

Presenting

**6ARTISTA**  
**Project for Young Artists 2025–2026**  
**6th Edition**

**Fondazione Pastificio Cerere**  
Via degli Ausoni 7 – Rome

Press release

Rome, April 2025

**6ARTISTA is back: the renowned residency program for young artists promoted by Fondazione Pastificio Cerere**

The sixth edition of **6ARTISTA** has officially begun. The residency program was conceived by **Marcello Smarrelli** for **Fondazione Pastificio Cerere**, and this year it is realized in collaboration with **RUFA – Rome University of Fine Arts**, with the support of the **Italian Ministry of Culture (MiC)** and **SIAE** under the *Per Chi Crea* initiative.

The project offers **six emerging artists under the age of 35** the opportunity to develop their research during a **three-month residency** at the spaces of Pastificio Cerere, in the heart of the San Lorenzo district in Rome. The artists selected for this edition are: **Vanshika Agrawal, Emma Brunelli, Micol Gelsi, Davide Miceli, Giulia Romolo, and Nadia Vallino.**

The selection was carried out by a jury composed of **Claudia Cavalieri** (Director of Fondazione Pastificio Cerere), **Niccolò Fano** (Director of Matèria gallery), **Silvia Giambrone** (artist), **Davide Lunerti** (curator), **Pietro Ruffo** (artist), and **Marcello Smarrelli** (Artistic Director of Fondazione Pastificio Cerere).

The **open call** was addressed to RUFA students and graduates (from 2019 onward), aged no older than 35, residing either in Italy or abroad, but holding Italian citizenship. Over the course of **twelve months**, the program will host two artists at a time, who will share a studio space for a three-month residency in the historic building. At the end of the residency cycle, scheduled for **February 2026**, the works produced will be presented in a **group exhibition** curated by **Davide Lunerti** and **Marcello Smarrelli**, to be held in the Foundation's new exhibition spaces.

During the residency, Fondazione Pastificio Cerere and RUFA, under the supervision of tutors **Marta Jovanović** (artist) and **Fabrizio Pizzuto** (art historian), will promote a rich program of educational activities, meetings, studio visits, and dialogues with art professionals, including critics, curators, journalists, and representatives of cultural institutions. The artists will also have free access to **seminars and workshops** offered by RUFA, for a total of 30 hours.

**6ARTISTA**, says Marcello Smarrelli, Artistic Director of Fondazione Pastificio Cerere, “represents an important opportunity to renew the Foundation’s commitment to supporting the education of new generations of artists, by promoting the value of shared practices and the experience of a place – Pastificio Cerere – where art generates art. For over fifty years, it has been a crossroads of multidisciplinary experiences and figures. A meaningful initiative that has helped shape an area of the city, capable of activating connections, processes, and new opportunities for cultural growth on a global scale.”

The goal of **6ARTISTA** is to create a solid institutional network, offering participants opportunities for professional growth and exchange on both a national and international level.

## **Organizing Institutions**

### ***Fondazione Pastificio Cerere***

Fondazione Pastificio Cerere is a non-profit organization and a workshop of contemporary art, promoting freedom of expression and the experimentation of artistic languages with a strong national and international impact, contributing to a more contemporary vision of Rome. Since 2015, it has been part of the Comitato Fondazioni Arte Contemporanea, established following an invitation from the Italian Ministry of Culture (MiC). In 2005, the Foundation inaugurated its headquarters within what was once Pastificio Cerere, a former pasta factory built in 1905 and active until the post–World War II period. Starting in the 1970s, the abandoned factory was spontaneously repopulated by artists who chose to set up their studios there—spaces to live in and engage in daily experimentation. Over the years, critics, intellectuals, and figures from the performing arts have also gravitated toward this creative hub, which has become a key reference point for culture in general. Since 2011, under the artistic direction of Marcello Smarrelli, the Foundation has increasingly focused its activities on artistic practices connected to cultural policy and the local territory, developing public and participatory art projects, innovative educational programs, and residency grants for young artists and curators, as well as training activities for students of various age groups.

### ***RUFA, Rome University of Fine Arts***

RUFA, Rome University of Fine Arts, is a multidisciplinary and international educational center – officially recognized by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR) – offering valid and innovative academic programs in the fields of Art, Design, Audiovisual, Fashion, Game Design, Visual Communication, and Media Art. RUFA collaborates with renowned professionals and prestigious companies, ensuring its students receive up-to-date theoretical training and methodological-operational guidance, with a strong focus on the professional world and market demands. Founded in 1998 to bring together the dreams of young Italian and international students, as well as those of its founder, Maestro Alfio Mongelli, RUFA offers first and second-level academic courses designed to meet the needs of today’s evolving artistic and cultural landscape, providing high-level preparation and solid, concrete professional prospects.

## **Related Projects**

### ***6ARTISTA. Project for Young Artists // Curator in residence***

*6ARTISTA. Project for Young Artists* is a residency program for young Italian artists, conceived by Marcello Smarrelli for the Fondazione Pastificio Cerere in 2009. The project was born out of a desire to address a clear gap in the city of Rome, where—despite the abundance of residency opportunities for foreign artists—there are few available for Italian artists. The aim is to gradually build a solid institutional network that will offer participants of future editions an increasingly qualified and comprehensive opportunity for their research and artistic practice. Over time, the prize has become an important tool for enhancing Italian talent on an international scale.

Winners of the 6ARTISTA Award include: Riccardo Benassi, Tomaso De Luca (1st edition); Adelita Husni-Bey, Elisa Strinna (2nd edition); Francesco Fonassi, Margherita Moscardini (3rd edition); Davide Stucchi, Helena Hladilová (4th edition); Thomas Berra, Corinna Gosmaro (5th edition).

From 2011 to 2013, through the *Curator in Residence* project, a young curator—appointed by the artistic director—was invited to develop a cultural program for the Foundation. The one-year residency included the organization of

exhibitions and site-specific projects, studio visits, lecture series, and the production of critical texts, monographs, and catalogues.

The curators in residence were: Vincenzo De Bellis (2011), Michele D'Aurizio (2012), Alessandro Dandini de Sylva (2013).

**The “6ARTISTA. Project for Young Artists 2025–2026” is carried out with the support of the MiC and SIAE, as part of the “Per Chi Crea” program.**

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