

## 12th Walter Benjamin Creation Grant

The **Nau Còclea Contemporary Art Centre** and the **Exile Memorial Museum** of La Jonquera are organising the 12th edition of the Walter Benjamin route from Banyuls to Portbou.

This route is part of the Walter Benjamin **International Colloquium organised by the Walter Benjamin Chair. Memory and Exile (University of Girona, UdG), the Democratic Memorial (Barcelona) and the Exile Memorial Museum (La Jonquera)**, with the collaboration of **Portbou Town Council and Girona Provincial Council**, to be held in Portbou from 20 to 22 September 2024.

The route follows the path between Banyuls and Portbou that Walter Benjamin took, guided by Lisa Fittko, to cross the border fleeing from the Nazi police and at the end of which the thinker took his own life.

Our project proposes each time the route with an artist who makes a proposal specifically designed for the route in the spirit of Walking Art in all its versions and possibilities. The winning project will be realised during this walk, which will take place on Sunday 22 September 2024. The grant is open to all creative disciplines (sound art, dance, performing arts, music, poetry, visual arts, performance, tours, public art, land art, etc.).

### The path

The route departs from Banyuls where the walkers arrive by bus from Portbou. (The bus leaves at 8 a.m. and arrives in Banyuls at around 9 a.m.). It is guided and coordinated by Nau Còclea and the Exile Memorial Museum, which will also provide information on the events being remembered and on the philosophical and critical work of Walter Benjamin.

The walk takes 2:30 hours to the Rumpissó pass (ascent) and a further 2:30 hours to Portbou (descent). In total approximately 5 hours. The ascent is a path between vineyard terraces and then the mountain begins. On the way down it is a forest track that can be used by vehicles until you reach Portbou, where the walkers find their vehicles. There is usually an average of between 20 and 40 participants, people of all ages and different origins and languages.

The artist(s) can intervene at any point along the route or walk with the participants. It is important not to interrupt the ascent with too long interventions so as not to cause physical fatigue, but longer interventions can be made on the neck, on the way down and also at some rest points. Nau Còclea will provide information and support to the winning proposal to prepare all the practical aspects of their project.

You will find more information about the characteristics and conditions of the Walter Benjamin route in the following links:

[Ruta senderista Walter Benjamin Portbou -Banyuls](#)  
[Web Portbou i Walter Benjamin](#)

## Endowment of the grant

Endowment of the grant: €1400 including taxes. This endowment includes the artist's fees, travel and production costs of the intervention.

The full amount of the grant (€1400) will be received after the completion of the project, upon presentation of the invoice with the corresponding taxes.

## Applications, deadline and requirements

Applications can be submitted until 12 July 2024.

Candidates should send by email to [resident@naucoclea.com](mailto:resident@naucoclea.com) a pdf file labelled with the name of the project leader, including:

1. Contact details of the project leader.
2. A description of the project (maximum 5 pages of text). All complementary information must be presented by means of Internet links (photographs, web videos, blog, etc.).
3. A detailed description of how the project will be implemented along the route.
4. A brief curriculum vitae.
5. The name of the winner will be made public by 1 September 2024.
6. The winner will have time to finish fine-tuning the project. For this purpose, he/she will have the informative and logistical support of Nau Còclea.

Nau Còclea will send confirmation of receipt of the application within a maximum of 5 days. If you do not receive this confirmation, you can complain by sending a message to 34-637880565

## Jury and resolution

The jury is composed by:

**Jordi Font**, director of the Democratic Memorial

**Diego Gómez Bernández**, artist

**Clara Garí**, director of Nau Còclea

**Cristina Masanés**, philosopher and writer

**Miquel Serrano**, historian and curator of MUME

The assessment criteria for the projects are as follows:

- Creative and artistic value of the proposal: 0-3 points.
- Connection of the proposal with the thought of Walter Benjamin, and themes such as the border, exile, memory and critical history: 0-3 points.
- Feasibility of implementation on the Walter Benjamin route: 0-3 points
- Curriculum vitae of the applicant: 0-1 point

- Maximum score: 10 points

The jury will choose only one winning project.

The competition may be declared void if none of the applications achieves a minimum of 7 points.

The winning project will be announced publicly. The decision will also be communicated personally to the interested parties and will be published on the Nau Côlea website and on the websites of various partner organisations, as well as on social networks.

The application for this grant implies the acceptance of its terms and conditions.

**More Information:**

The e-mail [resident@naucolea.com](mailto:resident@naucolea.com) is at the disposal of the artists to resolve any doubts and to provide further information.