



Duppini Art Group Bulgaria is pleased to announce

### **OPEN CALL 2026 – PASSAGE**

The fifteenth edition of the International Gabrovtsi ART–NATURE Symposium 2026 is entitled **PASSAGE**.

With the theme **PASSAGE**, the Duppini Art Group seeks to further develop an existing art trail through the creation of temporary and permanent artistic interventions within the natural environment.

**PASSAGE** is the project’s leading conceptual framework—an experience of physical, symbolic, and emotional transition realized through encounters with contemporary sculpture, installation and nature art in the landscape. Artists are invited to develop their work in an existing art trail that is located near Duppini Art Center in the village of Gabrovtsi, Bulgaria. In this context, art functions as a sustainable mediator and bridge between nature and man, exploring specific local interactions and contexts.

Artists will intervene in parallel with the existing sculptures and installations, gradually forming a layered and interconnected landscape of artistic presence. Through this accumulation of gestures in the natural environment, the trail gradually forms a dense field of experience, where art, nature, and visitors meet and interact. Over time, it will remain as a place that locals and visitors can return to, gradually contributing to the cultural life and sustainable development of the rural region.

## **OPEN CALL**

Addressed to visual artists and researchers from Bulgaria and abroad, working in the field of land art, site-specific art and nature art. There are no restrictions about the media used in their art practices (audio and video formats, photography, sculpture, objects, installation, action, performance, etc.).

**Deadline for application: April 20, 2026**

**Selected artists will receive an artist's fee of 500 Euro**

## **STATUTE**

International Gabrovtsi ART-NATURE Symposium is one of its kind in Bulgaria - a free forum for artists from around the world, working in the fields of nature art, land art and site-specific art. The symposium is annual cultural event, held since 2012.

This year is its fifteenth edition, entitled PASSAGE.

International Gabrovtsi ART-NATURE Symposium is an event that contributes to the establishment of Veliko Tarnovo city and Gabrovtsi village on the world art scene. An event with sustainability that wins trust and is permanently present in the Cultural Calendar of the Municipality of Veliko Tarnovo. Gabrovtsi ART- NATURE Symposium is an event that enriches the local audience and cultivates empathy for global art trends and environmental issues.

Since 2015, the symposium has been located in the old labor school "Maxim Gorky". The new place is also a factor for creative realizations that resonate with the specific spaces and the institutional history of the building. This new environment provokes artistic projects with new points of view, close to site- specific installations.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE SYMPOSIUM**

- Creating an environment for multicultural dialogue, exchange of good practices and initiation of creative processes.
- Generating new art works, inspired by the specific location of the symposium and presenting them to the public.
- Development of an eco-friendly open-air sculpture park in Gabrovtsi Village.
- Providing an opportunity for integration of art students in the professional artistic community.

## **DURATION and LOCATION**

Beginning: June 29, 2026

End: July 11, 2026 (Open Door Day)

International Gabrovtsi ART-NATURE Symposium 2026 is held in Gabrovtsi Village, 20 km from the town of Veliko Tarnovo. The small village is located along the river Enyovitsa and offers a kind of privacy. Duppini Art Center is the main location for all editions of the symposia since 2015 – it is the social and working site for the symposium. It houses a rich collection of sculptures, paintings, collages and installations from the Fund of the Duppini Association. Duppini Art Center is a shared space with a strong identity, provocative environment and own history.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

- 7 guest-artists (6 international artists and 1 from Bulgaria)
- assistants and volunteers – current or graduated art students
- members of Duppini Art Group

## **OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTICIPANTS**

- To present themselves and their artistic practices, sending required information in time, according to the status of the event and the conditions of the open call (see below How to apply?);
- To bear their travel expenses;
- To provide in advance information about the time of arrival in Gabrovtsi. To notify if they need assistance with transportation from Veliko Tarnovo to Gabrovtsi;
- To bring their own tools and machines or specific working materials;
- To realize at least one work (with material or digital parameters) within the symposium` period. To complete the proposed project;
- To be present for the whole duration of the symposium (maximum allowed delay or absence – 2 days);
- To comply with the requirements for a clean environment;
- To provide information about each of the realized works during or after the end of the symposium (Authorship, name of the work, dimensions, materials, concept, etc.);
- In case of publications, to indicate the affiliation of the realized works to the International Gabrovtsi ART-NATURE Symposium (in Bulgarian: Международен Симпозиум ИЗКУСТВО-ПРИРОДА Габровци), to respect the copyright of the photographer;

- To have health insurance;

By their will, each author to make a short presentation of their artistic work and professional practice during the evening screenings within the duration of the symposium.

The realized works (or their documentation) are becoming part of the art collection of Duppini Art Center and Duppini Art Group`s Fund.

### **DUPPINI ART GROUP OFFERS**

- To provide accommodation for the authors for the duration of the symposium;
- To provide the selected artists with an artist fee of 500 euro;
- To provide breakfast, lunch and dinner to the authors for the duration of the symposium;
- To welcome and accommodate the participants in base of Duppini Art Center;
- To assist to all participants with transport from Veliko Tarnovo to the village of Gabrovtsi – the organizers must be informed in advance;
- To supply visual materials – photos of places in nature with works from previous symposia, which could help the authors while preparing their project designs;
- To provide materials, specified in advance on the basis of the designs;
- To help the guest-artists in the work process – workspaces, exposition, and assistance in specific needs;
- To supply 220 V electricity, transport and hoisting equipment;
- To prepare photo/video documentation from the symposium;
- To organize an official presentation of the realized projects on sites with Open Door Day at Duppini Art Center (July 11, 2026);
- To provide certificates for participation;
- To organize media coverage of the whole symposium; to prepare posters, invitations, texts, PR, with coverage in national and local media, via internet and social networks, etc.;
- To organize a final exhibition in the city (Veliko Tarnovo);
- To publish electronic catalogue;
- To present the guest-artists and their works through prints, online media and exhibitions (outdoor and indoor);
- To respect artists` copyright in each exhibition of their artworks;
- To provide and Invitation letters for self-funding with other entities if requested;

## **PROGRAM**

- 29.06.2026 – arrival and accommodation of the participants at Duppini Art Center & Residency
- 30.06.2026 – short presentation of the hosts - working and social sites, guided tour through Duppini Art Center and the village of Gabrovtsi;
- 1-10.07.2026 – working period
- 11.07.2026 – Open Door Day, presenting the final artworks, guided tour with the artist. This program will be announced in advance;
- 12.07.2026 – departure

The program foresees a day for visits and sightseeing in Veliko Tarnovo / Tryavna, the surroundings, and free time.

## **HOW TO APPLY?**

If you are visual artist and you are interested to participate in Gabrovtsi ART-NATURE Symposium 2026 - "PASSAGE", please send us your:

- Biography
- Portfolio or official website
- Actual profile picture
- If you have proposal for project, send us sketches, layouts, descriptions, etc.
- Send the required documents via email [duppini@gmail.com](mailto:duppini@gmail.com)

The subject of the e-mail should include "2026 PASSAGE – Gabrovtsi – your name".

**Deadline for submission: April 20, 2026**

We will contact you until April 30, 2026!

*The organizers keep the right, in different circumstances from the original, to change the program, the composition of the participants and the conditions of the symposium. The organizers keep the right to make, reproduce and publish photographs of the current creative processes for the period of the symposium. The organizers keep the copyrights for all printed and virtual materials under the sign of Duppini Art Group and Gabrovtsi ART-NATURE Symposium.*

International Gabrovtsi ART-  
NATURE Symposium "PASSAGE"

June 29 – July 11, 2026

Duppini Art Center & Residency Gabrovtsi  
Village

Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria Organizer: Duppini  
Art Group Partners: National Art School for  
Applied Arts "Trevnenska shkola", Tryavna,  
Bulgaria

The symposium goes with the financial support  
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[www.duppiniart.group](http://www.duppiniart.group)