



# GOING OFF CENTRE

**ELIA Biennial Conference 2026**  
18 — 21 November  
Zwolle, The Netherlands

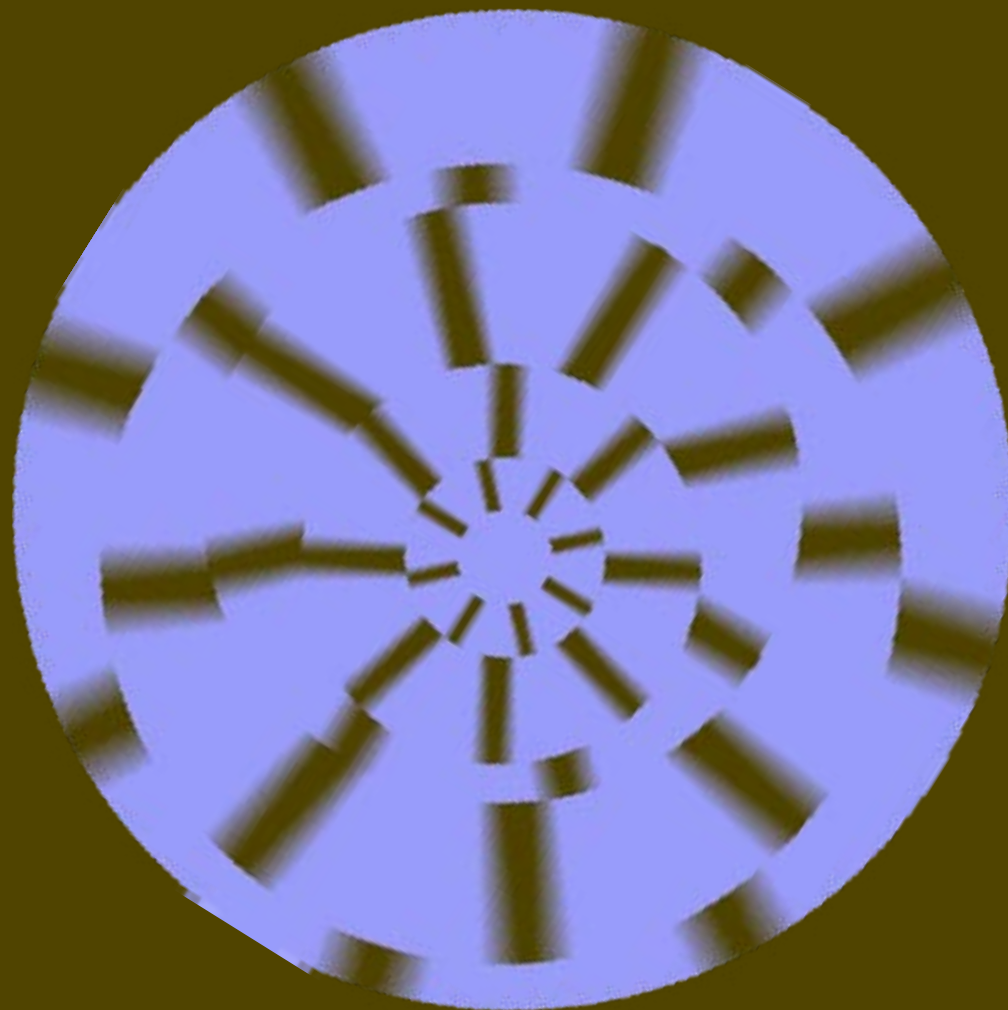
**CALL FOR  
GLOBAL SATELLITE HOSTS**  
Deadline: 20 July 2026

# CO-CREATE THE GLOBAL SATELLITE PROGRAMME

ELIA and ArtEZ University of the Arts invite ELIA members and their collaborators from around the world to co-create and curate the **Global Satellite Programme** for the ELIA Biennial Conference 2026.

The Global Satellite Programme expands the Biennial beyond the physical conference, creating space for voices, practices, and perspectives from different geographical, cultural, and educational contexts. Satellite contributions will take place before, during, and after the Biennial through online, hybrid, asynchronous, or locally rooted formats. It will be accessible to all Biennial registrants and ELIA members online.

We welcome global hosts to explore the act and art of decentering, and to embrace the tensions this brings. The valuable input from the Satellite contributions will be integrated into the in-person Biennial programme in Zwolle.



# COLLABORATION REQUIREMENTS

To participate in the Global Satellite Programme:

- At least one organising partner must be an ELIA member institution.
- If the ELIA member institution is based in Europe, the proposal must include a collaborator based outside Europe.
- If the ELIA member institution is based outside Europe, collaboration with an additional partner is not required.

Collaborators do not need to be ELIA members. They may be:

- artists or collective
- universities, academies or schools (including non-arts institutions)
- cultural organisations or community centres
- researchers or research groups
- activist networks or local initiatives
- independent artists/practitioners

In volatile times it becomes clear that no centre is fixed or permanent. When things fall apart, both crisis and imagination arise. We find ourselves on edge. It is arts schools and socio-cultural institutions who maintain open spaces for multi-dimensional and divergent thinking – trying to convene shared community spaces.

Polarisation is the collective shift away from communal centres leading to deeper misunderstanding and eroding common values. As a result, institutions that gather and embolden communities through the arts, education, heritage, and social justice can struggle to re-imagine and risk being dismantled.

For this reason, ELIA Biennial Conference 2026 calls on artistic practitioners, researchers, educators, students, administrative staff, technicians and leaders to 'go off centre'.

We ask participants to step out of binary-thinking comfort zones, pull back from the mainstream towards the alternative, break from the fulcrum, and head to the margins. We encourage a rethinking of positions and roles held within these shifting forcefields.

With strong and open hearts, we will reposition the art school not by restoring a lost centre, but by reforming as a body of knowing: "a living, breathing whole that resists being bricked in by definitions, dogmas, or hierarchies" and seek to create new and expansive centres of artistic and academic integrity.

# WHO THE GLOBAL SATELLITE PROGRAMME IS FOR AND WHY IT MATTERS

ELIA is defined by the diversity and global scope of its membership, which is fundamental to its work and institutional identity. While not all members are able to travel to the ELIA Biennial Conference, their perspectives, practices, and contributions are an integral part of the organisation and its events. All Global Satellite Programme content will be accessible to ELIA members and conference registrants online.

The **Global Satellite Programme** is not a parallel or secondary activity, but an integrated part of the ELIA Biennial 2026. It is designed to extend the Biennial across time and geography, beginning before the conference, becoming part of the live experience in Zwolle, and continuing afterwards through ongoing exchange and reflection.

In this way, the Global Satellite Programme is fully embedded within the structure of the Biennial. It contributes directly to its themes, discussions, and public outcomes, and is recognised as a core strand of the overall programme.

By working across multiple timeframes and contexts, the Satellite Programme strengthens the Biennial's reach and relevance. It enables participation from members and collaborators worldwide, and brings into dialogue perspectives that might otherwise remain outside the in-person conference setting.

The Global Satellite Programme is an integrated part of the Biennial and unfolds online across the wider conference timeline. We invite hosts to think beyond conventional online sessions and experiment with formats such as podcasts, vlogs, hybrid performances, social media interventions, collective mapping, global collaborative art projects, student-led activities, live online interventions, recordings, radio shows, or other off-centre approaches connected to the Biennial theme *Going Off Centre*.

Experimentation with format is understood here as part of *Going Off Centre*, opening space for alternative modes of presence, participation, and knowledge exchange.

Sessions will be scheduled in time slots suited to the host organisation and the majority of ELIA members.

Satellite contributions may take different forms:

- **Before the Biennial:** online sessions will take place in the three weeks leading up to the conference, starting in late October 2026.
- **During the Biennial:** satellite content integrated into the conference experience in Zwolle through accessible and asynchronous formats.
- **After the Biennial:** follow-up online sessions, discussions, or exchanges extending the conversations beyond the conference.

We strongly encourage student-led contributions and collaborations that bring together ELIA member institutions, non-member partner institutions, and local organisations. Each collaboration must include at least one ELIA member institution as lead or co-organiser.

# FORMAT & TIME

Hosts are responsible for curating and organising their contributions, with support and guidance provided by ELIA where needed.

We recommend using accessible and reliable online platforms that best suit the format of your contribution and allow participation across time zones. Live sessions may be hosted via Zoom or similar tools, while hosts are also encouraged to explore hybrid, asynchronous, or platform-diverse approaches that integrate smoothly into the conference context.

Approaches should remain easy to implement and avoid unnecessary logistical complexity or costs, with a focus on accessibility and participation across global contexts.



# HOW TO APPLY

Satellite content is produced by the host institution, which is responsible for moderation, technical support, and gathering and sharing feedback after the event. ELIA will support the integration of Satellite contributions into the Biennial programme in Zwolle, in close collaboration with the host.

Hosts are also expected to promote their session within their own institution and through relevant partner institutions and networks, including those outside the ELIA membership. All registrations will be managed through the ELIA system.

These are the mandatory submission requirements:

- **Content title**
- **Description** (max. 300 words)
- **Format proposal, including timing of the contribution** (before, during, or after the Biennial)
- **Technical details**
- **Information on contributors** (presenters & involved organisations)
- **Contact details**

# HOW TO APPLY

The required information should be filled in on the submission form available [here](#). The working language of the ELIA Biennial Conference is English.\*

The deadline for submissions is Monday, 20 July 2026.

All submissions will be reviewed by the ELIA team, and the selection will reflect a balanced division of regions, countries and disciplines. The selection results will be communicated, and the curation of the online satellite programme will be completed by beginning of September 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact ELIA Conference Manager Janja Škerget at [janja.skerget@elia-artschools.org](mailto:janja.skerget@elia-artschools.org).

\* Please note submissions not using the online form or presented in a language other than English will not be considered.