



A Mission Statement

PAF is a place for the professionals and not-yet-professionals in the field of performing arts, visual art, music, film, literature, new media, theory and cultural production, who seek to research and determine their own conditions of work. PAF is for people who can motorize their own artistic and knowledge production, not only responding to the opportunities given by the institutional market.

Initiated and run by artists, theoreticians, practitioners and activists themselves, PAF is a user-created informal institution. It is a platform for anyone who wants to expand possibilities and interests in his/her own working practice.

PAF is located in a former convent school (6.400 m²), in a 1.2 hectare garden in the village of St. Erme, France, approximately 130km northeast of Paris, between Laon and Reims.

PAF is

- a forum for producing knowledge in critical exchange and ongoing discursive practice
- a place for temporary autonomy and full focus on work
- a tool-machine where one can work on developing methods and procedures, not necessarily driven toward a product
- a place for experimenting with other than known modes of production and organization of work, e.g. open source production
- a place for distraction, retreat and conviviality

PAF is not a venue which has the budget to produce, promote and distribute projects, but it is a house offering generous space and unlimited time, a possibility to shape your own conditions of work, as well as contact and exchange of content and other modes of production with the artists and theoreticians working at PAF.

PAF is an institution which continues to develop on the basis of what each person brings through his/her engagement. It has no other aim but to operate on the principles of self-organization, whereby one assumes the responsibility for creating and organizing his/her own work and activity in PAF. One can be working alone in PAF. But PAF also offers spontaneous ways to interact with others, without forcing collaboration.

Who can come to PAF?

You don't need an invitation to come to PAF. No application is needed, nor any selection is applied. Just write an email saying when you want to come and for how long you want to stay. As long as rooms are available (50) you are welcome. The only condition is that you come to work on a concrete project. Paf is a place to work.

What can I do in PAF?

You can come to work on whatever you choose to. This entails a wide range of activities: personal projects, group projects, but also projects you would like to initiate, organize and involve more people, such as conferences and all other kinds of meetings.

In PAF you will probably find a number of artists, theoreticians and other practitioners – the information about the persons and activities is updated monthly on the website. There is a growing mediatheque with technical equipment where you can view videos. A library of more than 3000 movies, 10.000 musical compositions, 200 performances, 100 documentaries is available. The whole place is covered by WIFI. There are a number of studios, working spaces and other communal places, including a park. The woods around PAF are freely accessible straight from the building.



PAF Practical Information

Rooms

PAF offers simple rooms with countryside views containing a single or double bed, a sink with hot water, a desk, a chair and a cupboard. Sheets, bed covers and towels are provided. Bathrooms with showers are down the hall. Payment is due on the day of arrival. You will be refunded if you leave earlier.

- Price per person per night (1-5 nights): 18 €
- Price per person per night (more than 5 nights): 20 €
- Price per person per month: 475 €



Studios & Working Space

For exclusive use (not shared with other guests) of studios and working spaces we ask you an extra charge (price to be negotiated), but in principle 100-150 € per week). PAF is not fond of exclusive use as it tries to offer an economy based on sharing and generosity and not based on property and appropriation.

Media Space

A media space is available to all guests. It is equipped with wireless and cable internet connections, VHS players, DVD players, DVD burners, a projector and monitors. PAF has an ever-growing and well-equipped library/media stock that includes books, CDs, DVDs, Videos and Software.

We kindly ask all residents to contribute to the library by coping on the hard-disks of PAF any interesting materials that they happen to have with them, be they films, music, documentaries, performances and/or their own work.



Internet

Wireless LAN/Airport connections are throughout most of the building and courtyard with a cable connection in the media space. The use of the internet is free.

Food

Catering is not provided. A fully-equipped kitchen is available. Everybody prepares his/her own food or organizes cooking together with others. Electric bikes are available to go to the local supermarket at 2,5 km distance. Everybody is urged to keep the kitchen and common spaces clean. Not to leave traces after eating and to take care that the kitchen stays clean and usable at any time.



Building & Garden

General use of the 6.500m² building (chapel, dining room, media space, etc.) and the garden is free for guests. The house is situated in a large, 1.2 ha property surrounded by beautiful forests and fields. The property contains a cultivated courtyard, wild meadows, a little wood and a hill with panoramic view.

Legal Status/Liability

PAF is an official association. Liability insurance is not possible for PAF as long as the necessary restaurations of the building are not realised. Therefore PAF is not and cannot be liable in any way for any loss, damage or personal harm done to you in whatever way. Therefore each resident is asked to become a member of PAF Association and sign a disclaimer. The membership fee is 12 € and is valid for twelve months.

PAF is not a hotel or a facility serving you. It is informal. There is no staff. It's well functioning, maintenance and cleaning is dependent on every resident.



The general principles of PAF are:

- Don't leave traces.
- Make things possible for each other.
- The doer decides.

CONTACT & INFORMATION:

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How to get to PAF

PAF is located in the village St. Erme/France, 130km northeast of Paris, 240km south of Brussels, 35km from Reims (Champagne) and 20km from Laon (Aisne).

By Car You can plan your route to PAF on www.viamichelin.com. If you don't find the way in St. Erme, ask for the old Couvent (Convent), rue Haute 15. Everyone knows where it is and can show you the way.

By Train You can find the train schedule on www.voyages-sncf.fr.
Option 1: Paris Gare du Nord – Laon (95 min.), Laon – St. Erme (14 min.)
Option 2 (longer): Paris Gare de L'Est – Reims (105 min.), Reims – St. Erme (23 min.)

Taxi Laon – PAF & St. Erme – PAF As we have no staff you have to order a taxi. Prices are about 30 € from Laon (40 € on weekends) and 5 € from St. Erme to PAF. The prices are the same for a 4 person taxi as for a 8 person taxi. Taxi Leblanc (St. Erme) Tel +33-(0)323-226909.

PAF is in walking distance from the station in St. Erme (ca. 2.200 meters)

