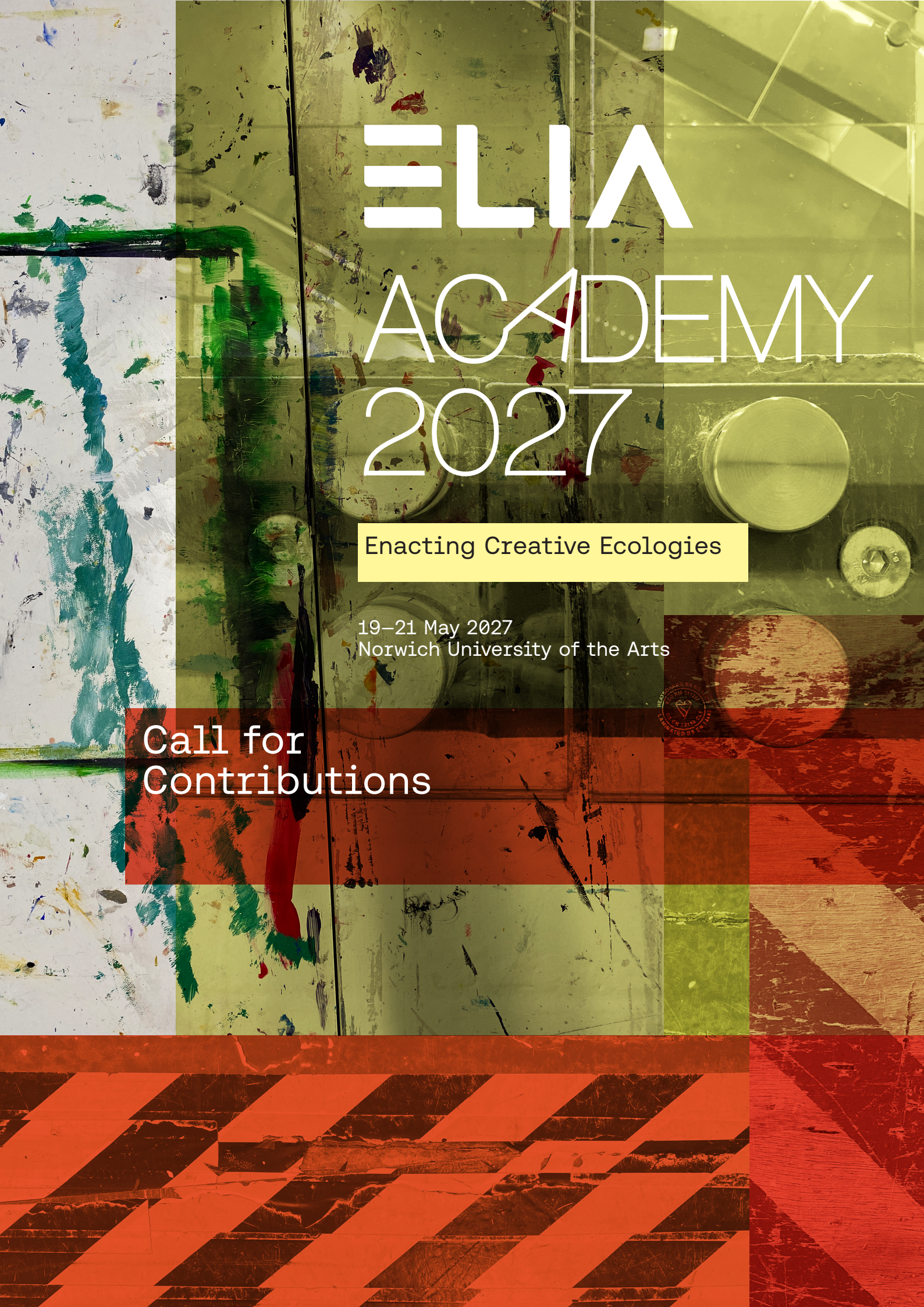


The background is a complex collage of textures and colors. It features a mix of white, green, and red paint splatters and brushstrokes on a dark, possibly metallic, surface. There are also some circular, metallic-looking elements scattered throughout. The overall aesthetic is artistic and industrial.

ELIA ACADEMY 2027

Enacting Creative Ecologies

19–21 May 2027
Norwich University of the Arts

Call for
Contributions

ELIA Academy 2027

Enacting Creative Ecologies

19 – 21 May 2027
Norwich University of the Arts
Norwich, United Kingdom

Call for contributions

Deadline for submissions: 4 January 2027

Theme

In moments of transition and uncertainty, communities are called not only to respond, but to actively imagine. By giving form to such acts of imagination, enactment emerges as a concept more than declaration. It is a collective act of making values visible, of turning aspiration into practice, intention into action, through shared endeavour. In the context of higher arts education and research, enactment gives shape to what matters now, while opening space for what might come next, especially across the borders, divisions and boundaries that structure the ecologies¹ of how we teach, learn and create.

Hosted by Norwich University of the Arts, ELIA Academy 2027: Enacting Creative Ecologies calls on artistic practitioners, educators, researchers, students, technicians and all those involved in shaping creative education to come together through speculation, play and collaboration. Gathering over three days in the city of Norwich, ELIA Academy frames enactment as a practical and pedagogical way to explore creative education at its edges: between campus and community, local and global, physical and digital, specialist and generalist.

Through workshops, collaborative actions, presentations, performative encounters, interventions, mobile visits, and shared acts of reflection, this theme invites participants to explore how creative ecologies can be brought into being through practice and artistic research. ELIA Academy 2027 opens space for discomfort, experimentation and difficult conversations, while asking how shared authorship could create more open, caring and imaginative learning cultures. Not a single vision, but a plurality of voices. Not a finished declaration, but an ongoing practice of making futures together.

Note: In this context, we define ‘ecologies’ in a systemic sense, encompassing the relationships, structures, conditions and processes through which teaching and learning strategies are configured and made possible within the art school.



contribute to the ELIA Academy 2027

Calling all artistic practitioners, researchers, arts educators, students, pedagogues, admin staff, technicians, leaders and makers!

In a time of rapid transition, ELIA Academy 2027: Enacting Creative Ecologies invites contributions that explore creative education at its edges: between campus and community, local and global, physical and digital, specialist and generalist. It explores how collaborative action, shared inquiry and creative practice can help higher arts education teachers and learners navigate uncertainty with confidence.

ELIA Academy 2027 encourages its contributors to collectively gather, generate and cultivate ideas that transport us from concept to enactment. The theme Enacting Creative Ecologies offers a means of convening voices, surfacing values, and exploring multiple ways of imagining and practising the future, including futures that question, cross and reconfigure institutional, disciplinary, social and geographic borders.

Formats

Interventions

Spatial Experiments

Presentations

Research methods

Pedagogical methodologies

Performative
Encounters

Collaborative Actions

Shared Acts of Reflection

For higher arts education and research, this raises urgent questions:

- How do we create conditions in which students and staff can think with and against each other productively?
- How can arts students and educators work together to build cultures of participation that are generous, critical and future-facing while conditions within and around art institutions are shifting?
- How might collective or reciprocal acts of research, testing and reflection empower teachers and learners in times of uncertainty?
- Looking at the university as a shared site of authorship, what pedagogies and artistic practices are emerging in your studios, classrooms and contexts? What can we learn from each other?

By embracing discomfort, experimentation and shared authorship, the theme positions creative practice as a way to build agency, wellbeing and collective futures in higher arts education. Contributors should use this opportunity as a moment to imagine, show, test and enact what a future creative institution could be and to explore how shared authorship might shape more open, connected and imaginative educational ecologies.

Who can apply?

Lecturers, students, artists, curriculum developers, designers, architects, musicians and technicians teaching at ELIA member institutions, those who are directly involved in the delivery of theory and practice, artistic researchers and teachers/researchers in arts education or pedagogy, including art educators working in the public domain, who wish to:

- engage with unexpected, non-traditional pedagogical methods on an international level;
- gain new insights and look to future practices in educating and training artists across all art disciplines;
- share ideas and practices with like-minded colleagues from across Europe and beyond

We encourage students to participate with their learning experiences, reflections and provocations on modes of learning. We welcome those who are studying arts education to help us re-think teaching & learning from a student perspective.

The organisers are currently exploring funding opportunities that could provide selected student presenters with support towards the costs of participating in the ELIA Academy, including travel and accommodation.

How to apply

ELIA Academy invites a combination of a written and video submission. We welcome applicants to pitch the idea for their contribution in a short max. 2-minute video. This video will be used by the panel to select the contributions for the ELIA Academy. Applicants should be aware that the video should be fit for posting on the Academy website and will be shown as an introduction at the beginning of their session.

All submissions should be related to the main theme and include:

- Presentation title
- A video (max. 2 minutes) in which the idea for the session is presented
- A short, written description (max. 300 words)
- Descriptive biography presenter(s) (max 150 words, including relevant URLs)
- Format description
- Technical requests
- Contact details

Applicants should provide the required information in the submission form available on the ELIA Academy website. The working language of the ELIA Academy is English.

Please note the deadline for submissions is 4 January 2027. Submissions not making use of the online form or presented in a language other than English, will not be considered.

All submissions will be peer-reviewed by an international panel of experts, and the selection will reflect a balanced division of regions, countries and disciplines. The international peer-reviewers panel will make the first selection, which is presented to the Steering Group of the ELIA Academy 2025 for final selection.

The selection will take place in January; applicants will be informed about the results in February 2027 at the latest.

Successful applicants will be offered a reduced participation fee.

*Note: If you're not from an ELIA member institution, and you would like to apply or encourage your institution to become an ELIA member – please reach out to us, and we will try to support your application.

For further information, please visit the ELIA Academy website or contact ELIA Conference Manager Janja Škerget at janja.skerget@elia-artschools.org