

# merit art collective



2024  
folio

---

ART PROJECTS  
NETWORKS  
PRODUCTIONS

---

[www.workofmerit.org/MAC](http://www.workofmerit.org/MAC)  
info.meritartcollective@gmail.com

# THE IDEA



The idea of the MAC was birthed from the experience of working as an independent curator. Not being able to apply for substantial funding for projects as a person and having to rely on established institutions to come in as project lead meant that technically I was no longer the lead of my own project and to a large extent also lost the control over the financial distribution. Although it also meant that someone else would deal with the accounting and administration (not a small part) I wanted to be able to hold my own projects.

By asking friends and peers to join me on this journey, we started the MAC in 2023 in order to address two main ideas, manifested and activated through:

- the general operation of the association in order to provide a legal and financial infrastructure to fulfil its set mission and
- to host a network of like-minded members that work interdisciplinary and to share their knowledges with one another.

In such, the MAC becomes a network spanning globally and a tool for independent creatives and artists etc. to use the structures of it in order to hold their own projects without losing control and ownership of their creative enterprise.

The MAC is structured through different positions and groups:

- **Board of Directors** (2 elected members)
- **Treasurer** (1 elected member)
- **General Assembly** (active & passive members)
- **Custodian** (founder of the MAC)
- **Sounding Board** (all active members deciding on projects and general direction of the MAC)
- **Funding Members/Donors** (people or entities who financially contribute to the association to further its cause)

The general work for the MAC is honorary, the specific work for projects is paid through the project funding that members bring in. The upkeep and administration cost of the MAC is absorbed through project funding or through members fees and donations.

The custodian is responsible for the general logistics, internal communication and growth of the MAC.

Members can be situated anywhere in the world, the general language of operations will be English, active members must be part of the creative ecosystem.

# STATUTE



In general (and in short) an association in German understanding is an interest group forging an alliance. It is also tax exempt because its main objective is not to make profit but to realise the defined interests .

The MAC's statute (excerpt) states as follows:

(1) The association pursues exclusive and immediate non-profit purposes in accordance with the paragraph "tax-privileged purposes" section of the tax code (§ 51 ff), namely by promoting arts and culture. In particular, the exchange between different cities, countries and their respective creative scenes.

(2) The statute is realised in particular by promoting artistic and cultural practices in the areas of curation, fine arts, performing arts, literature, music, the digital and artistic research. In particular, the aim is to implement experimental projects that follow a transdisciplinary and transcultural approach and thus make a special contribution to a diverse cultural landscape in an open, democratic society. Diversity is also seen here in terms of gender identity as well as social, cultural and ecological conditions.

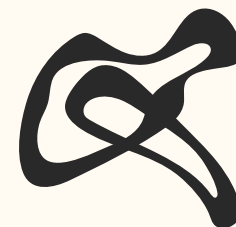
(3) The association is not politically active and is not affiliated to any political institution.

The statute is realised in particular through:

- the conception and implementation of projects that strive for sustainable cooperation between various artistic, cultural and scientific disciplines. Especially in the context of seemingly contradictory areas, as well as the interaction of formal and informal practices.
- the conception and implementation of projects that promote international exchange and/or integrative merging within the framework of joint artistic, cultural and scientific activities.
- the presentation of projects that correspond to the purposes of the association, e.g. by creating and making available analogue print products and digital products and by organising and staging exhibitions, festival formats, performances, readings, film screenings, concerts, workshops and discussion platforms .
- process-oriented and practice-oriented work. The association supports creative people from all sectors in the development of ideas, conception and implementation of the works through process support, artist residencies and digital collaborations.

(4) The association is itself a basis for learning, research and exchange. The members of the association commit to support the association and other members of the association with their knowledge and expertise.

# MANIFESTO



The legal structure of the MAC is grounded in German Law of Associations. The general basis of it and the active work done through it is outlined in the manifesto. This is an excerpt of the document:

The general modus operandi of the MAC is to create and curate art projects and through public or private funding to realise these projects and thus the association's set goals by following its statute as well as observing its legal framework.

Each **Member** can share ideas with the association's Sounding Board for a peer-review process. The **Sounding Board** consists of all active members and helps consolidate ideas into viable projects. If the Sounding Board agrees to the project it will be realised through the association.

The originator of the project will be its main project coordinator and responsible for fitting funding schemes, as well as general project management in conjunction with the help of the active members and the board.

Funding is a core part of the association's success. Each member should be able to find ways to apply for funding and/or support the establishment of the project's concept, budget, timeline and other required documents. Funding is not bound geographically. The **Board** and the **Treasurer** will guide and help in the process.

Remunerated tasks/services that are part of the project should if possible be allocated within the members capacity ('circular economy').

The MAC represents its members and vice versa, a holistic exchange lies at the centre of the MAC, this should be reflected in all projects we do.

**Care as Practice** is a method of attentiveness and deep care for the subject matter and its products. Being an active part of a process and exchange between people and objects. It also describes the openness to engage and nurture topics and experiences even or especially if they are not known to oneself. The acknowledgement of the multitude of realities that exist in the diversity of lives. The openness to constructive criticism and learning new or different ways of working, thinking and articulating projects and subject matters.

One of the core ideas of the MAC is sharing of knowledges (the plural here speaks of different types of knowledge systems and includes formal and informal knowledge), ideas and thoughts amongst the members. Nurturing each other's minds and creative output is central to the MAC.

The MAC is inclusive to diverse people and their viewpoints and provides a safe space for them to exist and be shared.

# THE OFFER

The MAC is a tool that can be used by all its active members and it is an expanding network all active members have access to.

It offers an existing infrastructure legally and bureaucratically which is critical in order to have access to funding, and ensures proper accounting as well as reporting according to funder guidelines.

The MAC is German based and thus legible for numerous funding opportunities in Germany and Europe. This can especially help with projects focused on exchange and intercontinental work.

The MAC offers a growing network of like-minded creative practitioners and aims to connect its members to other people in other places through projects realised with the association.

We invite every member to actively shape the MAC and support collaborations and exchange beyond its mandate.

Network Members: 0 a year (once off onboarding fee 20 EUR)

General Members: 20 - 50 EUR a year

Funding Members: 50 - 100 EUR a year or individual amount

Donors: individual amounts / once offs

# MEMBERSHIPS



## Active and Passive Members

The MAC distinguishes between active and passive members. Depending on each member's capacity and involvement, each member can opt for an active membership = General Member (actively involved/leading a project, assisting where needed, working on a specific task within the project or the association in general) or a passive membership = Network Members (available as sounding board on request, suggesting capable people needed for the project, connecting with others relevant to the project). Active members can use the association to realise their projects, passive members cannot.

## Funding Members

Funding Members (FM) donate to the general cause of the MAC to ensure the association can work continuously and supports its administration. These members can also be active members and realise projects if they wish to. The FM will receive updates on the association and it's project and are invited to all projects as exclusive guests.

## Donors

Donors support the associations cause without active participation. Special mentioning on internal and external communications, will receive updates on the association and it's project and are invited to all projects as exclusive guests.

**thank  
you.**



**2024  
folio**

---

**ART PROJECTS  
NETWORKS  
PRODUCTIONS**

---

[www.workofmerit.org/MAC](http://www.workofmerit.org/MAC)  
[info.meritartcollective@gmail.com](mailto:info.meritartcollective@gmail.com)