

INVISIBLE
ANNUAL THEME OF THE GALERIE BERNAU 2026



GALERIE BERNAU

Open Call for Gallery Program 2027
Deadline for applications: 14 of June 2026

Observing—and truly seeing—what usually lies hidden.

Who and what do we see in our immediate surroundings, cultural institutions, and the media? This invites us to ask yet another question: Who and what do we **not** see? In a world saturated with stimuli, much gets lost in the shuffle. Many people have never been truly seen. In 2027, we aim to engage with perspectives that are frequently overlooked and thus rendered invisible. To this end, Galerie Bernau invites artists from Brandenburg and Berlin to submit proposals that explore invisibility through the diverse disciplines of the visual arts.

„C the Unseen“ was the motto of Chemnitz, European Capital of Culture in 2025. This slogan captured a sentiment felt by many residents of Chemnitz: the feeling of being unseen. Upon receiving its title, this Saxon city became a magnet for many first-time visitors, despite its notable lack of a high-speed train connection.

Underrepresentation of female artists also remains a persistent issue in art histories—despite the fact that women are not a minority group. The City of Bernau has made it its mission to counter this trend by increasing the visibility of women in general. Such efforts raise questions on a societal and personal level: How is it that numerous perspectives—often those of minorities—are repeatedly overlooked and thereby excluded? What does this reveal about us? When was the last time you yourself felt truly seen?

Of course, it is not easy to spot the invisible. We fail to notice a great deal as we go about our daily lives. It is time to cast our gaze behind facades and into the spaces between, to pay attention to the unseen and to display it. A vast amount of art remains hidden from the public—tucked away in studios, private basements, or museum storage depots. Often, there is little space available to display these works. And then there is the digital realm—where we spend a significant portion of our time—a space where a great deal also takes place entirely out of sight. Our explicit goal for the 2027 season is to create space for the unseen, the invisible, and to provide a platform to artists, works, and perspectives that want to engage with the invisible.

We welcome applications for the 2027 annual program from artists of all ages and across all disciplines of the visual arts who reside in Brandenburg or Berlin. Additionally, the fifth exhibition of the year will again be dedicated to a formative figure in the Bernau art scene, to be selected separately by the jury. Galerie Bernau understands itself as a place for exchange and community, and the space is used for gatherings and events on a regular basis.

The fully completed application form and supporting documents must be submitted by June 14, 2026, to: galerie@best-bernau.de. The application form and detailed application guidelines can be found at: www.galerie-bernau.de.

APPLICATION INFORMATION



GALERIE BERNAU

Checklist

- Application form
- Concept text (max. 1 A4 page)
- Images including image references (max. 10 per artist)
- Curriculum vitae (max. 1 A4 page per artist)
- Estimate of material costs & production costs, if applicable (max. 1 A4 page)
- Application & documents in the form of a PDF (max. 10 MB)

Who can apply?

Artists who live and/or work in Berlin or Brandenburg at the time of the call for entries can apply for a solo or group exhibition. Only artists who can prove KSK membership in the field of visual arts or who have distinguished themselves through many years of professional artistic work and can prove their qualification in work samples are eligible to participate. Participation in the call for entries is free of charge.

Exhibition fee

In case of successful participation, exhibitions will be remunerated as follows: Individual exhibitions with 1,000 Euros, group exhibitions with two artists with 500 Euros per person, and three to ten artists with 350 Euros per person.

Production and material costs

For the realization of the selected exhibition projects, material and production costs of max. 1.500 Euro (incl. VAT) are foreseen. The aforementioned amount is to be understood as a cost limit that may not be exceeded. The final budget for production and material costs will be negotiated with the gallery after acceptance.

Transport costs

Transport costs will be covered up to a maximum of 500 Euro per exhibition.

Insurance

The artistic works, whose total value may not exceed the sum of 100,000 Euros in any case, are insured for the entire period of the exhibition.

Expert jury

The applications will be submitted to an independent jury of experts. In principle, the jury's decision will not be justified. We kindly ask you to refrain from asking questions. All applicants will be informed about the jury's decision by email.

Collaboration

The selected projects will be professionally supervised by the gallery. The design of the exhibition will be done together with the artists. The final decision will be made by the gallery. In its understanding as a place for the community and exchange, there is space planned in every exhibition for gatherings and events.

Approval of project funds

The GALERIE BERNAU is a non-commercial art space. The exhibition program is subject to the approval of project funds.

Submission modalities

Deadline for submission is June 14, 2026. The submission of applications is exclusively digital. The required documents are to be submitted as a PDF in an email attachment to the email address: galerie@best-bernau.de. Applications submitted after the deadline or incomplete applications will unfortunately not be considered.