

SPHERA II Project

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Do the researchers' texts have to correspond to the artists' artworks? Or is the creation of one independent of the creation of the other?

Both creations are independent. There does not have to be a correspondence between the text and the work, in the sense of commentary or analysis. Any correspondence that may exist should result from the fact that both works take as their motif or starting point the theme they have in common, from 'The Metastases of Fire' to "Tree, Living Knowledge", with each generating theme presenting itself as a metaphorical allusion that aims to inspire both the work of art and the written text in such a way that they complement each other, in the sense that they parallel what, from each author's perspective, art and thought have to say on the subject.

- Should the artists and researchers of each theme get in touch? What is the recommended procedure? Should they schedule a conversation?

The two authors are not supposed to agree on strategies with each other, although if they really want to do so, we have no objection. However, we do not recommend it, as this may alter the spontaneity of artistic creation and theoretical reflection.

- Are the statements of the different themes binding or are they secondary?

The statements are binding, but more than the concrete things to which they may refer, they are invoked here as ideas. A tree, for example, refers us to the idea of rooting, to the idea of annular growth, to the idea of branching, the idea of nesting, the idea of a tree house, etc., and therefore to the idea of a source of life and a metaphor for knowledge.

- What are the sizes of the artworks? Can photos be used? Black and white or colour?

The size is up to the author. The artwork will remain in your possession. For the book, we will only use your image, which may occupy an entire page if it is in portrait format, or two pages if it is in landscape format. However, unless the author has specific ideas in this regard. The images are expected to be in colour, although they may be in black and white if the artists so wish. Researchers may also use images or diagrams, but these must be in black and white.

- What is the expected remuneration? Is there a difference between artwork and text?

The remuneration has not yet been defined. However, I would like to remind you that we do not intend to acquire the artwork, only the authorisation for its publication. I would like to point out, however, that the previous publication (SPHERA I) was modestly remunerated. At the moment, this is not excluded. It is important to understand, however, that the much higher number of authors makes it extremely difficult to offer any remuneration that is more than symbolic. In any case, the symbolic remuneration to be awarded, if possible, will be the same for everyone.

- Will there be spell checking? And who will do the translation?

There will be a proofreading and translation service, but each author must always approve the final result. In the case of author-artists, they are asked not to produce a written text about their work, as the work should "speak" for itself, in the language of art. Nevertheless, authors should describe their work from a technical point of view, indicating at least the materials used, the dimensions, the techniques and the title of the work. If they wish, they may also add a note about the creative process. However, we advise against formulating readings or interpretations of the works created by the artists or authors.

- In which language should the texts be written? Portuguese? English? Another language?

The texts may be written in the author's native language. However, as the work will be published in English, authors may, if they prefer, write the texts directly in English. In this case, the author will be entirely responsible for the correct use of the language.

- Must the images provided by the artists correspond to works of art created for this project, or can artists provide images of their existing works?

This is a delicate matter. The fundamental point is that the work of art must have, or have had, in its genesis a direct and unequivocal correspondence with the formulated theme, as this is the silver thread that allows a relationship to be established between artistic expression and the expression of thought. It is up to the artists to assess the accuracy of this relationship. Our recommendation is that the artwork be created for the project in light of the proposed theme. However, if an artist has already created a work of art that truly corresponds to the theme, we see no reason why they should not be able to use it.

- What is the recommended length for theoretical or literary essays?

The texts of the five chapters that focus on the World, as well as those that focus on the Mind, should not be too long, so that they do not overshadow the images of the works that focus on the same themes. We estimate that a length of between 5 and 10 pages of continuous text in Garamond 12 font and normal spacing (as used here) allows sufficient length to address and reflect on a specific theme. As for the Introduction and Epilogue, if the authors deem it necessary, their length may be between 10 and 15 pages.

- Should I give my text or artistic creation a title?

Both texts and images already have titles based on their thematic focus. In other words, there is a common title for artistic essays and essayistic texts. However, artists and researchers are asked to give their respective works a subtitle. Each work must therefore have a subtitle; this is a structural requirement of the process we ask authors to follow. Furthermore, it will serve to identify and distinguish each of them in the index of the book to be published.

- Along with the texts, should I send a summary or biographical note?

The work we intend to publish is not conceived as an academic work, but as a repository of personal testimonies articulated by a spiritual, i.e., artistic vision of the world. No summary is required, as the Sphera project seeks to avoid being constrained by any pre-established norms. However, as an individual expression, it requires the identification of the author and essential information about their career as an author (artist or researcher). Authors are therefore asked to send a brief biographical note that provides an overview of their creative career.