

## PRESS RELEASE

### Open Call for the tri-continental project «Quilombo»

Deadline: April 30 | Selection: May 7 | Residency: August–October | Exhibition: 29 October 2021

SALTS (CH) and Waza art center Lubumbashi (DR Congo), with Lago Mio Lugano artist residency (CH), are delighted to announce the coalition-based project «Quilombo», comprising an exhibition, a three-month residency in two Swiss cities and a catalogue. «Quilombo» is presented in collaboration with Culturescapes 2021 Amazonia.

We welcome single or two-person applications from Congolese, Brazilian and Swiss artists (see «We offer») and seek all disciplines that imbue a research-based practice or one that feels inspired by the outlined thematics below. Please send your motivation video (via [wetransfer.com](https://wetransfer.com), 1 min.) or letter (1'000 characters) plus cv/portfolio (PDF) to [call@salts.ch](mailto:call@salts.ch) (En/De/Fr, deadline 30.04.2021).

This project is developed out of a personal invitation between the Swiss-based institution SALTS and the Congo-based Waza art center, in order to collaborate, exchange and learn from each other during a full year of co-programming and co-curation.

Once synonymous with escape and resistance, «quilombo» today stands for a Brazilian settlement of African descent. Anthropologists and historians meanwhile have arrived at a new understanding of these rural communities, calling for a broader definition: Regardless of their specific history, quilombos share collective identities and notions, linking them to their African roots and making them fight common battles as people in DRC, Switzerland or anywhere else: against capitalism and racism, and for the equitable distribution of resources.

The project «Quilombo» attempts to build on the idea of a «Black Atlantic», coined by British-Guyanese historian and writer Paul Gilroy in 1993 as a «Counterculture of Modernity» in the relations between Africa, the Americas and Europe. Can we activate aesthetics sensitive to common concerns, taking advantage of the digital age's challenges, particularly in the unexpected connectivity of our pandemic era? The social injustice has its roots in the history of exploitation of natural resources and human labor and continues to this day. How can this be undermined by an alternative reading of human relations between the three continents, imagining an ecology that empowers humanism and diversity?

We offer:

- a) Three month residency + exhibition (August/September at Lago Mio in Lugano/Switzerland, October at Atelier Mondial in Basel/Switzerland) for an artist from the DR Congo.
- b) Three month residency + exhibition for an artist from Brazil/Amazonia region.
- c) Residency\* + exhibition for a Swiss artist (\*always welcome but generally living at home)
- d) Non-physical residency + exhibition for artists who are unable to travel (personal reasons, legal, health etc.)

For details and more information on how to apply: [bit.ly/applyforquilombo](https://bit.ly/applyforquilombo)

The exhibition will first open on 29 October 2021 at City SALTS in Birsfelden, followed by iterations at Lago Mio Lugano, WAZA Lubumbashi, and São Paulo (tbd). The exhibition includes a printed publication, a one-week workshop with students from the Centre for African Studies of the University of Basel, a public event/talk in Lugano a.o. The project is presented in collaboration with multidisciplinary biennial festival Culturescapes that, in 2021, is focused on Amazonia.