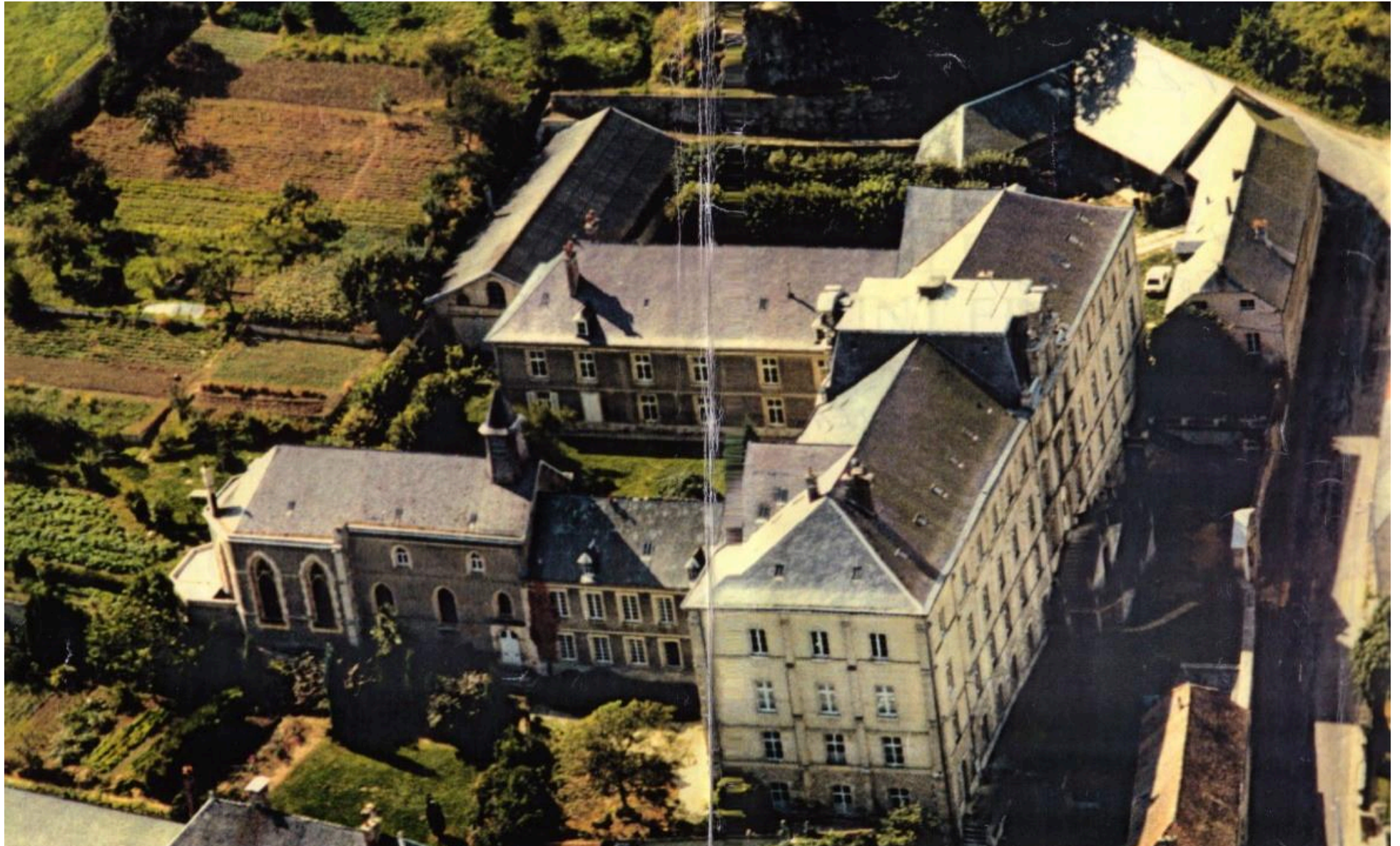


PAF

PERFORMING ARTS FORUM



INTRODUCTION

PAF - Performing Arts Forum is an artists residency situated in the north of France, 150 km north-east from Paris in the heart of the Champagne region. It is located in a former convent surrounded by a 1.2 hectare garden in the village of St. Erme-Outre-et-Ramecourt.

It is a place for practitioners and activists in the fields of performing arts, visual art, literature, music, new media and internet, theory, cultural production, and science, who seek to research and determine their own conditions of work.

PAF is for people who foster artistic and knowledge production beyond the opportunities given by the institutional market. Neither a production-house and venue, nor a research-center, PAF is a platform for everyone who wants to expand possibilities and interests in their own working practice.

Initiated in 2005, PAF welcomes 1200 residents yearly and counts 12 000 members across Europe and abroad.



PaF IS

- a forum for producing knowledge in a critical exchange and an ongoing discursive practice
- a place of focus for work
- a tool for developing methods and procedures, not necessarily driven toward a product
- a site for experimentation with modes of production and organization of work
- a practice of self-organization and collaborative sustainability
- an environment for distraction, retreat, and conviviality



Today

MEMBERSHIP & PAYMENT

LOOK FOR MATT OR VINCENZO

the morning

10am Tuesday [change of day]

Breakfast considerations on abstraction, the theory of functions, and arbitrary nature.

- In the Garden, if the weather allows

- Matt xxx

- I shall try and get croissants for the first arrivals - a bribe



1st September 0:00 mediaspace
live screening of Ensayos / New Museum
Premiere of Zoom Theaterplay
"CUCU and Her Fishes"
by Camilla Marambio, Christy East
with: Carolina Laquel, Barbara Laavedra
Caitlin Franzmann, Felina My Molina
Carla Marchiavello, Denise Milstein
Randi Nygård

do Depart
ing (17)
er 83
Vietnamese
subtitles

The PAF board, a tool for collective organization

ETHICS and Praxis

PAF is not a venue that has the budget to produce, promote, and distribute projects. It is a big house with plentiful space and unlimited time; it offers a possibility for members to shape the conditions of their work, as well as contact and exchange with the other artists and theoreticians working at PAF.

As an institution, PAF continues to develop on the basis of what each person brings through their engagement. It operates on the principles of self-organization, whereby one assumes the responsibility for creating and organizing their own work and activity in PAF. PAF is maintained daily by the people who are on site.

PAF tries not to exclude, and encourages all sorts of differences in access to resources, capacities, interests, backgrounds, and knowledge.

In order to avoid the proliferation of rules for the organization of collective living and working, PAF tries to create safety and care from within – this is an ongoing practice to be carried by all.

Whatever project you're working on, PAF can only make it possible for you if you make it possible for PAF too. PAF or the coffee machine, a lecture, or a corridor is there for you as much as you are there for PAF or the coffee machine, the lecture or the corridor. This also means that by coming to PAF, you commit to engaging with the building and the community of current residents in order to make possible the collective sharing of all facilities.

PAF has no selection process, it is relatively cheap, its doors are open, it has no staff and is guided by four rules.



Lunch in summer time in the main garden

FOUR RULES (THINK OF THEM AS INTERRELATED)

Don't leave traces

Clean up behind you. Apart from your private room, leave space available for everybody when you are not using it. This also applies to traces or other uninvited marks (material or immaterial) in spaces or in interactions with others.

Make it possible for others

Think of this as an opportunity to open up space(s) by showing a rehearsal or a movie, giving a lecture, starting a discussion, cleaning a corridor, or helping somebody.

The do-er decides

But not alone! Things are decided by the ones who do, more than the ones who talk. However, the opportunity to do is not without limits and action should be taken in consideration with others.

Mind asymmetries

PAF is made of asymmetries. People come from different places, inhabit different bodies, have different experiences, are situated differently in power structures and have different boundaries. Take this into account, challenge your own position

and let it be challenged, while respecting other people's boundaries.

PAF aspires to be a space where intersectional, anti-racist and feminist analysis inform practice. Sexism, racism, classism, LGBTQ+phobia, ableism, ageism and any other form of discrimination or aggression are not tolerated. PAF fosters a practice of collective accountability and considers it everybody's responsibility.

More info available [here](#).



Summers at PAF, picture by Lyor Askenazi

PAF INITIATIVES

[Spring Meeting](#) offers a series of seminars over nine consecutive days by guest lecturers. Neither academic nor artistic, didactic nor democratic, the intention of the seminars is to approach knowledge in ways specific to PAF in order to explore modes of understanding and thinking together.

Every summer, [PAF Summer University](#) engages artists, activists, and scholars in a ten-day gathering of sharing and comparing, doing and showing. The intention is to offer a zone of autonomy where experimentation and recreation can mingle and where knowledge production can be practiced with open doors.

[Elsewhere & Otherwise](#) is a queer feminist gathering and community that holds many ongoing relations, practices, collaborations, conversations, and exchanges. Topics, among others, were on the erotic, ritual, reproductive labour, love, sex, time, and magic.

[PS - Philosophy Salo\(o\)ns](#) is a program of intimate conversation-orientated meetings where philosophy can move outside of the academy, both materially and in terms of the kind of thinking that can flourish.

[The Sensing Salon](#) expands existing ideas of art by recalling the healing arts; it is a studio for the practice of such arts. is something to do and it does something: it restores. In collaborative work, the Sensing Salon explores a praxis of sensing and making sense that includes studying, thinking, and restoring experiments that reach for the deepest level of our entangled existence.

[Asymmetry Study Group](#) is a biweekly online study group to study texts and initiatives that will help to analyze the ways in which the colonial, imperialist, and oppressive capitalist system reproduces itself within and through PAF.



View from the garden, picture by Lyor Askenazi

THE BUILDING

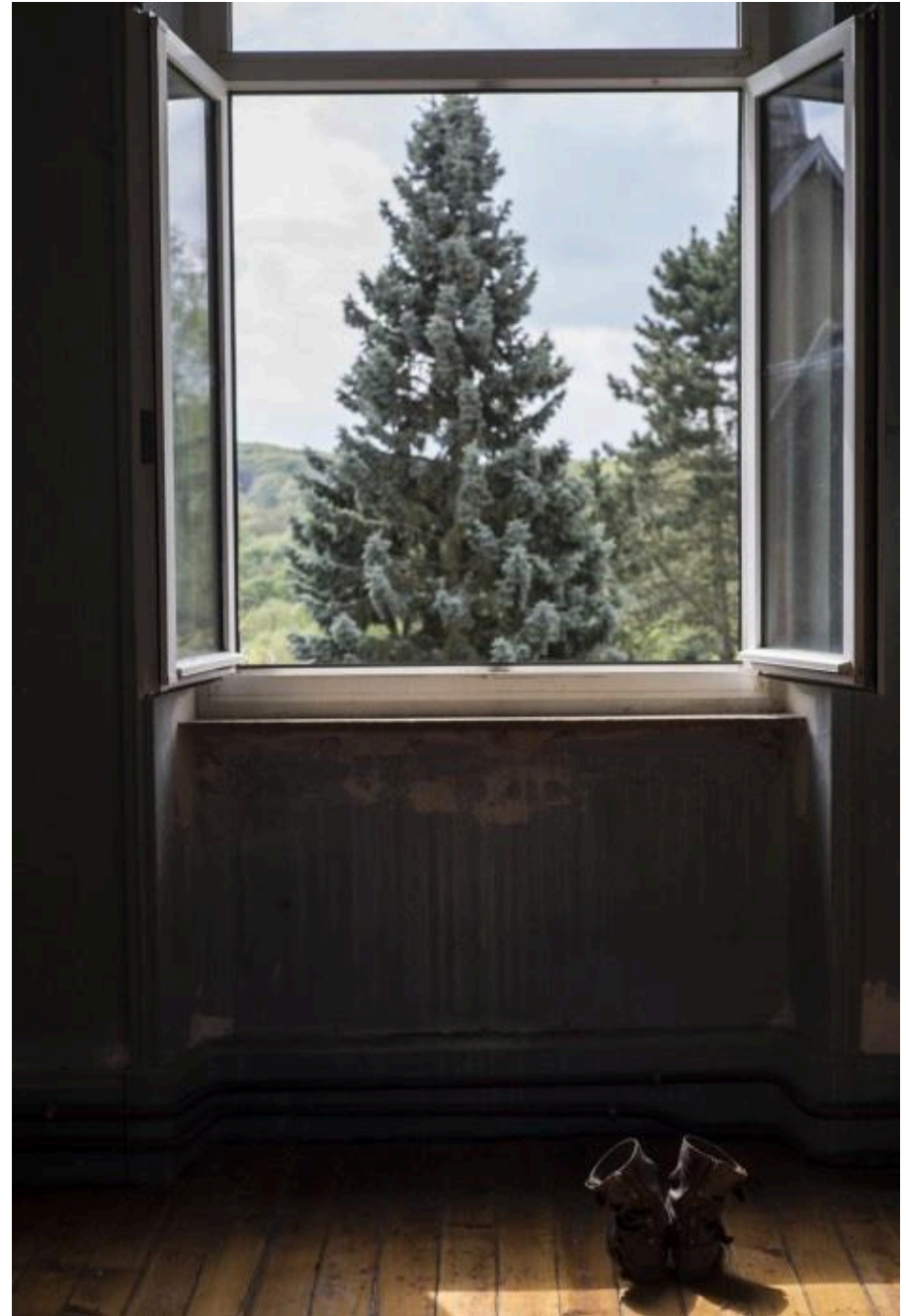
PAF inhabits an old convent of 3000 m² dating back to 1820. It is surrounded by several gardens: the front garden, the inner courtyard, and the orchard (with old apple, pear, and nut trees).

PAF offers 52 rooms with countryside views containing a single or double bed, a sink with hot water, a desk, a chair, and a cupboard.

There are 6 large practice based studios, 2 music rooms with various instruments and music equipment, a large dance space, 2 libraries, a media space, a meditation and yoga studio, and many other multi-purpose spaces.

Accessibility

Despite the constant efforts to progressively renovate and improve the building facilities, the upper floors are currently only accessible by stairs.





Studio Ste Louise, picture by Lyor Askenazi

The Kitchen

The Kitchen is an important place and practice at PAF, forming and informing social bonds and work exchange around shared meals and collective cooking. The two professionally equipped kitchens are also a regular theater of experimentation for food practitioners in an ongoing practice of hosting, transmitting, and knowledge production. The kitchen is social and sensorial - a place for individual and collective praxis, and one where new forms of living together can emerge.

Media

PAF is entirely equipped with high-speed Wifi with optic fibre connection, musical production gear, a projection room with a large range of screening options, including old-school and new technologies, plus access to tools and other equipment.

The Libraries

The two library spaces are built with the contribution of residents who donated publications, books and printed matter to PAF. As of today the two libraries host hundreds of books on topics ranging from Philosophy to Poetry, Theater Studies to Gastronomy, Music to the Healing Arts, Mathematics to Romance novels.

Music rooms

Although there is no perfectly soundproof room, PAF is a haven for music amateurs and professionals. The ballroom with its grand piano, the music room for listening sessions, the cave for special recordings and the chapel, a high place for acoustics, are regularly used by musicians. You will also find many music instruments at PAF - in a variety of qualities and temperaments -, including seven pianos (regularly tuned), one harmonium, three acoustic bass guitars, a drums set, one accordion, some electric and acoustic guitars, one cello as well as other basic equipments (cables, mixers, speakers, mics).



The Ballroom during rehearsals, picture by Lyor Askenazi

List of the most commonly-used spaces for meetings, work, and other purposes:

Basement

Big Dance Hall
Old Kitchen
Darkroom for photo-development
Sauna

Ground Floor

Smoking Room
2 Dining Rooms
2 fully equipped professional Kitchens
Pantry (food, linens, storage, etc.)
Laundry Room
Workshop
Cleaning Center
Peacock Studio
Pharmacy
Blue Studio
Great Hall
Music Room
Piano Room
Chapel
Libraries 1 and 2

1st Floor

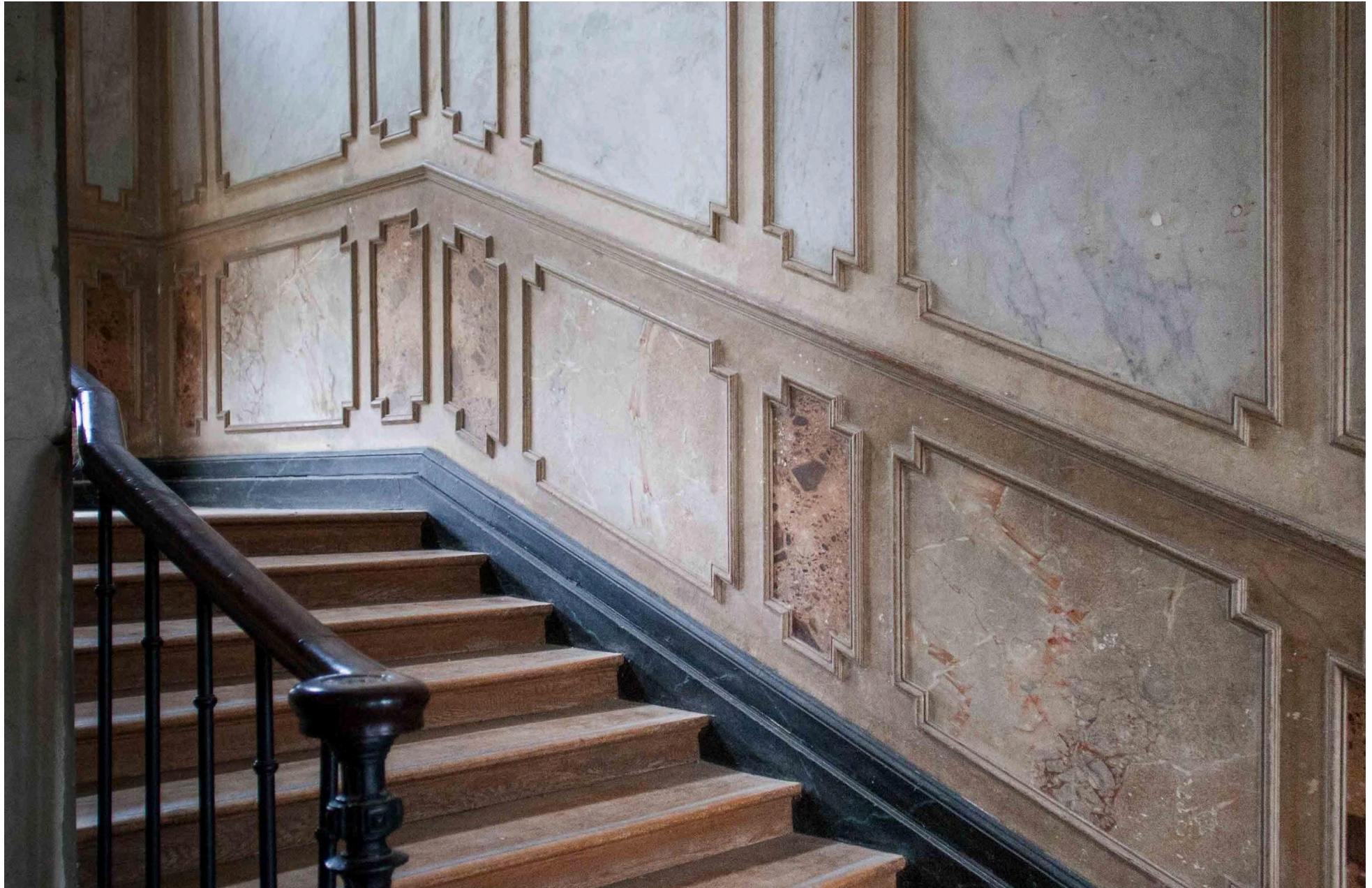
Media Space
Small Working Space
Big Studio

2nd Floor

Studio St. Louise
Studio St. Therese
Studio St. Lucie
2 painting studios
Meditation Room

Outdoor Spaces

Three inner courtyards
Little Mountain
Garden
Orchard
Hangar (parking, Open Air cinema)
Wood, metal, plumbing, electrics barns
Bike shed
Sauna and Cool-down barn



PAF staircases leading to the upper floors and studios



Permaculture experiments, picture by Lyor Askenazi

PARTNERS AND PAF USERS

Since its foundation PAF has welcomed more than 12 000 residents supporting a wide range of research projects, developments, and productions in the fields of academia, artistic creation, and social and political activism. From dance students to philosophers, international researchers to local artists, PAF encourages excellence and experimentation alike.

In parallel to individual and collective trajectories many institutions have collaborated with PAF or used PAF as part of their education program, among which:

Institute for Applied Theatre Studies, Gießen – Sandberg Institute, Amsterdam – DAI-Dutch Arts Institute, Arnhem – University of Dance, Stockholm – a·pass advanced performance and scenography studies, Brussels – p.a.r.t.s., Brussels – CNDC - Centre national de danse contemporaine d'Angers – EXERCE, Institut Chorégraphique International, Montpellier a.o.

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TO SUPPORT PAF

PAF is not sponsored or subsidised.

For the past 15 years, PAF's income has been derived from the residency costs (19 euros/day) and the membership fees from the about 1100 yearly residents.

If you can and would like to support PAF, you could consider:

Financial donations

Financial donations can be done via the Paypal account of the association. You can:

- make a monthly donation [here](#) by clicking "make this a monthly donation"
(We suggest 10 euros per month)
- make a one-off donation [here](#)
(We suggest 120 euros)
- make a bank transfer directly onto PAF bank account. [Here are PAF account info](#), please send us an email at contactpaf@gmail.com so we can provide you with a receipt.

Material donations

Material donations are welcome PAF is always in need of equipment to support the maintenance and functioning of the building: special tools and machines (dryers, laundry machines, professional kitchen equipment), materials (floor planks, paint), equipment (music instruments), household equipment (bedsheets, towels, etc).



PAF yearly resident, picture by Lyor Askenazi