

Flechada - Support Program for First Solo Exhibitions 2026

Synopsis

Support program for first solo exhibitions to be held at appropriate spaces, aimed at artists aged 24 to 31. Up to 6 grants totaling a maximum of €5.000,00 each will be awarded.

Eligibility

- 1) Artists must be Portuguese nationals or have resided in Portugal for at least 5 years;
- 2) Artists mustn't have held a solo exhibition before;
- 3) Artists must be aged 24 to 31 on closure of application period.
- 4) Artists applying for the grant for the Porto Municipal Gallery's exhibition must prove their residency in the Municipality of Porto or carry out their professional or academic activity there.

Context

One of the greatest obstacles to becoming a professional and achieving visibility in the contemporary art circuits is how difficult it is to exhibit art works as a coherent proposal an artist may defend while being exempt from the constraints of institutional circuits and curatorial assessments that submit to generational or stiffly programmatic conceptual limitations.

Flechada is a FLAD arts program that aims to overcome these obstacles and give rise to the new - that style, genre, discourse, object which may yet remain unnamed. It is often only after the first structured solo exhibition that an artist enters the art world (including the art market), that they begin attracting institutional offers and thus find themselves able to consistently afford the fixed costs attached to the art practice (renting an atelier, materials, and so on). The first solo exhibition is an initiation of sorts that beckons the care organizations

such as FLAD may afford when bringing to fruition their philanthropic endeavor.

The support afforded an exhibition project and its articulation with professional structures and cultural agents will allow the selected artists to develop a unique, solo exhibition project so that they may begin tracing their pathways and developing a plasticity and a visual body of work with agility.

Where

Exhibition spaces (art centers, galleries, artist-run spaces, collectives, among others) must offer adequate conditions for hosting exhibitions. As a result of a partnership between FLAD and ÁGORA – Cultura e Desporto do Porto E.M., ÁGORA is making one of the spaces in the Porto Municipal Gallery available for one of the Flechada exhibitions, which will exceptionally begin in the first quarter of 2027.

Application documents (.pdf)

- 1) Portfolio (maximum 15 pages)
- 2) Cover letter (max. 1 page)
- 3) Exhibition project (images and/or text - max. 2 pages)
- 4) Curriculum Vitae (max. 2 pages)
- 5) Letter or e-mail from the exhibition space stating availability to host the project
- 6) For the scholarship related to the exhibition at the Porto Municipal Gallery, it is necessary to present suitable documentation demonstrating that the candidate resides, works, or studies in the Municipality of Porto, namely one of the following supporting documents: I) Tax residence certificate; II) Residence certificate issued by the Parish Council; III) Lease agreement; IV) Water, electricity, or internet supply contract, or

correspondence proving the same; V) Documentation or declaration proving regular professional activity with entity(ies) based or with a permanent establishment in the Municipality of Porto during the last year; VI) Proof of enrollment or attendance in a study plan, for the current year, at an educational institution based or with an Academic Center located in the Municipality of Porto.

The grantees agree to collaborate on the promotion of this program and may be asked to participate by FLAD's communication team namely by providing testimonies or statements, in different formats, suited to FLAD's communication strategy.

For the grant related to the exhibition at the Porto Municipal Gallery, an additional contract will be signed between ÁGORA E.M. and the selected candidate will receive an additional amount of €5.000,00, which will be managed by ÁGORA in coordination with the candidate.

Calendar

- Applications from March 9, 2026 to April 30, 2026
- Results by May 31, 2026
- With the exception of the exhibition at the Porto Municipal Gallery, which will open during the first quarter of 2027, the remaining exhibitions may open either in 2026 or by the end of the first quarter of 2027.