in motion pictures and studio art from the University of Miami and a Master of Fine Arts from California State University Long Beach in Photography.
Instagram: @christinanicotina
Website: christinavillamor.com

PROJECT

At Nawat Fes, Christina Villamor will create a weaving installation that bridges her practice of net-based textile composites with traditional Moroccan weaving techniques. Over two months, she plans to work with local weavers to learn traditional methods while sharing her approach of incorporating found materials: repurposed e-waste, plastics, and neon. The project centers on creating hybrid weavings that document this exchange, holding both approaches in dialogue. Inspired by Leonora Tawney's philosophy of weaving as knowledge-mapping, Christina views each piece as an imprint of cultural exchange and shared labor. Her focus is reciprocal; final works will reflect collaborative authorship, with local artisans as co-creators. Her practice, grounded in Afro-Cuban altar-making, translates naturally to collaborative creation as spiritual practice. She will host open studio sessions where community members can contribute found objects or materials of local significance, creating a collective material archive woven into the final pieces.



Erica Dincalci

Interdisciplinary Fiber Artist
USA
Spring 2027

BIOGRAPHY

Erica Dincalci is an interdisciplinary fiber artist born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, California. Her weavings investigate sentimental patterns and consider the way they persist through generations and culture. In vibrant, abstract cut-up weavings, the patterns are broken and healed through a resilient stitch. She attended Waldorf high school, New York University, and California College of the Arts for her BFA. After undergrad, she had trouble finding her place. During that time, the intimate act of creating art helped refocus her life. She went on to receive an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago from the Fiber and Material Studies department. Her work has been featured in exhibitions nationally, including at the de Young Museum, diRosa Center for Contemporary Art, MarinMOCA, Spring/Break Art Show, Sebastopol Center for the Arts, Georgetown Art Center and Co-Prosperity. She has been featured in Fiber Art Now, KRON4 New, and Surface Design Association Blog. Selected awards include CERF+ Get Ready Grant, Atlantic Center for the Arts Residency, Haystack Open Studio Residency, SebArts Artist Accelerator Program and the digital weaving residency at Praxis Fiber Workshop.
Instagram: @ericadincalciart
Website: ericadincalci.com

PROJECT

In her weavings, Erica Dincalci investigates sentimental patterns and considers the ways they persist throughout our lives—how psychological traits, gestures, skills, and motifs carry forward through generations. During her residency at Nawat Fes, she will study the patterns of Fes and Morocco found on tiles, weavings, rugs, paintings, textiles and architecture. This pattern study will transform into a series of weavings made on a tapestry loom and draw from local weaving methods. The chosen fiber materials will be informed by visits to local weavers, tanneries, dye workshops, spinners, and yarn shops. These materials reflect the local culture, agriculture, economy, colors and traditions of Fes. Through the investigation, weavings and compiling of repeat patterns we can deepen our knowledge of how culture is transmitted and illuminate their power over history and our everyday. This project explores the resonance of Moroccan repeat patterns within contemporary expression, examining how motifs, like culture and identity, express, transform, and renew.



A. Van Jordan

Poet & Writer of Literary Non-Fiction
USA
Summer 2027

BIOGRAPHY

A. Van Jordan is the author of five collections of poetry: *Rise*, which won the PEN/Oakland Josephine Miles Award (Tia Chucha Press, 2001); *M-A-C-N-O-L-I-A*, (2005), which was listed as one the Best Books of 2005 by *The London Times; Quantum Lyrics,* (2007); and *The Cineaste*, (2013), W.W. Norton & Co. Jordan has been awarded a Whiting Writers Award, an Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, and a Pushcart Prize. He is also a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship (2007), a United States Artists Fellowship (2009), and a Lannan Literary Award in Poetry (2015). His latest collection, *When I Waked, I Cried to Dream Again*, winner of the 2024 Hurston Wright Legacy Award, was released in June, 2023 (W.W. Norton & Co). Among his many academic appointments, he most recently served as the Robert Hayden Collegiate Professor of English Literature at The University of Michigan, before coming to Stanford University, where he currently holds the Humanities and Sciences Chair in English, and where he also serves as part of the inaugural faculty in the Department of African & African American Studies.
Website: avanjordan.com

PROJECT

In 1946, just after World War II, Black veterans were being attacked once they returned home from battle, and US President Harry Truman created the Committee on Civil Rights to examine, with the charge to change, the culture of segregation in America. At the same time, in Nova Scotia, a Black Canadian woman, Viola Desmond, was arrested after she refused to sit in a segregated section of the Roseland Movie Theater; this set off a wave of civil rights legal action in the Canadian court system. Both situations, happening in different countries in North America, prompted a shift in culture across the continent, and, eventually, the world. 1946 was an important year that built the foundation for the more famous Civil Rights Movement that would gain traction less than 20 years later. In Fes, A. Van Jordan will work on a collection of poems, *With a Ribbon of Light Between Us*, to capture the tension of this moment that resonates with the continued work that both countries are working through today.



Photo by Alvaro Gongora

Cristina Ghetti

Visual Artist, Researcher & Curator
Spain / Argentina
Summer 2027

BIOGRAPHY

Cristina Ghetti's work is situated within a critical rereading of geometric abstraction from a Latin American and feminist perspective, understood not as an inherited style but as a field of symbolic dispute. Her practice questions the modernist and Eurocentric narratives that have historically defined geometry as a universal, neutral, and self-sufficient language. Through the use of systems, programming, combinatorial structures, and generative processes, Ghetti introduces chance, error, and deviation as productive strategies that destabilize the notion of absolute order. Painting thus emerges as the result of a prior process, in which algorithmic logic coexists with sensitive, manual, and material decisions. From a situated position, her work reclaims the bodily, tactile, and perceptual dimension of abstraction, expanding its limits beyond the plane and the autonomous object.

At the intersection of structure and affect, system and experience, Ghetti's work proposes an open, hybrid, and political abstraction capable of activating alternative readings that rewrite the genealogy of geometry from the margins, the Global South, and a contemporary feminist gaze.
Instagram: @cristinaghetti.visualartist
Website: cristinaghetti.org

PROJECT

During her residency in Fes, Cristina Ghetti will expand her ongoing research into geometric abstraction as an embodied and materially situated language. Working with local fibers, traditional weaving, and natural dyeing techniques, she will explore textile processes in which repetition, variation, and chance occupy a central place. Geometry will thus emerge not as a fixed or purely rational system, but as a flexible structure shaped by rhythm, material behavior, and decisions that arise through the process itself.

Fes represents a fertile context for this research. Its textile traditions, use of plant fibers, and geometric embroidery offer an alternative genealogy of abstraction—one rooted not in Western paradigms of modernity, but in spiritual systems, territory, and forms of manual knowledge historically developed by women.

The project also contemplates exchanges and collaborations with local artisans, grounded in mutual learning and respect for local knowledge, opening up ways of thinking about contemporary abstraction through non-hegemonic genealogies.

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

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