

WORK / LEISURE

_2

Work/Leisure_2 is inviting emerging and mid-career artists to create new work.

In its first iteration, Work/Leisure, delivered 5 short-term, non-prescriptive artist residencies designed to enable artists to research and develop new work in the historically and culturally unique location of Blackpool.

This time, things are different because the world is different. This new iteration of Work/Leisure occurs at a time to global pandemic, social distancing, restricted travel, remote working, and civil unrest and has been made possible through the support of Arts Council England's Emergency Response Funding.

This support has allowed Abingdon Studios to continue its work in support artists in Blackpool and through Work/Leisure we hope to support artists beyond the town boundary to develop new work.

Work/Leisure's first iteration (in 2016) sought to address Blackpool as a site where 'work' and 'leisure' are intricately linked. This second iteration occurs at a time when boundaries between location, space and time have softened and the borders between work and leisure space and time are harder to map.

'Residents'

Work/Leisure is looking to support 2 *resident* artists in the development and presentation of new work in 2020.

The *residents* activities will be shared publicly through temporary events, virtual open studios and/or public exhibition (at a time when it is safe to do so); opportunities which encourage interaction and dialogue between 'resident' artists and audiences in Blackpool and the wider region.

Applicants will be selected following a UK/Europe wide, open call by a jury.

Whilst the residencies are non-prescriptive, applicants are encouraged to be mindful of the unique historical and contemporary context afforded by Blackpool as a site of mass tourism and popular culture/entertainment.

Applicants are also encouraged to be mindful and the current restrictions and limitations as a result of the Coronavirus/Covid-19 pandemic. We hope that with the easing of restrictions in the coming months we will be able to offer expanded engagement opportunities however understand that the situation is fluid and subject to sudden and dramatic change.

Applicants are encouraged to familiarise themselves with this context in advance of submitting their application.

Details

Work/Leisure 2 will take place between **September** and **November** 2020. As with the first iteration, and in respect of the current global situation, the detailing of the delivery is bespoke and the structure of the activity shall be determined through dialogue with the successful applicant.

The successful applicant will be required to deliver a short presentation on their current/past practice (in a physical or digital format to be agreed between the artist and the W/L team) and deliver a public presentation of work produced in any appropriate physical or digital format (e.g. exhibition, event, screening, discussion etc.),

Application

Applications are welcomed from contemporary visual artists working in all disciplines and is not restricted: this opportunity is inclusive and open to all. The successful applicants should be willing and to engage with the environment and context of Abingdon Studios and the wider artistic and unique cultural context of Blackpool to develop resonant work.

Successful applicants will be provided with an overall budget of £1500 and administrative and curatorial support from the W/L team, Abingdon Studios, and residency partners. We are aware of the differing nature of individual artists' practices and the balance between labour and material so, rather than providing a prescriptive budget breakdown we are asking that artists provide a realistic budget breakdown that works for them; it does not have to be exhaustive - just a guide.

Additionally, reasonable travel and accommodation costs can be covered by Abingdon Studios to support onsite work as/when it is safe to allow this, in line with the latest government guidance. Abingdon Studios will retain and manage this budget, in dialogue with the successful applicants in support of their projects.

Digital submissions only and must include, as one document, saved in PDF format (size limit: 10MB);

- A 500-word statement detailing the proposed activity.
- An up-to-date CV detailing recent solo and group exhibitions, workshops, residencies etc.
- 10-15 good quality images of recent work. Images should include captions or short descriptions, as necessary. Links to video/films (e.g. artist own website, Vimeo, YouTube etc). **Please do not send video files as part of your application.**
- Non-exhaustive budget breakdown.
- Any relevant supporting materials which you feel will enhance your application.

The deadline for applications is **Monday 17th August 2020, 5pm (GMT)**. Applications received after this time will not be considered. Applications should be sent to workleisureresidency@gmail.com with the subject heading; **LastName_FirstName_Work/Leisure_2020**

Artists wishing to apply for the Work/Leisure must be eligible to work in the UK, self-employed and responsible for their own tax affairs. Please consider this in advance of submitting your application.

Selection

The successful applicants will be selected based on their proposed activity, areas of research, and accompanying supporting materials rather than on documentation of previous exhibitions alone. Successful applicants will be mindful of the context. Applications will be assessed by a 5 person selection committee comprising; **Garth Gratrix and Tom Ireland** (Abingdon Studios' Directors), **Paulette Terry Brien** (Curator, Grundy Art Gallery), **Laura Jamieson** (representative artist based within Blackpool's wider artistic community) and **Emily Speed** (external committee member drawn from a wider artist network)

Both successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified of our decision no later than 25/08/2020.

Applicants should be aware of the physical restrictions placed on this residency opportunity at this time when making the application - these restrictions are subject to quick change in line with scientific guidance.

Thank you for applying for Work/Leisure_2

Work/Leisure is supported by;



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**ABINGDON
STUDIOS**

GRUNDY ART GALLERY

Blackpool Council