Spiekeroog Campsite Residency 2027

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Please do not send applications to this email address!

Application Deadline:	**01. December 2026**
Jury Meeting:	Early December 2026
Project Start:	June 1, 2027
Project duration:	4 weeks

Invitation

In the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage Wadden Sea, nestled between dunes, salt marshes, and endless skies, lies one of Europe's most beautiful natural campsites: the Spiekeroog campsite. Here – in a storm-proof tent house, three kilometers from the village center – Nordseebad Spiekeroog GmbH is once again awarding its artist residency for 2027. There will be no fixed theme for 2027; instead, the focus is on creative freedom directly connected to Spiekeroog, bringing the island and its nature to life through the project.

Who can apply?

The call is aimed at installation, land art, performance, photography, and video artists. We are looking for conceptual, temporary projects in public space and/or participatory projects. Whenever possible, the creation process should be open to accompaniment and media documentation. For this purpose, the artist grants a communicative right of use for photos and videos. All other image rights remain with the artist.

What are we looking for?

We are seeking conceptual, temporary projects in public space as well as participatory formats that can engage in dialogue with the island's visitors.

The artistic works should relate to the natural, social, and cultural structures of Spiekeroog and emerge in response to this unique location. Whenever possible, the creation process should be open to accompaniment and media documentation. For this purpose, the artist grants a communicative right of use for photos and videos. All other image rights remain with the artist.

Funding

The selected artist will receive:

- a one-month residential stay in the "Albatros" tent at the Spiekeroog Campsite,
- a fee of € 1,400,
- up to € 2,400 for project costs (payable after project completion).

In addition, Nordseebad Spiekeroog GmbH covers ferry costs and material transport, provides a bicycle, and supports the project through extensive press and public relations work on the island's website and social media.

Application

Interested artists are asked to submit their complete application documents, consisting of three PDF files, by **December 01, 2026,** at the latest. This ensures that your documents are complete and submitted on time to Nordseebad Spiekeroog GmbH and can be processed by the selection jury.

Applications must be sent exclusively by email to: **zeltplatz-residenz@spiekeroog.de**

Subject **“Spiekerooger Zeltplatz Residenz_2026_ProjectTitle”**

Documents

A) Project Cover Sheet
Please use the provided template for your project cover sheet.

B) Anonymous Concept (maximum 8 pages)
2–3 pages: detailed description of your planned project, including a project illustration
5–6 pages: work samples of previous projects

C) Resume / CV
Information on education, previous projects, exhibition experience, and relevant professional positions

Jury

Hannes Helmke
Sculptor from Cologne, represented on Spiekeroog among others by the sculptures “Utkieker” and “Wattkieker.” He has used the campsite as a studio for years during the summer months.

Ruben Franz
Master of event technology, many years with Cirque du Soleil. Today he lives and works with his family on Spiekeroog as Head of Destination at NSB and is on the board of the Spiekeroog Cultural Foundation.

Heike Kati Barath
Painter and, since 2012, Professor of Figurative Painting at the University of the Arts Bremen. She lives and works in Berlin and Bremen.

Cristian Mauricio Candela Rodriguez
Winner of the 2026 Spiekeroog Campsite Residency. He studied Fine Arts at the National University of Colombia and is currently pursuing a master's degree at the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK). His work moves fluidly across the intersections of sculpture, installation, and participatory art.

Frederike Goedecke
Pharmacist, living on Spiekeroog, where she manages the island pharmacy. Long-standing member of the committee and the municipal council.

Spiekeroog Campsite – An inspiring retreat

The Spiekeroog campsite is located about three kilometers from the village center, nestled in a dune valley directly behind the sand dunes. Surrounded by salt marshes, sand, and open skies, it offers a unique atmosphere of tranquility and seclusion – a place that has inspired artists for many years, inviting both focused work and moments of reflection.

A private stretch of beach provides space for lingering and contemplation. For everyday needs, a kiosk is available, along with communal facilities such as a central barbecue area, playground equipment, and a sports field. In this way, the campsite combines an authentic experience of nature with peace and simplicity – an ideal place to live, work, and recharge.

The Tent

For the duration of the residency, artists have access to a high-quality, storm-proof cotton tent by the brand De Waard, called “Albatros.” This tent model is considered a classic among family tents and is known for its exceptional stability and durability. It was first designed in 1959 by Machiel de Waard and has since earned an excellent reputation for its resilience against wind and weather.

The tent offers enough space for two people and is equipped with a table, two chairs, and a kitchen and cupboard unit. A two-burner gas stove, cooking utensils, dishes for two, and a cooler complete the equipment.

Only bedding such as sleeping bags and pillows must be brought by the guests themselves. Please note that nights in June on Spiekeroog can still be cool; it is therefore recommended to bring warm sleeping gear.



Information about Spiekeroog Island

Spiekeroog is one of the East Frisian Islands and lies in the middle of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Wadden Sea. The car-free island covers about 18 square kilometers and is inhabited year-round by about 700 people. It can be reached by ferry from Neuharlingersiel. The “Weiße Düne” is the highest natural point in all of East Frisia.

The landscape is characterized by extensive salt marshes, dune ridges, small forests, and a 15-kilometer sandy beach. The village center features numerous listed buildings that preserve the special character of the grown village community. In addition to the campsite and the village, the Hermann-Lietz School, the only German island boarding school, shapes the cultural life. A variety of church institutions and non-profit houses also contribute to the island’s diversity.

Spiekeroog has a long history: the first documented mentions date back to 1398. With the construction of the Old Island Church in 1696, one of the oldest preserved churches of the East Frisian Islands was established. Since the 19th century, Spiekeroog developed into a seaside resort, became part of the Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park in 1986, and was finally added to the UNESCO World Natural Heritage list in 2009.

Culturally, the island still offers a wide range today. In addition to the three churches – the Old Island Church, the new Evangelical-Lutheran Church, and the Catholic St. Peter’s Church – there are several museum institutions. These include the Island Museum, the humorous Shell Museum, and the Wittbülten Environmental Center as a National Park House.

The Partner – Kulturstiftung Spiekeroog

The Kulturstiftung Spiekeroog is actively committed to promoting art, culture, heritage preservation, and monument protection on the island. Its goal is to preserve Spiekeroog cultural assets, initiate local and cultural projects, and strengthen the island’s cultural identity. The foundation works closely with the island community and thrives on their engagement. Only through the support of locals, second-home owners, and visitors can the foundation’s purpose be fulfilled.

A central project of the foundation is Spiekeroog Building Culture, which presents the history of the island village from the 17th century to the present through the preserved buildings. Other projects include the exhibition “Erzähl doch mal…”, documenting the memories and stories of older islanders, and supporting the Spiekeroog Island Museum, housed in the historic “Haus Frentz.”

The foundation also supports the campsite residency as a platform for temporary art projects in public spaces that engage with Spiekeroog’s natural, social, and cultural structure. Through these projects, the island is experienced not only as a place of relaxation but also as a living space for art and culture.

https://www.kulturstiftung-spiekeroog.de/