

Call for Applications for Residency: African Literary Writer's Residency Award (AWRA)

The Sylt Foundation calls all writers of contemporary African literature to apply for the two months African Writer's Award, offered as part of the Sylt Foundation Residency Programme. One residency will be awarded annually to an African writer who has published (not self-published) literary works of either poetry, prose, plays and novels. African literature refers to literature of and from Africa.

The foundation is located on the island of Sylt, off the coast of Hamburg, Germany. The Foundation has an established residency programme which offers opportunities to international visual artists, writers and composers. It is managed under the directorship of literary scholar and curator Indra Wussow.

The African Writer's Residency offers an Award of a two months residency to writers of African literature, whose work engages with contemporary themes related to Africa and the African diaspora. The Award is open to published writers of poetry, prose, plays and novels by an African writer, whether in Africa or elsewhere, published in the English language or translated into the English language.

Following on the success of many years of engagement with contemporary African literature and writers, the foundation has sought to leverage its residency programme by inviting applications from African writers who through a juried selection process will be awarded this invaluable opportunity. The winner will be selected by an experienced and credible selection panel of literary professionals.

Previous residents were individually invited onto this programme. In 2012 however, the residency procedures were formalized and published African writers are now invited to submit applications (as per the criteria) for selection onto the African Writer's Residency Programme. One residency is awarded each year to one winning applicant who will take up this exciting opportunity to enjoy creative writing time at **the Sylt Foundation** on the island of Sylt in Germany.

This period will provide the writer with:

- an opportunity to initiate or complete a project in progress
- a quiet space suitable for contemplation and research
- an uninterrupted period of writing
- a means to leverage their artistic profile
- an opportunity to engage with other international writers and artists

While writers are managing career and personal demands, the vital process of conceptualizing, researching and developing new ideas, so essential to the writing process is often limited. A period of quiet uninterrupted time to focus on exploring ideas is critical to this process – often a challenge when balancing the pressures of everyday life.

The contemporary African writer who wins the award is expected to work on or complete a writing project he/she proposed in her/his application. The residency aims to provide an opportunity for the writer to develop ideas and to do research related to the project. The winner is supposed to name the Sylt Foundation when the project is finished in the publication. He/She is also asked to use the Sylt Foundation's website and social media once in a while to share reflections and progress of the work.

Application requirements

Writers of African literature are invited to submit:

- a project proposal of the project they wish to work on while in residence
- it can be a current or proposed literary project
- a synopsis of the novel, play, poetry or other literary project

Applications to include:

- copy of a valid passport conforming Schengen visa requirements
- full Curriculum Vitae
- Writer's profile in English – appr. 500 words
- Two (2) letters of reference in English from literary professionals, publishers or academics

Plus an excerpt (stating the publishers) from

- one published book
- a volume of poetry
- a (publicly staged) play with information as to where and when it was staged

Note: Digital applications in MS Word or PDF documents only (no hard copy proposals accepted)

(the copyright of all published material will be respected by the Sylt Foundation so digital copies of published books may be submitted and will be handled with due care. Material submitted will not be returned to the applicant.)

The Selection Procedure:

Selection will be done by a panel convened by the Foundation and will comprise of literary experts and the Sylt Foundation's director, Indra Wussow (a literary scientist). The names of the panelists and their profiles will be made public via the Sylt Foundation's websites <http://www.jozi-artlab.co.za> and www.syltfoundation.com (coming soon).

One winner will be selected and will be the recipient of the **Sylt Foundation African Writer's Residency Award (AWRA)** each year.
Previous winners were Chika Unigwe (Nigeria) in 2013 and Nii Parkes (GB/Ghana) in 2014.

Key dates for the 2015 African Writer's Residency Award:

- the call for application will go out 17th February 2015
- Deadline for application submission is 6 pm Friday, 29th May 2015
- Announcement of the Residency Award winner, 15th July 2015
- Residency to be taken anytime from November 2015 – October 2016

No late applications will be considered. Applications will be kept confidential.

For additional information:

websites <http://www.jozi-artlab.co.za> and www.syltfoundation.com (coming soon)

submit e-mail entries and direct enquiries to:

Sylt Foundation

e-mail: info@jozi-artlab.co.za

enquiries: +27-76-501 42 91 (Monday to Friday, 10-4 pm)

media enquiries and information via:

Agentur Hanne Knickmann

Tel. +49 (0)6221 67342-50

hk@hanne-knickmann.de