

DEADLINE EXTENDED!

OPEN CALL FOR ARTWORK

**New Deadline:
21st April 2024, midnight**






OPEN CALL FOR ARTWORK

Sekhmet Institute invites submissions of visual and performance artworks by artists from Kosovo, the wider Balkan region, and the diaspora to be included in an upcoming exhibition in Prishtina.

The exhibition will explore the multiplicity of queer expression, foregrounding lived experiences and intersectional perspectives. Submissions of existing artwork and proposals for new commissions are invited.

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OPEN CALL FOR ARTWORK

Wrapped in the Shadow of Freedom

*“The Time
Has come
That we be seen
Wrapped
In the shadow of Freedom...”*

— Ledia Dushi, *Change* (1999)

Building upon Albanian poet Ledia Dushi's evocation, the exhibition *Wrapped In the Shadow of Freedom* seeks to explore contemporary ideas of queer freedom through a constellation of Kosovar and international artists. The project draws from Sylvia Wynter's theory of autopoiesis emphasizing personal narratives to visualize the complexity of queer lives. Looking beyond only struggle or trauma, we are keen to foreground a wide range of experiences from joy to fear, dysphoria, celebration, love, sadness, and hope. Artworks that deal with family, religion, ethnicity, class, race, disability, and/or neurodivergence in direct or indirect ways are especially invited.

The exhibition will take place in Prishtina, in Sept/ Oct 2024. It is organized by Sekhmet Institute, and curated by Shaunak Mahbubani with assistant curator Anyla Kabashi.

WRAPPED IN THE SHADOW OF FREEDOM

Open call for artwork

Who can submit? This call is open to emerging and established LGBTQIA+ artists from Kosovo, the larger Balkan region, and its diaspora. Queer artists of all genders, sexual orientations, and cultural backgrounds are welcome. Especially Trans*, Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian, and those who face intersecting oppression along the axes of religion, race, ethnicity, language, disability, and/or neurodivergence are encouraged to apply.

What kinds of artworks can be submitted? Submissions of visual artworks across media including but not limited to painting, sculpture, installation, photography, video, sound, live performance, and interdisciplinary work. Existing music and theatrical performances can also be submitted for inclusion into the accompanying events program.

What if I'm not publicly out? We understand! All submissions will be kept confidential. Artists who wish to protect their identity can participate anonymously or under a pseudonym. Exhibiting artists will not be publicly labeled as queer.

Is there a fee to submit? No, submission is free of cost.

How many artworks/proposals can I submit? You can submit a maximum of 1 existing artwork and 1 proposal for a new commission.

What costs will the exhibition cover? All selected artists will receive an artist fee for their participation in the exhibition. Installation costs for all artworks, as well as a portion of production costs for new commissions, will be covered by the exhibition budget based on the requirements of each selected submission and further discussions with the curatorial team.

WRAPPED IN THE SHADOW OF FREEDOM

How to apply with an existing artwork?

1. Submit 4-5 hi-res images of the artwork, along with a description of the work, mediums used/equipment required, dimension/duration, year of creation, current city of storage (if physical), and if the work has been shown before, where so. If the work is time-based (video, sound, or performance) please send a link to YouTube or Vimeo (with the password if protected)
2. A portfolio of your recent works. We recommend utilizing a file-sharing service or providing a link to your online portfolio for larger files.
3. A brief biography or curriculum vitae highlighting your artistic development, notable achievements, and relevant exhibitions or publications

Submit your applications directly to Sekhmet Institute via sekhmet.opencall@gmail.com with the subject line: "Shadow of Freedom Open Call - Existing Artwork - Your Name"

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How to apply for a new commission?

1. A detailed description of the proposed artwork: including the concepts behind it, proposed mediums and dimensions/duration, how it relates to your previous practice, and how it relates to the themes of the exhibition.
2. Estimated Production Budget: The exhibition will support new commissions with a production budget of up to 500 EUR (not including artist fees). If your budget is higher than this amount please indicate how you will finance the remaining costs of production. We recommend proposing ideas that are small and focused, that can be realized in the timeframe and budget for the exhibition.
3. A portfolio of your recent works. We recommend utilizing a file-sharing service or providing a link to your online portfolio for larger files.
4. A brief biography or curriculum vitae highlighting your artistic development, notable achievements, and relevant exhibitions or publications

Submit your applications directly to Sekhmet Institute via sekhmet.opencall@gmail.com with the subject line: "Shadow of Freedom Open Call - New Commissions - Your Name"

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About the Curator: Shaunak Mahbubani is a nomadic curator and writer. They primarily curate projects under the exhibition series 'Allies for the Uncertain Futures' focused on exploring possibilities of co-visioning futures grounded in the pursuit of non-duality. The fourth iteration in this series, AUTOPOIESIS (2022-ongoing) has had manifestations and cross-pollinations across Mexico City, New Delhi, & Berlin. Other recent curatorial projects include The Albanian Conference (initiated by Anna Ehrenstein) at the Lagos Biennial (2024), Parag Tandel: Archipelagic Archivist (Tarq Mumbai, 2023), Party Office at documenta fifteen (Kassel 2022, co-curated with Vidisha-Fadescha), A—ligning the Un—certain (Maxim Gorki Theatre, Berlin, 2022), Reality is Post-Produced (TIER, Berlin, 2019), and Saavdhaan: The Regimes of Truth (New Delhi, 2018).

You can read more about the curator on their website: <https://www.shaunak.co/>

SEKHMET is a young NGO based in Prishtina. With our work, we intend to contribute to the democratization of Kosovo. For us, this means recognizing our civic duty to fight for justice through our work, to occupy the public space with competence and responsibility, and to nurture public processes that promote well-being for all.

In a landscape where many organizations focus on legal, psychological, or health services for the queer community, SEKHMET has chosen a distinct path. We've embraced the power of media and the arts to challenge the erasure of queer experiences from Kosovo's public discourse.

Contact Information: For inquiries, please write to the assistant curator Anyla Kabashi at anyla.kabashi@gmail.com and sekhmet.institute@gmail.com

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