



**NAWAT FES ANNOUNCES
NEW ARTIST RESIDENCY AWARDS
FOR FALL 2026-SUMMER 2027**

Nawat Fes is pleased to announce our new awardees for residencies from Fall 2026-Summer 2027. These eight artists were chosen from among 193 applications from 51 countries.



**Felipe Pérez
Santiago**

**Multi-Disciplinary Composer &
Musician
Mexico
Fall 2026**

BIOGRAPHY

Felipe Pérez Santiago is an award-winning composer and conductor whose work has been recognized throughout Europe, the United States, Latin America, and Asia. He has composed for world-renowned orchestras and held residencies as a guest artist and educator at leading international universities and conservatories. With a portfolio spanning over 40 countries, his music is featured in nearly 30 discographic productions, as well as films, contemporary dance, video art, and multimedia installations. He is the founder of Vórtice Ensemble and Vórtice Orquesta—both based at the historic Churubusco Studios—and currently serves as the musical director of the acclaimed ONIX Ensemble. A pioneer in bridging art and science, Pérez Santiago collaborated with the SETI Institute in California to create “The Earthling Project.” In partnership with NASA, this initiative successfully sent a disc representing the collective sounds of humanity to the lunar surface, where it remains today as a cultural archive for the future.

Instagram: [@felipeperezsantiago](https://www.instagram.com/felipeperezsantiago)

Website: felipeperezsantiago.net

PROJECT

Felipe Pérez Santiago’s project, “Resonant Labyrinths,” focuses on the shared musical DNA found in Moroccan traditions and Mexican folk styles such as Son Jarocho. The core of his work in Fes is a direct exchange with local musicians. By bringing the Jarana, a traditional Mexican stringed instrument, into sessions with local artists, he intends to find a common language between their scales and histories. These collaborations, along with field recordings of the Fes medina and the local environments, will be processed through electronic synthesis to create an electroacoustic composition. The project explores how folk heritage can be reimagined through technology without losing its soul. This dialogue will lead to “Sincronía,” a live concert where Felipe Pérez Santiago and local performers merge acoustic textures with electronics, marking a sonic path from ancestral roots to a contemporary global sound.



Danielle Wolff

Screenwriter
USA
Fall 2026

BIOGRAPHY

Danielle Wolff has written and produced numerous television series, including the 2025 Netflix hit *Winx Club: The Magic Is Back*, Marvel's *Ultimate Spider-Man*, *Avengers Assemble*, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, and *Marvel Rising: Playing with Fire*. She has also written for prime-time dramas *Wicked Wicked Games* and *American Heiress*, as well as for films and web series across multiple genres. Her work on an alternate reality game for the series *Kyle XY* received an Interactive Media Programming Emmy nomination. She is currently developing and writing television projects in Poland, Italy, and Canada, and her action-drama series *Syros* is in development in Greece. In addition to her writing and producing work, Danielle frequently speaks on storytelling, transnational production, and creative collaboration. She has been a guest speaker at film festivals and universities in the US, the UK, Cyprus, and Greece.

Website: daniellewolff.com

PROJECT

While in Fes, Danielle will be developing a television project that sits at the intersection of geopolitical fiction, speculative science, and character drama. The series moves across international settings, using the tradecraft of cross-border espionage and cutting-edge science as a framework that forces the characters and the audience to confront questions of what it means to measure a life in time, how identity accumulates and shifts across decades of experience, and how much truth we owe to the people we love. Because part of the series takes place in Morocco, the residency in Fes will help work toward representation that's as authentic as possible while building collaborative relationships with the local creative community. The series is built for international coproduction, which brings together creative cultures to make work that reflects the full complexity of an interconnected world.



BIOGRAPHY

Dimitrea Tokunbo is a writer, researcher and cartoonist living in Oakland, California. Tokunbo's comics combine her love for the musicality of language, her fascination with history, and her compulsion to draw pictures. She has published children's books with Tilbury House, Boyds Mills Press, and Scholastic Press, and created artwork for Harriet's Apothecary, The Center for Anti-Violence Education, and Brooklyn's Children's Museum. Tokunbo completed an MFA in Comics at California College of the Arts in San Francisco, California, after raising her family in Brooklyn, New York. Her current project is a graphic hybrid memoir blending a biography of the 18th-century poet Phillis Wheatley with her own journey creating books.

Instagram: [@comix.dimitrea](https://www.instagram.com/comix.dimitrea)

Facebook: [Dimi Comix](https://www.facebook.com/DimiComix)

Website: [dimitrea.com](https://www.dimitrea.com)

Dimitrea Tokunbo

Cartoonist, Memoirist, & Painter

USA

Winter 2027

PROJECT

At Nawat Fes, Dimitrea Tokunbo will be working on a graphic hybrid memoir that interweaves the lives of two Black women book creators, herself and the 18th-century poet Phillis Wheatley. Though separated by centuries, they both grappled with the challenges of being young Black artists in an American context. Dimitrea and Phillis Wheatley are tethered by an uncanny link across time, somatic memories of West African cultural heritage and aesthetics influenced by Islam. Highlighting women who found power and purpose despite systemic erasure, Dimitrea Tokunbo braids personal and ancestral stories to examine the present.

Graphic memoir and nonfiction comics have proven to be effective ways to explore history, identity, and social issues. This motivates Dimitrea to teach comic memoir workshops and build inclusive spaces to amplify marginalized voices. Celebrating the creativity that fosters liberation, she is excited to experience connection within a thriving range of artistic traditions as well as the rhythms of daily life in the ancient medina of Fes.



Hmenou

Bass Music Producer & Sound Artist
France / Tunisia
Winter 2027

BIOGRAPHY

Hmenou is a Tunisian drum and bass producer and sound artist exploring the intersection between North African traditional rhythms, Arab sound archives, and contemporary bass music. Based in Marseille, his practice investigates the shared Afro-descendant lineages connecting Tunisian Stambeli and UK jungle music traditions, both rooted in trance, repetition, and collective release.

Growing up in 1990s Tunisia without access to archives, he began collecting political speeches, radio fragments, and old cartoons when the internet arrived, building an alternative Arab sonic memory now channeled into club-ready productions at 174 BPM.

In 2025, he curated “Wings Over Wires,” a 14-artist compilation for Gaza Birds Singing released on Gros Œuvre (covered by Resident Advisor, Dazed, Tsugi), and released “Bab Hwita” on Cairo's MOSHTRQ label featuring Palestinian MC Elos Byuri. He completed a residency with EUNIC in Cairo, and hosts a monthly show on Subtle Radio London. His work has been presented in Tunis, Cairo, Geneva, Riyadh, and Paris.

Instagram: [@hmenou](https://www.instagram.com/hmenou)

Website: <https://hmenou.com>

PROJECT

During his residency, Hmenou will deepen his ongoing research into the connections between Tunisian Stambeli, Moroccan Gnawa, and UK jungle music. While Stambeli and Gnawa share ritual structures, instruments, and sub-Saharan African roots, UK jungle emerged from a different diaspora while retaining a similar rhythmic logic: syncopation, polyrhythm, and the loop as a vehicle for trance.

Working in Fes through field recording, exchanges with Gnawa practitioners, and composition, Hmenou will develop new tracks that make these connections audible across geographies and histories. The project explores how rhythm and sound travel, transform, and persist across diasporic traditions—from Tunisia to Morocco, North Africa to the UK, and ceremonial practice to contemporary bass music.

The residency will result in new compositions for a future release, alongside public programs inviting audiences to listen to these resonances across continents.



Christina Villamor

Visual Artist

USA

Spring 2027

BIOGRAPHY

Christina Villamor is a Cuban-American artist, fashion archivist, and filmmaker based in Los Angeles. Her interest in storytelling and myth enters her work through photography, video, sculpture, fiber, and installation. Her practice focuses on the production and commercialization of the cultural imaginary surrounding Florida, her home state. The relationship of aquatic and climate change to the Anthropocene, the historical narratives surrounding cultural erasure and socioeconomic disparities are all part of the aggregated story that she wishes to tell. Her research-based practice additionally consists of hybrid Caribbean religious practices and its subsequent institutional clashes, film history and theory, pop-culture studies, industrialization, geological deep time, folklore, and the climate crisis. Her study of these disparate subjects resonate in her hometown of Miami and in Florida, Cuba, and the Caribbean as sites of colonial inscription. Villamor received a Bachelor of Science in motion pictures and studio art from the University of Miami and a Master of Fine Arts from California State University Long Beach in Photography.

Instagram: [@christinanicotina](https://www.instagram.com/christinanicotina)

Website: christinavillamor.com

PROJECT

At Nawat Fes, Christina Villamor will create a weaving installation that bridges her practice of net-based textile composites with traditional Moroccan weaving techniques. Over two months, she plans to work with local weavers to learn traditional methods while sharing her approach of incorporating found materials: repurposed e-waste, plastics, and neon. The project centers on creating hybrid weavings that document this exchange, holding both approaches in dialogue. Inspired by Leonora Tawney's philosophy of weaving as knowledge-mapping, Christina views each piece as an imprint of cultural exchange and shared labor. Her focus is reciprocal; final works will reflect collaborative authorship, with local artisans as co-creators. Her practice, grounded in Afro-Cuban altar-making, translates naturally to collaborative creation as spiritual practice. She will host open studio sessions where community members can contribute found objects or materials of local significance, creating a collective material archive woven into the final pieces.



Erica Dincalci

Interdisciplinary Fiber Artist
USA

Spring 2027

BIOGRAPHY

Erica Dincalci is an interdisciplinary fiber artist born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, California. Her weavings investigate sentimental patterns and consider the way they persist through generations and culture. In vibrant, abstract cut-up weavings, the patterns are broken and healed through a resilient stitch. She attended Waldorf high school, New York University, and California College of the Arts for her BFA. After undergrad, she had trouble finding her place. During that time, the intimate act of creating art helped refocus her life. She went on to receive an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago from the Fiber and Material Studies department. Her work has been featured in exhibitions nationally, including at the de Young Museum, diRosa Center for Contemporary Art, MarinMOCA, Spring/Break Art Show, Sebastopol Center for the Arts, Georgetown Art Center and Co-Prosperity. She has been featured in Fiber Art Now, KRON4 New, and Surface Design Association Blog. Selected awards include CERF+ Get Ready Grant, Atlantic Center for the Arts Residency, Haystack Open Studio Residency, SebArts Artist Accelerator Program and the digital weaving residency at Praxis Fiber Workshop.

Instagram: [@ericadincalciart](https://www.instagram.com/ericadincalciart)

Website: ericadincalci.com

PROJECT

In her weavings, Erica Dincalci investigates sentimental patterns and considers the ways they persist throughout our lives—how psychological traits, gestures, skills, and motifs carry forward through generations. During her residency at Nawat Fes, she will study the patterns of Fes and Morocco found on tiles, weavings, rugs, paintings, textiles and architecture. This pattern study will transform into a series of weavings made on a tapestry loom and draw from local weaving methods. The chosen fiber materials will be informed by visits to local weavers, tanneries, dye workshops, spinners, and yarn shops. These materials reflect the local culture, agriculture, economy, colors and traditions of Fes. Through the investigation, weavings and compiling of repeat patterns we can deepen our knowledge of how culture is transmitted and illuminate their power over history and our everyday. This project explores the resonance of Moroccan repeat patterns within contemporary expression, examining how motifs, like culture and identity, express, transform, and renew.



A. Van Jordan

Poet & Writer of Literary Non-Fiction
USA

Summer 2027

BIOGRAPHY

A. Van Jordan is the author of five collections of poetry: *Rise*, which won the PEN/Oakland Josephine Miles Award (Tia Chucha Press, 2001); *M-A-C-N-O-L-I-A*, (2005), which was listed as one of the Best Books of 2005 by *The London Times*; *Quantum Lyrics*, (2007); and *The Cineaste*, (2013), W.W. Norton & Co. Jordan has been awarded a Whiting Writers Award, an Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, and a Pushcart Prize. He is also a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship (2007), a United States Artists Fellowship (2009), and a Lannan Literary Award in Poetry (2015). His latest collection, *When I Waked, I Cried to Dream Again*, winner of the 2024 Hurston Wright Legacy Award, was released in June, 2023 (W.W. Norton & Co). Among his many academic appointments, he most recently served as the Robert Hayden Collegiate Professor of English Literature at The University of Michigan, before coming to Stanford University, where he currently holds the Humanities and Sciences Chair in English, and where he also serves as part of the inaugural faculty in the Department of African & African American Studies.

Website: avanjordan.com

PROJECT

In 1946, just after World War II, Black veterans were being attacked once they returned home from battle, and US President Harry Truman created the Committee on Civil Rights to examine, with the charge to change, the culture of segregation in America. At the same time, in Nova Scotia, a Black Canadian woman, Viola Desmond, was arrested after she refused to sit in a segregated section of the Roseland Movie Theater; this set off a wave of civil rights legal action in the Canadian court system. Both situations, happening in different countries in North America, prompted a shift in culture across the continent, and, eventually, the world. 1946 was an important year that built the foundation for the more famous Civil Rights Movement that would gain traction less than 20 years later. In Fes, A. Van Jordan will work on a collection of poems, *With a Ribbon of Light Between Us*, to capture the tension of this moment that resonates with the continued work that both countries are working through today.



Cristina Ghetti

Visual Artist, Researcher & Curator
Spain / Argentina
Summer 2027

BIOGRAPHY

Cristina Ghetti's work is situated within a critical rereading of geometric abstraction from a Latin American and feminist perspective, understood not as an inherited style but as a field of symbolic dispute. Her practice questions the modernist and Eurocentric narratives that have historically defined geometry as a universal, neutral, and self-sufficient language. Through the use of systems, programming, combinatorial structures, and generative processes, Ghetti introduces chance, error, and deviation as productive strategies that destabilize the notion of absolute order. Painting thus emerges as the result of a prior process, in which algorithmic logic coexists with sensitive, manual, and material decisions. From a situated position, her work reclaims the bodily, tactile, and perceptual dimension of abstraction, expanding its limits beyond the plane and the autonomous object.

At the intersection of structure and affect, system and experience, Ghetti's work proposes an open, hybrid, and political abstraction capable of activating alternative readings that rewrite the genealogy of geometry from the margins, the Global South, and a contemporary feminist gaze.

Instagram: [@cristinaghetti.visualartist](https://www.instagram.com/cristinaghetti.visualartist)

Website: cristinaghetti.org

PROJECT

During her residency in Fes, Cristina Ghetti will expand her ongoing research into geometric abstraction as an embodied and materially situated language. Working with local fibers, traditional weaving, and natural dyeing techniques, she will explore textile processes in which repetition, variation, and chance occupy a central place. Geometry will thus emerge not as a fixed or purely rational system, but as a flexible structure shaped by rhythm, material behavior, and decisions that arise through the process itself.

Fes represents a fertile context for this research. Its textile traditions, use of plant fibers, and geometric embroidery offer an alternative genealogy of abstraction—one rooted not in Western paradigms of modernity, but in spiritual systems, territory, and forms of manual knowledge historically developed by women.

The project also contemplates exchanges and collaborations with local artisans, grounded in mutual learning and respect for local knowledge, opening up ways of thinking about contemporary abstraction through non-hegemonic genealogies.

**NAWAT FES IS THE ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM OF THE
AMERICAN LANGUAGE CENTER FES / ARABIC LANGUAGE INSTITUTE IN FEZ.**

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