

OPEN ART 26

Art festival

»Unavailability«

3.5.26

–

17.5.26

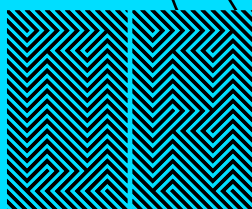
Open

Call

Application

Deadline:

15.12.2025



OPEN ART FREIBURG

Open

Call

i n v i t a t i o n

opening
closing
(3.5.26 + 17.5.26). and
event

OPEN ART invites you to experience contemporary art at unexpected locations in Freiburg's urban landscape from May 3 to May 17, 2026. Artists based in Freiburg, the region, or those with a connection to the city are welcome to propose exhibition concepts for local stores, shops, restaurants and public places to provoke a transformation by disrupting everyday perspectives.

This year's central theme is "unavailability": acknowledging that not everything in life can be planned, controlled, or fully understood. OPEN ART aims to make visible how art reveals the unpredictable and the unknown, introducing new forms of resonance, wonder and vibrancy in the city.

c o n c e p t

"Moments of art – art in
the place of the present"

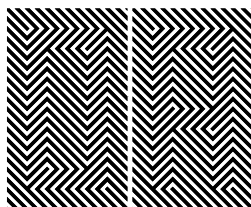
OPEN ART is a platform for artists of all disciplines who create site-specific works in dialog with everyday spaces. The focus is on engaging creatively with the spirit of each location, as well as with its existing materials, sounds and processes. Here, art is understood as a living process, where development and exchange with spaces and people matter more than the finished product. Whether it is sculpture, sound, performance or a happening, art moves with dynamic flow of each place.

The artists independently select a suitable location (public place or businesses that cooperate with the artists) for their project. The festival organization provides a list of potential partner businesses and shop owners, but does not assist with initial contact. The on-site, self-responsible implementation ensures that each work is closely linked to the respective site and reflects the genius loci of the place. OPEN ART then selects exclusively the artists who meet the concept's requirements and subsequently grants them the go-ahead.

f o c u s

This year's central
theme is "unavailability".

OPEN ART 26 places unavailability at the center of its focus. The festival invites participants to consciously engage with the uncontrollable, the unexpected, and the unavailable – and to discover new forms of experience, resonance, and vitality along the way.



OPEN ART FREIBURG

Open

Call

f e s t i v a l

OPEN
pursues
social

ART
several
goals.

Make access to art easier: create low-threshold offerings for residents of Freiburg and tourists. Reach broader population groups, including those with less educational background. Bringing new life to the city centre through art and cultural activities.

Foster dialogue: strengthen direct collaboration between artists and local businesses / institutions. Enable exchange between different social groups. The focus is always on engaging with the space itself.

Emphasize sustainability: use remaining materials on site instead of promoting resource waste. Consider sustainable production methods in implementing artistic projects. Strengthen the role of the space: through the principle "Art becomes the surroundings – the surroundings become art," new perspectives on seemingly familiar places will emerge.

a p p l i c a t i o n

Application deadline:
1 5 . 1 2 . 2 0 2 5 .

Individuals who wish to engage in thematic artistic research within their own practice are invited to apply. Notification of participation in the festival will be given by the end of January 2026 at the latest.

1. Short bio with connection to Freiburg (around 1.500 characters)

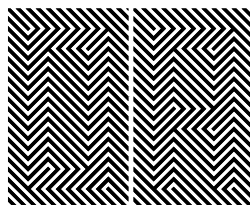
2. Concept idea (around 2.500 character)

We would like to get to know you through engagement with the OPEN ART concept and this year's festival theme. What thoughts do you have, with which ideas and formats, materials and practices do you want to engage? Which places, rooms, and sites interest you?

(In addition to the concept idea in text form, images, sketches, video or any other form of image material can also be uploaded. Please not the information about the upload specs in the application form.)

3. consent form

Please submit the requirements in the application form at open-art.org.



OPEN ART FREIBURG

Open

Call

p r o c e s s

a r t i s t s

Call for applications: Interested artists apply in advance with a project idea on the theme "unavailability."

Selection process: The festival team selects projects that fit the concept; afterwards, concrete planning and on-site realization of the work begins together with the selected businesses / institutions and in consultation with the offices for public spaces.

Establishing local relevance: The works should directly reference the respective location – whether through materials (recycled / leftover materials), spatial design, or thematic connections to the site's history / activities.

b u s i n e s s &
s i d e s

Artists independently establish contact with the businesses / institutions. There is an option to access a list of potential businesses / institutions on the OPEN ART site. They provide spaces / opportunities and actively collaborate with the artists (e.g., supplying materials).

award ceremony

During the festival days, all works are presented; a opening and ceremonial closing event with a jury prize award will also take place.

