

RESEARCHING THE RURAL – WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

A new artist residency opportunity with Berwick Visual Arts and Newcastle Universities Centre for Rural Economy and Institute for Creative Arts Practice.

1.0 Introduction

Berwick Visual Arts and Newcastle University's Centre for Rural Economy (CRE), a research centre at Newcastle University, which work towards the achievement of sustainable development in rural areas, have an established partnership which explores how artists and academics can collaborate to inform and develop new approaches to rural research and development.

Having delivered 5 residencies since 2013 and following a review of the residency format during 2018, our ambition going forward is to offer a less structured residency model that is more responsive to the needs of individual artists and their practice. We hope that this will enable an increased diversity of artists to apply for the residency opportunity and allow partners to develop longer term relationships with artists beyond the initial residency period.

The residency continues to be a collaboration and opportunity for the exchange and sharing of knowledge between the artist and researchers at CRE to inform critical responses to the rural, which has an increasing profile within contemporary art debates.

In 2019 we also welcome a new partner to the residency – Newcastle Institute for Creative Arts Practice (the Institute), as a world class hub for creative arts research, learning and teaching with significant impact regionally, nationally and internationally. The Institute supports activity within current disciplinary strengths while actively seeking to foster interdisciplinary initiatives within the University and with a broad range of external partners.

2.0 The Brief

Agriculture is one of the last remaining industries that is closed to women. There are no legal barriers preventing women entering the occupation, but there are significant cultural barriers. Women rarely inherit land if they have brothers. There are almost no women in positions of leadership in farming organisations. Women report feeling self-conscious and conspicuous at farm training events and farmers' union meetings. Ironically, many women work in the agricultural industry. These are usually women who did not inherit the farm but were interested in agriculture. Despite the significant advances in gender equality in the Global North, women continue to face discrimination in the agricultural industry.

Recent research commissioned by the Scottish Government into the role of women in farming has shown that women's contribution to the farming industry is significant but often overlooked and with appropriate support from policymakers and farming organisations they could achieve even more and the full report can be read here - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/women-farming-agriculture-sector/pages/0/>

We wish to appoint an artist working in any medium to actively collaborate with researchers at CRE and relevant communities in Berwick and Northumberland to research, document and respond to the role of women within agriculture and the challenges and barriers that they face, within this sector.

3.0 Artist Requirements

The residency is open to artists based in the UK and EU or artists who already have permission to work in UK.

The residency opportunity requires the applicant artist to have been out of college (BA graduate) for a minimum of 3 years. Those who have completed an MA and / or PhD are welcome to apply.

We are looking for an artist that has an established, engaging and accessible visual arts practice and this should be evidenced through a track record of creating new work through projects, exhibitions and commissions.

Applicants should have excellent communication skills enabling them to discuss complex subjects with a wide range of partners including community members, researchers and academics and have the ability to collaborate with these partners to inform artistic outcomes.

4.0 Outcomes

We are open to what the outcomes of the residency are as we believe the process of engaging with communities in Berwick-upon-Tweed and Northumberland and staff at CRE will produce benefits itself.

Applicants may want to use the residency period to initiate a longer-term project with the partners or undertake a shorter project with a specific outcome, we welcome both approaches and these can be detailed in your application.

As a minimum, outcomes for the residency should be

- Documentation of research and artistic work produced during the residency period
- Presentation of initial work and proposals for future development of the work to residency partners (BVA, CRE, the Institute)
- Presentation of research and any artistic work produced during the residency period via a public events at Newcastle University and with Berwick Visual Arts.

You are welcome to suggest other outcomes with your application if you know what these might be at this stage and the residency partners will also be happy to discuss exhibition or academic outcomes that may develop during and beyond the duration of the residency and how these can be supported.

5.0 Duration

The residency period runs from January -June 2020 and we envisage the artist to be resident for between 4 - 6 months during this period, this do not need to be concurrent, however 4 months is the minimum amount of time we expect the artist to be resident. You should detail the proposed duration and timetable of the residency in your application.

6.0 Fee

The residency offers the successful applicant a bursary of £14000, which is detailed as follows

- Artist Fee, Research & Development Budget - £8500
- Bursary for accommodation in Berwick-upon-Tweed - £5000
- Travel Bursary (for travel between Berwick-upon-Tweed and Newcastle during the residency period) - £500

The funding available remains the same when applied to artist collaboration, where 2 or more artists work as one practice.

7.0 Accommodation and Studio Space

Berwick Visual Arts provides a small studio for the artist in The Maltings Theatre & Cinema and CRE will provide hot desk space for the artist and access to the library and facilities at Newcastle University to support any research activity.

CRE and the Institute have strong links with the School of Arts and Cultures at Newcastle University enabling access to the Fine Art Department and Culture Lab at Newcastle University.

Berwick Visual Arts will provide support to locate suitable accommodation in Berwick for the duration of your residency upon appointment.

8.0 How to apply

Please send a residency proposal which must detail the following information.

1. Application details
 - Name, address, email, mobile number and website.
 - A statement about your current artistic practice and how it relates to this brief (max 1 side A4)
 - A statement about your approach to the theme of the residency and how will engage with all partners including researchers at CRE. (max 1 side A4)
 - A project plan which details start and end dates to the residency, programme of activity between these dates, and any short term or longer-term outcomes as a result of the residency you propose at this stage (max 1 side A4)
2. A current CV (max 2 sides A4)
3. Documentation of your recent work
 - A maximum of 6 images of previous work in a PDF document
 - And / or up to 3 links to moving image / audio work uploaded onto Vimeo.
4. The equalities monitoring form downloaded, completed and attached to the email.

Please do not include any additional information as this will not be viewed.

Completed application details should be sent to berwickvisualarts@maltingsberwick.co.uk by 5pm on Monday 14 October.

The partners welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their race, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation or age.

Interviews for the position will take place in Berwick-upon-Tweed in late October with travel expenses reimbursed or interviews can take place via Skype.

If you would like to discuss the brief in advance of submitting an application please email berwickvisualarts@maltingsberwick.co.uk in the first instance with the details of your question.

9.0 For more information about the residency partners please visit the following websites:

- Berwick Visual Arts - <http://www.berwickvisualarts.co.uk/>
- Centre for Rural Economy - <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/cre/>
- Newcastle Institute for Creative Arts Practice - <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/creativearts/>

