



After the Single Use
Rethinking Plastics in Healthcare



DAKAR, SENEGAL
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE
OPEN CALL

EN

OPEN CALL: Artist in Residence

DAKAR

From the Clinic to the Landfill

We invite a Senegalese artist to join a research team at the Centre Régional de Recherche et de Formation à la Prise en Charge Clinique de Fann (CRCF) in Dakar to trace the life of single-use medical plastics in Senegalese healthcare.

LOCATION

Dakar, Senegal

INSTITUTION

Centre Régional de Recherche et de Formation à la Prise en Charge Clinique de Fann (CRCF)

RESEARCH LEAD

Khoudia Sow, Socio-Anthropologist, CRCF, Dakar, Senegal

RESIDENCY PERIOD

Full-Time May 2027 OR Part-Time March-May 2027 (2-3 days/week).

Exact schedule will be developed based on artist preference in dialogue with Research Unit.

NOTE: No accommodation is provided as part of this residency

FEE

Artist Fee: 1,530,000 XOF

Materials: 610,000 XOF

Food and Travel: 450,000 XOF

APPLICATION DEADLINE

23 October, 2026

RESPONSE TIMEFRAME

You will receive a response to your application before 20 December, 2026

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT RESIDENCY

Info.noba@vitenparken.no

ABOUT: AFTER THE SINGLE USE

If the world's healthcare sector were a country, it would rank 5th in global carbon emissions. A significant portion of these emissions come from single-use plastic medical products like syringes, surgical drapes, and diagnostic devices, all designed for disposal. These materials emit toxins and greenhouse gases when burned, leak microplastics and chemicals when landfilled, and pollute marine environments, with direct and indirect effects on human health. After the Single Use (ATSU) is a five-year research project asking: how did we get here, and what would it take to move healthcare towards a circular economy of reuse?

Led by the University of Edinburgh, UK and funded by the Wellcome Trust, the project brings together historians, anthropologists, and public health researchers across eight countries (India, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Scotland, Senegal, Switzerland, Tanzania and USA) to examine the history, present, and future of single-use medical plastics.

Driven by the belief that understanding this crisis requires perspectives beyond research alone, each research unit will host an artist in residence. The eight residencies are independent but connected: selected artists will have the opportunity to meet online and exchange with other artists in residence at the other seven sites, and all eight residencies will contribute to a shared international online exhibition.

The artist in residence program is coordinated by NOBA (Norwegian Bio-Art Arena), Vitenparken, Norway on behalf of the After the Single Use collective. If you have questions about the open call reach out to info.noba@vitenparken.no

THE RESEARCH IN DAKAR

Today, plastic medical supplies have significant impacts on public health, the environment, the economy, and society. Their widespread use has increased during the HIV, Ebola, and COVID-19 epidemics and as a result of international safety standards, thereby making waste management more complex. The project's various field sites include the Mbeubeuss landfill, the largest open-air landfill covering an area of 15 hectares, which hosts more than 5,800 waste pickers and receives an average of 3,800 metric tons of waste per day. Although there is a law prohibiting the disposal of biomedical waste, our research has shown that such waste is present there.

A large portion of this waste—especially plastic dumped into the ground—is causing increasing pollution of ecosystems, exposing residents of outlying neighborhoods to health risks such as the inhalation of toxic fumes and food contamination. The Fann Hospital complex and the decentralized health center located in the suburbs will enable us to understand the management practices and the connection between healthcare facilities and the Mbeubeuss landfill. Fann Hospital is the project's main site, featuring a

next-generation incinerator that has processed millions of biomedical waste units since its installation in 2021.

The project team includes anthropologists, physicians, and community health specialists.

ABOUT THE ATSU ARTIST RESIDENCY

As part of ATSU, eight artists will be selected (one per research location) to join the local research team for a residency period between March-May 2027. This is a research-embedded residency: the focus is on curiosity, exchange, and process. Artists will have the time and space to engage with the research, bring their own perspective and practice to bear, and explore what emerges.

Artists are not expected to illustrate or communicate the research. They are invited to work alongside it — to observe, question, and respond in whatever way feels true to their practice. The aim is a genuine exchange, in which both the artist and the researchers come away with new ways of thinking.

Artistic works in progress will be presented locally at or near the end of the residency period, and the artist will contribute work to the ATSU online exhibition after completion of the residency. The results will be featured alongside 7 other artists in residence projects working with 7 other research groups worldwide. The artist fee covers the residency, the local presentation of work and the production of work for the online exhibition.

WHAT THE ARTIST IN DAKAR WOULD ENGAGE WITH

As the artist, you will be embedded in the team, participating in its activities and developing work that emerges from that encounter. This includes access to:

- Documents and data collected by the research team, including interviews and focus groups with patients, waste workers, and health facility staff
- Fieldwork and observation at Fann Hospital and at Mbeubeuss, one of the largest open-air landfills in West Africa
- CRCF's existing network of artistic collaborators, including graffiti artists, the art therapy workshop at Fann Hospital, and the National School of Arts of Senegal, who previously worked with the team on a public mural addressing biomedical waste
- Access to the other ATSU artists and researchers in the network for exchange of ideas

WHAT THE ATSU RESIDENCY OFFERS

The residency is based at CRCF, within the Fann Hospital complex, where the artist will be integrated into the research team's day-to-day activities. The artist will work closely with the research team to continue the effort to rethink the use of single-use plastics in the healthcare sector as well as waste management. The artist can also collaborate with healthcare professionals, waste collectors, and any other individuals identified during this process.

The team will help facilitate introductions to the health facilities, waste sites, and community contacts relevant to the artist's practice.

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We welcome artists from any creative background, for example, visual art, performance, film, photography, installation, design, socially engaged practice, etc. We are looking for artists who are curious, self-directed, and comfortable working in an unfamiliar environment.

You do not need prior experience working with researchers. What matters is that you can articulate why this residency interests you, and that you are genuinely open to engaging with the research, not just its themes, but its specific questions and methods.

For the Dakar residency the candidate must be able to communicate in Wolof, French, and English, and the team wishes to engage a professional artist or artisan that has experience using participatory methods and in community arts, as well as sensitivity to the social and cultural context.

You might be a good fit if you:

- are drawn to questions of health, waste, material culture, and environmental justice
- can work independently and take initiative with your time
- are interested in how knowledge is made; in archives, in fieldwork, in communities
- are open to process-led work without a pre-determined outcome
- are comfortable with ambiguity and willing to learn
- are based in Dakar or able to commit to being based there during the residency period

APPLICATION CRITERIA AND TERMS & CONDITIONS

There are general criteria for the artist in residence across all 8 locations worldwide. Before applying please read the terms and conditions document for the ATSU Artist Residency for more details on the residency. You can download both of these on the open call webpage.

<https://aftersingleuse.net/news-events/2026/open-call-artist-residence>

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the ATSU Artist Residency, fill in [this form](#).
The QR code below also takes you to the application form.

