

7th Günther Uecker Research Fellowship 2026: Art Mediation in the Museum Context



Light and Introspection in the Work of Günther Uecker (working title)

A cooperative project between the GUI | IUG and the Staatliches Museum Schwerin

About Us

The Günther Uecker Institute | Institute for Environment and Design (GUI | IUG) is a Germany-wide unique institution based in Schwerin dedicated to the promotion of research projects in art history, artistic practice, and art mediation. Our work is founded on two closely interconnected focal areas: on the one hand, the GUI supports and publishes research on the work of Günther Uecker; on the other, the IUG addresses interdisciplinary questions in the field of artistic research, with a particular focus on eastern Germany. The interaction of these two areas creates distinctive synergies: although the two parts of the institute work on different thematic fields, they pursue a shared goal—to provide a platform for outstanding contemporary research in art history, artistic research, and their related disciplines.

For the year 2026, the GUI is announcing a fellowship developed in cooperation with the Staatliches Museum Schwerin. In the context of a planned Uecker exhibition there (2026/2027), a research fellowship will be awarded that is embedded in an art-mediation engagement with the exhibition project.

About the Cooperative Project

The Uecker exhibition at the Staatliches Museum Schwerin examines the complex oeuvre of Günther Uecker, with a particular focus on his engagement with light. Building on this, the research fellowship will accompany the processes of exhibition conception and mediation planning over a five-month period in 2026 and will address aspects such as “light as material” or formats of “introspection” in Uecker’s work. The project thus directs attention especially to a form of perception that is necessarily oriented inward, in which attentiveness, sensitivity, and resonance are equally constitutive for both artist and audience. Light is understood here both as an aesthetic phenomenon and as a poetic and spatial medium.

Within the framework of the fellowship, formats are to be developed that convey such a perspective on Uecker’s work in the museum space. The fellowship seeks to investigate modes of translation in which processes of self-observation, reduction, and intensification of perception are transformed into sustainable mediation strategies—textual, performative, dialogical, or digital. The aim is a theoretically grounded yet practice-oriented research project that may include innovative approaches to art education and museum pedagogy as well as textual, spatial, or performative mediation formats.

The GUI and the Staatliches Museum Schwerin aim to integrate the research results, together with the fellow, into the exhibition’s mediation program.



About the Fellowship

The fellowship has a duration of five months. The monthly stipend amounts to €1,000. In addition, a lump sum of €1,000 is provided to cover travel and accommodation costs for on-site stays and meetings in Schwerin. Payments will therefore be made monthly from 1 April to 1 August 2026 in the amount of €1,200.

Applicants should be willing to work in Schwerin at mutually agreed times—ideally on three occasions—in order to engage in exchange with the local team and to present the research publicly, for example in the form of a lecture or a workshop discussion.

The fellowship is aimed at master's students, doctoral candidates, as well as recently graduated young professional theorists, artists, art mediators, and researchers in art education. Experience in art-mediation practice, in dealing with museological issues, and in interdisciplinary collaboration is an advantage.

Application Materials

Please submit the following:

- Short CV
- Statement outlining the research project (maximum three pages)
- Statement on possible modes of translation for a practice-oriented implementation
- Tabular CV (maximum five pages)
- Letter of reference
- Writing sample and/or, if applicable, portfolio

Application Deadline

All application materials must be submitted by **February 15th** via the website:
guenther-uecker-institut.de/stipendium

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