

Residency Open Call

THREE
SPACE
TOKYO

Trace / Echo

A process based science - art residency at Three Space Tokyo
An experiment in how ideas leave marks.

Residency Dates: 2–26 February 2026

Exhibition: 27 February – 3 March 2026

Deadline to Apply: 9 January 2026

Location: Three Space Tokyo, Japan

Overview

Three Space Tokyo invites two artists and one curator to take part in a process-based residency exploring points of contact between artistic practice and scientific thinking.

The residency is organised independently by Three Space Tokyo and is carried out with the kind, personal cooperation of Professor Tom Melia, a theoretical physicist affiliated with the Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe (Kavli IPMU), The University of Tokyo. (This project is not an official programme, partnership, sponsorship, or co-hosted event of Kavli IPMU or The University of Tokyo.)

Participants will work in a shared studio environment at Three Space Tokyo, engaging in dialogue with Professor Melia and other researchers affiliated with Kavli IPMU who will participate in a personal capacity. The residency emphasises observation, open inquiry, and creative response, rather than illustration or polished outcomes.

As the participating researchers describe their own focus:

“We are particle theorists, trying to understand what the universe is made of and the laws that govern it at a fundamental level. How did the universe begin, how will it end, why do we exist?”

This perspective serves as a starting point for dialogue and reflection, rather than a requirement for prior scientific knowledge.

Throughout the residency, participating researchers continue their own independent research activities. Artists and the curator are invited to observe how questions are framed, ideas are developed, and concepts evolve, responding through their own practices. The project foregrounds curiosity, attentiveness, and experimentation as shared modes of thinking across disciplines.

This is not a traditional production-focused residency. It is a living, evolving experiment, shaped by real-time encounters and discoveries. The project concludes with a five-day, process-based exhibition at Three Space Tokyo, presenting materials, documentation, and creative responses developed during the residency.

Residency Time Frame

2-26 February 2026

- Flexible attendance supporting organic, process-driven engagement
- Researchers affiliated with Kavli IPMU may be present in the gallery up to three times per week during the first three weeks, depending on individual schedules and availability
- Two pre-arranged, non-public visits to designated meeting spaces at the Kavli IPMU offices in Kashiwa, organised personally by the cooperating researcher
 - These visits are limited in scope
 - They do not constitute public tours or general access to institute facilities
- Final week dedicated to independent work and exhibition preparation

Exhibition: 27 February – 3 March 2026

Opening: 27 February (opening night event)

Artists will take turns engaging visitors during the exhibition, speaking about their ideas and working processes.

Participants and Roles

Artists (2)

Applicants should demonstrate curiosity and readiness for cross-disciplinary dialogue.

Artists will:

- Work in the shared studio environment
- Respond to scientific thinking through materials, sound, sketches, text, or other media
- Observe and interpret emerging ideas and interactions
- Participate in informal discussions and reflection sessions

Curator / Process Curator (1)

We seek a curator whose practice bridges research and creative interpretation, working across areas such as visual culture, anthropology, philosophy, science communication, or artistic research. The curator will observe and document how artists and participating researchers exchange ideas and methods, shaping these processes into a coherent exhibition.

Key responsibilities include:

- Observing interactions and emerging ideas
- Documenting the process (notes, photography, or other media)
- Identifying intersections between scientific and artistic thinking
- Supporting artists in articulating their approaches
- Shaping the final process-based exhibition
- Engaging with visitors during the exhibition period

How to Apply

Please submit one PDF (max 10 MB) including:

- Short bio (max 200 words)
- 3–5 examples of relevant work
- Statement (max 150 words)

Artists: interest in engaging with scientific thinking

Curator: interest in documenting and interpreting process-based work

Clearly state whether you are applying as Artist or Curator

Open to international and Japan-based applicants.

Email: threespacetokyo@gmail.com

Deadline: 9 January 2026

Selection Criteria

- Complementarity with other participants
- Openness to experimentation and process-based work
- Clarity of intention and willingness to collaborate
- Diversity of approaches and experience

Costs

Participation Fee: 150,000 JPY per participant

Includes:

- Full use of the three-floor gallery at Three Space Tokyo
- Access to sessions and discussions with participating researchers
- Exhibition participation and basic installation support
- Utilities and administrative support
- Not included: materials, equipment, transport, flights, accommodation.
- Student discount: available upon request. Please indicate student status in your application.

Travel and Accommodation

International participants are encouraged to plan travel promptly after selection. Accommodation recommendations will be provided, including discounted rates with a local Airbnb partner.

The flexible structure of the first week allows for staggered arrival where needed. Selected participants will receive immediate confirmation, and a formal invitation letter can be provided for funding or grant applications.

Benefits

Participants will receive:

- Four weeks of studio access
- A five-day public exhibition presenting process, research, and creative responses
- Opportunities to engage with physicists and mathematicians affiliated with Kavli IPMU
- Immersive conversations exploring scientific and artistic modes of thinking
- Curatorial support (for artists) and shared reflection sessions
- A framework for experimentation without pressure for a polished final artwork
- Process documentation (photography, notes, archiving)
- A supportive community of artists, researchers, and cross-disciplinary practitioners
- Accommodation recommendations and discounted options through a partner Airbnb host
- Visibility within an expanding network of science-art initiatives in Tokyo and internationally

Disclaimer

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