

# MODERN ART OXFORD

## Boundary Encounters: Creatives in Residence Information Pack

Modern Art Oxford invites expressions of interest for five artists or creatives living in the South East of England, to participate in *Boundary Encounters* (22 July – 29 October), a summer show of residencies, projects, and live events taking place in the main galleries.

The call out is open to artists and creatives with a minimum of two years professional practice, currently living and working within the South East region.

For the purposes of this project, we include counties: Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey which include towns and cities: Milton Keynes, Oxford, Portsmouth, Reading, Southampton and Slough.

The shortlisting process will be solely based on your application, so please make sure that you read the call-out opportunity carefully and ensure that all the relevant information is included, along with any access needs.

As part of our Anti-racism Action Plan, we strongly encourage artists and creatives from the Global Majority to apply.

Modern Art Oxford is committed to ensuring we have a workforce that reflects the diversity of our audiences, and we know that working with people from a range of backgrounds is vital for the work we do across our organisation.

We are happy to offer additional support and guidance with submissions. If you would like more information about this, please contact [creativelearning@modernartoxford.org.uk](mailto:creativelearning@modernartoxford.org.uk)

### About *Boundary Encounters: Creatives in Residence*

*Boundary Encounters: Creatives in Residence* is a unique opportunity for five artists and creatives to develop their professional practice by participating in Modern Art Oxford's programme with local communities. Reflecting on the grass roots development of the arts and creative collectives in urban life, we are particularly interested to hear from artists and creatives who have an interest in engaging audiences directly with their practice and are committed to one or more, of the following:

- Collaborative research
- Interdisciplinary practice
- Social learning experiences

The offer includes regular mentoring throughout the summer period including the formation of a peer group, formed with fellow artists and Creatives in Residence.

A bespoke fundraising session will be offered by MAO's development team in September to offer support with future professional practice and industry knowledge when partnering with public institutions.

# MODERN ART OXFORD

The five successful creatives will work together at key points throughout the residency to co-create one public event or workshop to share and expand on experiences of social learning in public spaces, as a method for developing a professional arts practice.

## The residency has three aims

- To offer time and space for artists and creatives to develop new work, in a social, supportive, inclusive environment.
- To initiate new conversations with Modern Art Oxford's audiences in a collaborative and open way.
- For Modern Art Oxford to develop new ways of working with and supporting local artists and creatives in the South East.

We encourage applications from artists and creatives with specific access needs and are happy to help with your application process. For more information on the support we can offer, please get in touch: [sara.lowes@modernartoxford.org.uk](mailto:sara.lowes@modernartoxford.org.uk)

The selection process will take place between 24th April - 12th May by MAO's programme team and volunteers.

## What you need to know

All artists and creatives are offered a fee of £1000 and the use of a communal, creative studio with work benches and wall space in the main galleries. This creative space will form part of the overall exhibition experience during *Boundary Encounters* (22 July - 29 October) and as a result, your own experience, will play a significant role in our engagement with visitors throughout the summer programme. We invite you to consider this as part of your proposal for taking part.

A materials budget of £125 is offered in addition to the fee and a supporting travel budget of £175 towards your journey to and from the gallery, within the region of this call-out opportunity.

Creatives are invited to use this period to develop a key area of interest, with support from Modern Art Oxford colleagues and visitors. This could result in a collaborative piece of research, a fixed visual display or installation, or a future related project, with potential to establish a regular collaboration with Modern Art Oxford as part of our future programme.

All applicants must be committed to developing activities or conversations to include audiences in the residency programme, and are required to spend a minimum of 7-10 days in the space, ensuring there are multiple opportunities for visitors to engage with you and your practice.

The gallery is closed to the public on Mondays and will not be available for use during this time. However, we recognise that part of your residency may involve bringing work to and from the studio space, which we will support as needed.

We specifically request you ensure you have availability to take part and use the creatives studio on Thursdays - Sundays each week, from Thursday 3rd August.

# MODERN ART OXFORD

You are welcome to spend as much time as you want in the creative studio and exceed the minimum days request, if you consider any potential benefit this period of residence could have for you. As such, you can make the most of the free studio space for up to 14 weeks, in a creative, collaborative, environment. Materials used to create this temporary creative space may also be available for re-use, as the summer programme ends.

Finally, we request that you inform us of any dates during the show period where you will not be available, and that these are confirmed upon your successful application with the above invitation in mind.

## About Boundary Encounters

*Boundary Encounters* is Modern Art Oxford's participatory summer programme of commissions, residencies, projects and live events, including new work from artists Valerie Asiimwe Amani, Julie Freeman and Harold Offeh.

The exhibition concept is taken from educational theorist, Etienne Wenger and social anthropologist Jean Lave's, *Communities of Practice* (1998) a theory of learning which recognises the self-organised, voluntary and informal nature of learning, as social participation.

In this context, 'boundary encounters' are the small-scale meetings and conversations we each have, which provide rich engagement and meaning to our individual and shared experiences. They can be negotiated, contested, take place as single events and occur over longer periods of time.

Throughout the summer, Modern Art Oxford's gallery spaces will be open to emerging ideas and interactions between artists, creatives, visitors, and staff. Considering these boundary encounters in more depth, we hope to move beyond the individual and beyond the institution, in favour of a dynamic gallery space, inclusive of multiple trajectories and complex interconnections of living, social communities.

The Creatives in Residence will form part of a direct response to this creative process by providing critical reflections and insights, researched through professional visual arts practice and creative collaboration. We invite artists, creatives, our staff and audiences to consider themselves active participants in this alternative use of our gallery spaces; to reflect on our deeply social nature, value our differences, and challenge our assumptions of space.

# MODERN ART OXFORD

## How to Apply

Applicants can choose to submit a written application or a video or audio application responding to the questions below.

## Questions

1. How do you define your creative practice? Please share information about recent projects and/or exhibitions (Maximum 500 words). You can add links to your work which may include publications, previous commissions etc.
2. Please tell us why you are applying for *Boundary Encounters: Creatives in-Residence* at Modern Art Oxford, and how it will support your professional practice (Maximum 300 words)
3. In response to the call out, what are the key ideas, experience and skills you will bring to this summer programme? (Maximum 500 words)
4. Please share any specific interests you have which respond to collaborative research, social learning experiences and interdisciplinary practices (Maximum 300 words)
5. Please describe how you would share your practice and knowledge with visitors during your period in residence at Modern Art Oxford. This could take the form of an event or workshop, participatory display, or digital content, and will feature in our summer programme (Maximum 300 words)

## How to submit your work

This is a paid opportunity and you do not have to pay anything to submit your work.

To submit, please send the following as one attachment to: Sara Lowes – *Boundary Encounters* at [creativelearning@modernartoxford.org.uk](mailto:creativelearning@modernartoxford.org.uk):

1. At least three images of your previous work or projects. Images should be in jpeg format, each no larger than 0.5MB, and saved as your name and the name of the work.
2. A word document detailing your response to the questions above
3. If you are submitting film or audio works, please send these as URL links only (such as via YouTube, Vimeo or SoundCloud).

The deadline for submissions is Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 5pm.

If you are shortlisted, you will be contacted by Sara Lowes, Head of Communities, Practice and Participation by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May and invited to an informal interview during the week of 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May.

# MODERN ART OXFORD

Please note:

- We are asking for electronic submissions only at this stage – please do not send any original material.
- We regularly receive a high number of submissions for projects and exhibitions and therefore can only provide feedback on individual submissions that might be taken forward for this exhibition.
- Any work that does not follow the above submission requirements will not be considered for inclusion in the exhibition.

If you require any support with your submission please contact [creativelearning@modernartoxford.org.uk](mailto:creativelearning@modernartoxford.org.uk).

Thank you for your interest in *Boundary Encounters*, we look forward to receiving your submission.