



**ARTIST RESIDENCY OPEN CALL:
2026, anniversary year of the MusVerre and its workshop**





❖ **CONTEXT: The MusVerre and the Workshop**

The **MusVerre** departmental museum is located in the town of **Sars-Poteries (59)** surrounded by a **beautiful wooded countryside**. Its stated goal is to bear witness to local traditions stemming from the extensive history of the fire arts industry, the potteries of the 17th-18th centuries and the glassworks from 1801 to 1937, as well as to assert it standing as a hub of contemporary creation (since the international symposium of 1982).

The MusVerre in Sars-Poteries is an influential cultural venue in the field of glass creation both nationally and internationally. What's more, the organisation is rooted in its region and aims to participate fully in the social, economic and cultural development of the Avesnois region in close partnership with all the stakeholders and residents.

The collections are housed in a building with a surface area of over **3,400 m²** including **1,000 m²** of **exhibition space**, and almost **1,000 m²** dedicated to **hosting visitors and cultural activities**. To complement this, there is a **1200 m²** **glass workshop** located right next door.

In 2026, the museum **celebrated the 50th anniversary since the creation of its glass workshop, the 10th anniversary of the opening of the museum in an exceptional architectural setting, and the 40th anniversary of the discovery of the pottery at Sars-Poteries** during the rescue archaeological excavations conducted in the municipality.

This two-headed living museum is founded on a dual collection, that is both historical and contemporary, and the development of activities in the glass workshop, including glassblowing demonstrations, apprenticeships and artist residencies.





❖ 2026: a triple anniversary for the MusVerre

The 10th anniversary of the MusVerre in its contemporary architecture

Its architect, **Raphael VOINCHET of the W-Architectures firm** describes the museum in these terms:

“The museum’s chiselled edges have a precise geometry that is reminiscent of the crystalline structure of silica, the source material of glass. There is some interplay between the museum and the garden opposite the large double-height exhibition hall which provides an interface linking the two levels of the museum.”

With 1,000 m² of exhibition space, the dual collection showcased by MusVerre is both **historical (800 “bousillés” or whimsies) and contemporary (more than 800 works)**. The many “bousillés”, created by the glassmakers of Sars-Poteries between 1802 and 1937, draw the visitor into the industrial past of the territory. But it is the prestigious contemporary collection of works by international artists that has given the museum its reputation. With over 800 pieces, it explores all the little-known properties and facets of raw glass.

3,229 works in the collection, 819 of which are contemporary glass art works

278 contemporary artists in the collection, of which 31% are women and 69% are men

35 nationalities are represented in the collection

The 40th anniversary of the discovery of the potteries of Sars-Poteries following rescue archaeological excavations unearthed the know-how of the city of fire’s past

In its reserves, the MusVerre has a lavish collection of pottery that bears witness to the flourishing economy of Sars-Poteries as a city of fire. The original collection put together by the founder, Abbot Louis Mériaux, consists of a first set of local pottery acquired in the 1960s and 1970s from the old shops of Sars-Poteries and Beugnies, dating back to between the end of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, in theory. Taking the collection to the next level is the grey stoneware pottery decorated with cobalt blue, dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries, which was rediscovered in 1986 in a home in Sars-Poteries that had housed a potter's workshop.

The 50th anniversary of the creation of the glass workshop on 22 March 1976.

A creative workshop equipped with some of the most advanced facilities in Europe. This means that we can organise residencies for internationally renowned artists, introductory and advanced training courses, and glassblowing demonstrations for the general public. 25% of the museum’s collection is

enhanced by works produced by artists in residence.

❖ The new workshop and its facilities



A 1200 m2 experimental space, a unique facility in Europe that has the capacity and technical expertise to support the teaching of glassmaking techniques, research and development, and the production of contemporary glass art.

In 2001, the new “Atelier du Verre” glass workshop was opened in a field not far from the centre of the village. It was joined by MusVerre a few years later. Designed by the architectural firm, Bernard Henry, this state-of-the-art facility consists of **several units: sandblasting, assembling, plastering, and cold and hot work.**



Currently, the three courses provided per year during the summer period are used to diversify the workshop activities, of which training is still one of the cornerstones. The production role is ongoing with the 60-day artist residency which is the subject of an open call and a presentation that is used to unveil a living creation. Occasionally, there are demonstrations of glassblowing with a blowpipe and a torch. These are open to the general public and are meant to display traditional glassmaking techniques. The workshop is also available for rent to artists so that they can produce pieces that will eventually be displayed in museums around the world.

- **123 works created at the workshop offered by the artists participating in the 1982 symposium. Foundational act of the MusVerre’s contemporary glass art collection**
- **45 artists hosted as part of residencies since 1994**
- **Including 12 artists over the past 10 years**
- **56 training courses (UESP) organised at the workshop over the past 10 years**
- **25% of the contemporary works from the collection were produced in the workshop**

Our Values

- Certified **Museum of France**
- Certified for universal accessibility by “**Tourisme & Handicaps**” (motor, mental and hearing) and the **Mômart Label family accessibility certification**
- “**Accueil vélo**” (cyclist welcome) certification for sustainable mobility
- **Committed to an approach that promotes sensitivity to equality, parity and diversity**

Key figures

- **25,933** visitors received by the museum in 2025
- **300,000** visitors received over the past 10 years
- **Average of 33,000** visitors per year
- **68% individuals, 32% groups and 24% under-18s**
- **74% of visitors are from the Hauts-de-France region, including 59% from the Nord region and 9% from the Euroregion.**

- **37 exhibitions** organised
- **338 artists** welcomed comprising **34 nationalities**

❖ **ARTIST RESIDENCY**

The residency consists of a “stay” during which a glass artist or a glass art collective (no more than three people) will develop a creative, research or experimental activity by being allowed to use a temporary space, the museum workshop, as well as its human, technical and material resources, and some financial support to develop their artistic activity.

The residency provides an opportunity for the guest artist(s) to produce and realise an artistic project which has undergone significant planning, will be presented to the public and could be donated to the MusVerre. It also gives local residents a chance to discover and engage with a work of art.

This open call concerns the 2026 residency [which is to be held between 1st September and 5th December 2026.](#)

▪ **The proposed theme is: Interior / Exterior**

This theme invites candidates to explore the MusVerre site, its architecture, its surrounding countryside, its collections and the properties of glass as a multifaceted medium: exterior and interior, visible and buried.

Kiln fired art has shaped landscapes, cities and ways of life in both France and Belgium. A memory that is visible not only in the architecture, collections, landscapes, and homes of the residents right up to the rooftops of the houses in the surrounding villages, but also in the local narrative and atmosphere of the different sites.

The glass comes to life thanks to the invisible treasures contained in the subsoil and the visible treasures of the forests of the region. Their molecular properties give rise to a creative palette that brings together the duality of the material between its living/inert, viscous/ductile and transparent/opaque aspects.

Today, the MusVerre takes on the respective roles of a historical witness, a witness to the art of today and tomorrow, and a backdrop to everyday life: a space for breathing, dreaming, and a space for nature.

Residency location:

- Accommodation: Atelier du Musverre, 76 Rue du Général de Gaulle 59216 Sars-Poteries (10km from Avesnes Sur Helpe)
- Individual rooms, living room, shared kitchen, recreational area and garden
- Workshop/creative space available

- **Presentation of the residency project in partnership with the Lieux-Communs association**

At the end of the residency in 2026, the artist(s) selected in 2027 will be asked to participate in a dual exhibition project in association with the MusVerre and the Lieux-Communs association (Belgium) within the framework of a cross-border partnership.

This residency presentation will take place in two stages and at two locations:

An initial presentation will take place at the “L'Echappée” space, a temporary exhibition area of the MusVerre, **from February to 23 May 2027**.



A second presentation (subject to confirmation) will be held at the Pavillon Fourmarier in Chaudfontaine, Belgium, known as the glass pavilion, as part of the Five Seasons Festival **from June to September 2027**.

Designed in 1962 by the architect Charles Lacrosse, this pavilion was called the palace of glass at the time of its construction. As part of the Five Seasons Festival, it hosts a programme of temporary exhibitions designed to be seen permanently from the outside.



Lieux-Communs

Based in Namur (Belgium), Lieux-Communs is an organisation that works to develop and promote contemporary art in Belgium and France. It invests in heritage sites – historic buildings, outstanding heritage sites or sites of memory – through exhibitions put together in close dialogue with the architecture and history of the sites. This approach allows new audiences to discover contemporary artistic creations. Many projects are conducted in partnership with other contemporary art players, museums, associations or municipalities.

The association develops permanent artistic integrations in public spaces. These interventions contribute to the sensitive transformation of the regions, facilitate the appropriation of common spaces and encourage encounters between art, the countryside and a variety of audiences.

Lieux-Communs provides the artistic direction for the Five Seasons Festival in Chaudfontaine. Located at the heart of a landscaped park, this festival progresses throughout the year as a permanent, evolving and accessible event. It is dedicated to contemporary artistic creations closely linked to nature, living things and current environmental issues.

Lieux-Communs is committed to supporting both emerging talent and collaborating with internationally recognised artists.

Through all of its actions, Lieux-Communs advocates an approach to art as a tool for reflection, awareness-building and sharing. Central to its approach is how the association considers the relationship between art, the region and society, by promoting meaningful projects that take on contemporary cultural, social and environmental challenges.

❖ How to apply for the residency open call:

Applications must be submitted in the form of a file containing the following:

- A biography and CV of the artist or artists representing the artistic approach (no more than two pages);
- A portfolio representing the artistic approach (no more than 10 pages);
- A statement of intent outlining the motivation, overall research concerns, specific intentions regarding the residency and the proposed “Interior/Exterior” theme, as well as a description of the methodology used (no more than three pages). Artists do not have to provide a fully-structured project, but rather how they imagine the general outline of the project with a formulation of its intent.

Particular importance will be attached to the relationship with the public, especially in recalling previous experiences and the motivations of the candidates.

It can be written in French or English.

These documents must be submitted electronically with the following in the subject line of the email:
Application [Artist's Name and Surname] – 2026 residency open call - MusVerre

And it must include these three attached documents named as follows:

1/ Biography and CV [Artist's surname and first name]

2/ Portfolio [Artist's surname and first name]

3/ Statement of intent [Artist's surname and first name]

Send in a compressed PDF format (4MB max) to the following address: musverre@lenord.fr

Applications will be accepted until 15 April 2026 inclusive.

Incomplete applications will not be presented to the members of the jury.

❖ **Selection procedure and criteria:**

The jury is composed of external members, professionals, experts in contemporary art and contemporary glass art, the management team of MusVerre and a glass artist.

An initial shortlist of applications will put together by the MusVerre team before being presented to the jury, which will meet in May 2026 to adjudicate the applications.

Members of the jury:

Laetitia MESSAGER, director of MusVerre

Laura Bouvard, head of collections at MusVerre

Cécile CHARNIAUX, head of audience development

Louis DEBRUYNE, head of the MusVerre workshop

Manuel FADAT, art historian and independent exhibition curator

Guy MALEVEZ, director of the Lieux-Communs association (Namur, Belgium)

Anne PLUYMAKERS, head of cultural programming, CERFAV

Catherine THOMAS, curator of the Charleroi Glass Museum

Kim YEUN-KYUNG, glass artist and head of the glass workshop at HEAR, Strasbourg

Selection criteria:

The jury will focus on analysing the following criteria in the applications: the quality of the artist's artistic and professional career; the relevance of the proposal with regard to the call for projects and the residency context; the relevance of the proposal with regard to the artistic and scientific orientations of the MusVerre; and the logistical and technical suitability in relation to the residency criteria (taking into account the budget envelope and the autonomy of the artist).

Application requirements:

The resident must be thoroughly familiar with at least one glass-related discipline; in the case of a collective, at least one glassmaker will have to apply to deliver the technical part, and this person cannot, under any circumstances, be entirely supported by the Workshop team.

The resident will have to guarantee the operational feasibility of their project within the limits of a budget assigned and managed by MusVerre. The project may be produced in one of the following languages: English or French.

The nature and timing of the support programme are adapted according to the needs and wishes of the resident, as well as the capabilities of the MusVerre workshop team.

❖ Rules of participation

Article 1 - Conditions of participation

The artist residency is open to any artist or collective of artists (no more than three people) without distinction of nationality or geographical location. A project leader must be designated by the group. The artist, or at least one member of the collective, must be able to make themselves understood in French or English.

Article 2 - Duration

The maximum duration of the residency is 60 days.

The exact start date of the residency will be determined based on the availability of the resident and the MusVerre workshop. The residency must, however, take place between the 1st September and 5 December 2026.

Article 3 - Means

The selected artist and/or collective will reside in the accommodation space of the MusVerre workshop and will share the living spaces of the workshop team (one double bed, two single beds).

The orders and material purchases for the project are paid for directly by MusVerre, with a cap of €2,400 incl. VAT. A per diem of €45 per day of residency is provided for the artist or, where applicable, the spokesperson for the collective.

Transportation costs will be covered up to a maximum of €900 for a round trip, regardless of the number of participants.

An agreement covering all these terms will be signed before the start of the residency between the Nord Département for the MusVerre and the resident artist.

Article 4 - Results

The results will be communicated to all candidates by email within one month of the selection committee meeting.

Article 5 - Exclusion

MusVerre reserves the right to cancel, at any time, the participation and selection of an artist who acts in a way that contravenes the objectives of the residency and the corporate purpose of MusVerre.

This decision will be final and no damages can be claimed.

Article 8 - Compliance with the regulations

The artist unconditionally accepts these regulations by applying.