

**ÁGUEDA  
2026**

**agitação**

# **MIND & HEART**



PHOTOGRAPHY EKOPICS

**FOR DANCERS LIVING  
IN PORTUGAL**

**OPEN  
CALL**



Águeda positions itself as a promoter of culture, having long supported initiatives that foster and encourage the creation and dissemination of culture in all its forms and expressions, actively involving the local community and ensuring democratic access to culture.

It is within this context that the body painting project **“Mind & Heart”** takes place, a collaborative creation between the artist Vilija Vitkute, two-time world body painting champion, and the choreographer Eszter Rápolthy, which will be presented on **July 4 and 5** as part of AgitÁgueda – Art Festival 2026.

This project, developed as an artistic residency, invites local and international dancers living in Portugal to take part in a unique artistic experience, which will involve body painting performed by three world body painting champions. The project will include workshops, moments of reflection, exploration of movement, and visual arts practices.

# Open call for dancers

We are therefore looking for **9 dancers** who are fully available to participate in a **10-day** artistic residency, including two days dedicated to body painting and a live performance at **AgitÁgueda – Art Festival on July 4 and 5, 2026**.

Those selected will receive a grant of **€400**, as well as shared accommodation and meals at the Casa das Residências, located in the Alta Vila Municipal Park, as part of the AgitLab Project, from **June 25 to July 6**.

## Requirements:

- Minimum age of 18;
- Willingness to participate in performances involving artistic nudity and body painting in a public setting, wearing underwear;
- Minimum of three years of professional dance training or prior performance experience;
- High ability to integrate and work in a team;
- Strong ability to improvise and adapt to the creative process;
- Good oral communication skills in English.

## Applications must include:

- Curriculum Vitae;
- Letter of motivation (maximum 1,000 characters)
- Two full-length photographs;
- Improvisation video (maximum 2 minutes), focusing on smooth isolations and continuous movement.

## Further information

- Email: viljavit@gmail.com e agitlab@cm-agueda.pt
- Website: [www.vv-arts.com](http://www.vv-arts.com)

## Application submission:

- Send to [agitlab@cm-agueda.pt](mailto:agitlab@cm-agueda.pt)
- Deadline: by 18 th May 2026, at 23:59 (Portuguese time)

**The results of the applications will be announced on May 21, 2026.**

# LEARN MORE about the project's creators



## Vilija Vitkute

Vilija is a multidisciplinary artist, internationally recognized for her body paintings and paper art—Haute Papier. A two-time world champion in body painting, she has received multiple awards both internationally and locally, including recognition for her work in visual arts and film.

Born in Lithuania and based in Sweden since 2010, Vilija currently maintains studios and residencies in Norway (Lofoten), the Italian Alps, and the Azores, in Portugal. She works as an independent professional artist and is the founder of VV ARTS, which has been active internationally since 2013.

Her art primarily explores human nature, relationships, motherhood and dreams. Passionate about mixed media, she constantly seeks to step outside her comfort zone. To date, she is the only artist to have created outdoor body paintings in the Arctic, integrating people into the landscape and conveying a message of environmental preservation. In addition, she creates haute couture costumes made of paper and body paintings with special effects, using paper applied directly to the skin.

Her passion for the visual arts and body painting has led her to collaborate on dance-circus performances, film, photography, paper art, costume design and art installations. Over the past five years, she has developed the multidisciplinary project “The Memory of Water,” bringing together more than 40 international artists in artistic residencies in Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Italy, Austria, and Portugal. The project has resulted in films, exhibitions and performances shown internationally.

Vilija also organises body painting retreats in the Arctic, recognised as among the 10 most adventurous retreats in Europe.

**Site:** [www.vv-arts.com](http://www.vv-arts.com) **Instagram:** [@vilija\\_art](https://www.instagram.com/vilija_art) & [@vilijaarts](https://www.instagram.com/vilijaarts)



# Choreographer

## **Eszter Rápolthy**

Eszter Rápolthy is a contemporary dancer, choreographer and movement director from Budapest, born in 2000. She began her artistic journey at the age of 7 and went on to study contemporary dance in Copenhagen. She later joined Verve, the youth company of the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, where she completed her master's degree in 2024.

Throughout her career, she has worked with Bobbi Lo Produktion in Sweden and performed in various international contexts, including the Copenhagen Fringe Festival and the Beyond Fronta Europe Summer Academy. Her career includes performances at renowned venues such as the Théodore Turrettini in Geneva, the Norrlandsoperan in Umeå, the Nordisk Teaterlaboratorium, and The Place in London.

She developed her first duet, "Lost Together", in Denmark and later collaborated with Natalie Cox on the creation of Stand(-)by, a work focused on exploring social behaviors.

Her artistic practice is characterized by a multidisciplinary approach, blending contemporary dance with visual arts, film and fashion. More recently, the practice of yoga has been influencing her work, reinforcing the exploration of the body as a vehicle for expression and memory. Eszter views the body as an archive of experiences, finding inspiration in the relationships between nature and the human condition.

**Instagram:** [@eszti\\_rapolthy](https://www.instagram.com/eszti_rapolthy)

# About ÁGUEDA



Every year, Águeda makes its mark on the world through AgitÁgueda – Art Festival, an event that transforms the entire city and brings to life what is considered one of the “most beautiful streets in the world.”

Hundreds of artists, both national and international, participate in this festival, which goes far beyond music. During this time, Águeda becomes a vast open-air stage, with the streets filled with color, creativity and excitement.

The program includes various cultural events, such as the “Encontro de Estátuas Vivas,” as well as initiatives like “Carnaval Fora d’Horas” and “Color Day,” which contribute to a vibrant and immersive experience for all visitors.



## AgitLab

The AgitLab project, promoted by the Municipality of Águeda, serves as a laboratory for contemporary experimentation, dedicated to the creation and development of new artistic projects. Through artist residencies, it transforms the city’s public spaces into a setting for experimentation, where artists can explore and develop their work. To this end, it provides various municipal spaces, as well as accommodation at the Casa das Residências in Alta Vila Municipal Park.