



Calligraphy Residency

Information for applicants

Bursary: £8,400 inclusive for six months

The V&A is inviting applications from UK-based calligraphers who wish to develop their practice through working with the V&A's collections and by engaging in the public participatory programmes that the Museum runs. The holdings of calligraphy – both European and Asian – will be of particular interest for research but we do not see this Residency as limited to this area of the collection. The Residency will be based in the Sackler Centre for arts education at the V&A. This is part of the V&A's innovative Museum Residency Programme and will take place in London over a six-month period January – June 2012.

The residency is open to UK-based practitioners and the V&A warmly welcomes applications from the Fellows of the Society of Scribes and Illuminators, or others working at a similarly high professional level. It will provide a monthly bursary (taxable) and additional budget for materials. A team drawn from the Museum's staff will provide support throughout the project. We are interested in practitioners who: wish to work with the Museum's resources and collections; would welcome the opportunity to actively work on projects with the public; and are interested in presenting and interpreting their work to the public. In addition, the Calligraphy Resident should challenge the traditional image of calligraphy by representing contemporary practice. Applicants should have a track record of development and regular exposure of new work.

The Residency is open to pairs as well as individual practitioners. It should be noted however, that the bursary is a lump sum for the residency and would have to be divided between the pair.

The Sackler Centre for arts education at the V&A has two studios for Museum Residencies to be occupied by artists/ craftspeople/ designers/ writers/ performers/ architects/ film and video makers etc. This programme is integral to the philosophy of the Sackler Centre, helping to make the Museum's learning programmes dynamic and creative.

Purpose of the Residency

This exciting opportunity offers practitioners: access to the collections of the world's greatest museum of art and design for use as creative inspiration to make new work; support to learn new skills and develop creative practice, drawing upon specialist expertise; opportunities to meet practitioners and curators; and also to work alongside specialist educators to promote greater understanding of art and design research and practice for the public.

The aims of the residency are to:

- Enable the selected practitioner to draw upon the V&A's collections to carry out research, learn new skills and create new work
- Inspire public interest in creative practice
- Offer professional development to the selected practitioner in public engagement and artist educating
- Create links between the V&A's collections and contemporary art / design etc.
- Undertake an imaginative project to engage the public (this could include workshops, open studios, talks, mass participation events, family art activities, student projects, seminars etc.)
- Raise the profile of contemporary calligraphy

Expectations

We would like to achieve a balance of benefits for the artist, the public and Museum.

Residents will be expected to:

- spend a minimum of one third of their residency engaged in developing and delivering public-facing activities
- open their studio at the V&A to the public for six half days per month
- display work in progress in their studio (there may also be other opportunities for display elsewhere)
- undertake a programme of activities with the public, and online
- contribute to the process of dissemination on the V&A website
- provide feedback for the purposes of evaluation

Selection Criteria

Proposals should be dynamic, ambitious and inspiring – pushing forward the boundaries of perception about contemporary creative practice and challenging the traditional image of calligraphy. We are looking for an applicant who can adopt a range of different roles and who is keen to draw upon the resources of the V&A and to enter into a dialogue with the public

Candidates must demonstrate:

- An interest in working in educational / community settings
- An understanding and desire to work with the public as part of their creative practice
- Ideas for innovative ways to respond to opportunities to work with the V&A's collections
- Dynamic and inspiring ideas about how they would use this opportunity to develop their practice and how they intend to meet the aims of the Residency
- Creative originality and professionalism in their work.

Note: Artworks created during the residency period in the Sackler Centre at the V&A shall remain the joint property of the V&A, any partners and the Resident. At the end of the Residency, the V&A will transfer ownership of the Works to the Resident with the agreement of

all Parties (the V&A, any partners and the Resident). Work produced with the public as part of this residency is owned by the V&A.

The V&A shall have the right to reproduce the Works [for non-commercial purposes] in agreement with other the other parties in connection with the promotion of the Residencies subject to crediting the Resident and the project in all material.

Payment

The artist will be paid £8,400 during their 6 month residency in monthly instalments. This includes Income Tax and National Insurance. This fee is inclusive of travel costs within the UK and living expenses. There will be an additional budget for studio equipment and materials to be agreed with the Residency Co-ordinator.

Studio

The Residency Studio for this Residency is on the main site of the V&A in South Kensington, situated within the Sackler Centre for arts education.

To apply

Applicants should apply online at the V&A's website at www.vam.ac.uk/jobs where you will be asked to submit a current CV and complete an application form.

In addition to submitting your application on-line, please also upload 8 images of your work with your application. They must be file size 70 dpi and no larger than 9 x 12cm (portrait or landscape), 340 x 255 pixels. These files should be saved as the name of the Image (see below) Within the folder, each image should be labelled with your name and number from 1 to 12 Digital images must be saved as JPEG files and should have the suffix .jpg .Please provide a description of each image following the outline below:

- Image 1 (name of image – please save the file under this name)
- Title
- Materials used
- Dimensions
- Year Made
- Description

Applicants must be available for this project from 5 January to 30 June 2012. The selection process will be carried out by a panel of representatives from the V&A and external expert(s). Applicants will be short-listed from the images and supporting information and those selected will be invited for interview. Interviews will take place on 29 September 2011 at the V&A. Candidates must be available for interview on this date.

If you have any queries regarding the recruitment process, you can email us – hr@vam.ac.uk.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 29 August 2011

The Calligraphy Residency is supported by the Society of Scribes and Illuminators.