

NCEAS Artist in Residence - 2025 Call for Proposals

“Art is a process of observation. So is science. They have a natural correspondence to build on.”
- Elkpen (artist)

Join us in Santa Barbara California to create art inspired by interactions with environmental scientists and the scientific process while helping influence the way science is done. The [National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis \(NCEAS\)](#), an environmental science research center located in downtown Santa Barbara, in partnership with [The Santa Barbara Center for Art, Science and Technology \(SBCAST\)](#) and the ‘PrismaVera’ villa, seeks proposals from artists for up to three months of residency between June and September. The opportunity is open to artists of all sorts, including painters, poets, musicians, photographers, illustrators, printmakers, playwrights, performance artists, digital artists, and more. We anticipate supporting up to two artists.

The aim of our Artist-in-Residence program is to engage artists and scientists in creative conversation that changes the way each thinks about their own work – artists finding new ways to represent and communicate science and scientific ideas, and scientists finding different ways to pose and address core scientific questions. Science at NCEAS spans a vast spectrum of topics in environmental science – from ocean plastics, to Arctic ecology, to food systems, to environmental health – creating a rich mosaic within which both artists and scientists can conduct and create impactful work. We seek artists who will use the residency to develop new ideas inspired by their time here; project ideas that are already developed are likely not a good fit for this residency. For more information about our science, visit <https://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/science>.

You can learn more about the program and our past artists in residence at <https://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/art-science>.

Benefits of the residency

- Up to three months of accommodation provided by ‘PrismaVera’, a charming artists retreat in the beautiful Riviera hills of Santa Barbara and a short bike or drive from NCEAS.
 - Each Artist-in-Residence is expected to include the dates of the final exhibition as part of their time in residency.
- Office space at NCEAS, located in downtown Santa Barbara.
- Funding for travel and supplies.
- Interactions with a diversity of scientists spanning a range of environmental topics.
- Opportunities to give on-campus lectures at NCEAS & UC Santa Barbara’s main campus.
- A ‘[First Thursday](#)’ exhibition on September 4, 2025.

How to apply

Please send the following to air@nceas.ucsb.edu by **5pm PDT, January 13, 2025**:

1. Cover letter explaining your interest in the residency and what you would hope to gain from it;
2. Digital images, or links to digital files, of three pieces you are most proud of. Feel free to send additional links to your broader body of work if you’d like, but you must identify separately the three pieces you want to highlight.
3. Anticipated timing for residency and needs for economy travel, materials (up to \$1,000) and/or stipend (up to \$1,000) – please keep in mind that cost will be one of the evaluation criteria.

Why Art + Science @ NCEAS

Art and Science play key roles in nurturing the innovative thinking we need to deal with the complex changes we are currently experiencing across the globe. Both entail a process of asking new questions and exposing possible answers. Together, art and science have the power to transform.

Given this power, NCEAS has created unique opportunities for artists and environmental scientists to come together to work in dialogue with and inspire each other. We hope to unleash new levels of creativity and innovation in the ways we think about, communicate, and solve the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

About NCEAS

NCEAS conducts transformational science focused on informing solutions that will allow people and nature to thrive. We are an independent research affiliate of the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a global network and impact.

Our mission is to accelerate scientific discoveries that will enhance our understanding of the world and benefit people and nature, as well as to transform the scientific culture to be more open, efficient, and collaborative. Our pioneering approach brings together teams of environmental scientists to synthesize existing data and harvest from them new insights. This approach enables discoveries at bigger scales and faster speeds, making them well positioned to inform environmental policy and management. Learn more at www.nceas.ucsb.edu.