

Artist Residency: *Playing Out* Call for Play-based Arts Practitioner

MK Gallery's Learning Programme encourages interaction and learning through direct contact with artists and their practice. The MK Gallery Learning Team seeks a participatory arts practitioner to work in partnership with lead artists *Townley and Bradby* to support the development and delivery of *Playing Out*, a programme supported by Ambition for Excellence funding from Arts Council England. *Playing Out* will offer inspiring and experimental opportunities to combine play-based learning with contemporary arts practice within the Milton Keynes built environment and urban outdoor sites. The programme will be realised via offsite activity based in local estates surrounding MK Gallery and include sessions for schools, families and communities delivered as part of a two year residency project. The selected artist will be invited to support the development and delivery of this ambitious project in close dialogue with lead artists and the MK Gallery Learning Team to offer progressive learning opportunities that bring audiences closer to understanding, and contributing to, the artistic process and in turn exploring the possibilities of their city surroundings.

Programme Expectations

The selected artist must be able to demonstrate an enthusiasm for play and arts based learning. Applicants must have the ability to draw upon a wide selection of ideas and skills in order to initiate exciting creative learning experiences, working with contemporary arts practice within community and outdoor contexts. The project will be delivered in two phases. Year One includes associated research, consultation, artists CPD, mentoring, partnership development, a month-long Project Space exhibition hosted in August and relationship building with local communities. Year Two will be developed from explorations, conversations, research and findings from Year One and culminate in a final project outcome. Applicants should ensure they are able to commit to the two years from January 2017 to December 2018 and to deliver all key dates in year one outlined at the point of application. These include: Friday 17 February; Friday 7 April; Friday 2 June, Fridays 11 and 18 August and Friday 27 October. Applicants will be expected to travel for associated project research, mentoring and development throughout. Please note that additional dates will be programmed in agreement with lead artists and learning team staff.

Artists Fee

The project fee for Year One is £5,000 based on an estimated 25 days and includes all project planning, meetings, agreed delivery and associated travel costs. In addition a materials budget and allocation for associated research and CPD travel will be available.

How to Apply:

Please email learning@mkgallery.org and include an artist statement (two sides of A4 max) or short film, names and contact details for two referees and an up to date CV entering 'Playing Out' in the subject header. Closing date for applications is 10am Monday 7 November 2016. Shortlisting will take place, followed by interviews on Friday 25 November. For reasons of economy, MK Gallery will only contact those artists shortlisted for interview.

Background Information

MK Gallery is a registered charity receiving revenue funding from Arts Council England and Milton Keynes Council. We seek to inspire and enable people to experience, learn, participate in, and enjoy the arts, and have become well established as a locally rooted community resource. Attracting 30,000+ visitors annually MK Gallery's exhibitions programme sits alongside a growing engagement and multi-disciplinary events programme including opportunities for early years, children and young people, families, communities, schools, artists and adults.

MK Gallery Expansion

MK Gallery is soon to embark upon a significant capital expansion and site redevelopment with the delivery of a substantial 'interim programme' running 2016-2018. Running in parallel to the Gallery expansion is a major artists' commission addressing the public realm immediately surrounding the gallery. Entitled *City Club*, the concept is 'borrowed' from an ambitious unrealised project from the original MK Masterplan (c.1970) which informed the design and development of Milton Keynes. Artists Nils Norman and Gareth Jones will revisit and reinterpret the *City Club* vision to bring to life a new type of social space. *City Club* will result in three main elements within the gallery site; a garden, playspace and a piazza. These elements, and their associated themes, form the inspiration for the interim Learning Programme, and provide rich opportunities to further examine the process of audience participation and ownership of public spaces.

Learning at MK Gallery

MK Gallery's Learning Programme encourages interaction and learning through direct contact with artists and their practice. Collaborating with local, regional and national partners, MK Gallery delivers an integrated programme of formal and informal creative learning for over 10,000 participants annually, with a strong track record of inspiring a wide range of audiences, ages and abilities. In particular we seek to nurture children and young people's creative potential, offering a substantial programme for early years, childhood learning, families and young people. As co-chairs of the MK Creative Learning Network we seek to bridge the gap between cultural organisations and schools by providing CPD and networking opportunities for teachers and educators.

Our Schools Programme demonstrates a range of connected approaches including workshops, gallery visits, micro-residencies and special projects. The current focus is on reshaping this work in order to develop new initiatives for audiences to reconnect with the city's design, architectural make-up and long-term social ambitions whilst nurturing a curious future audience in the lead up to re-opening. Over the next two years such approaches will be tested, reviewed, and developed as part of core provision.

Townley and Bradby – Domestic Repetition | Do-ability | Auto-ethnography | The Exploded Studio | Playing in Public Space | Creating Works as a Family

Townley and Bradby make work in spaces that are already being used by someone else. This work has included games, picnics, public conversations and site-specific drawings. For the last six years their practice has focused on the domestic, and on the emotional intensity of family life. They have been using film, drawing, and hand-written observations to record how their children's play continuously alters their home environment and how different activities (den-building, cooking, walking, reading) compete to occupy the same space within the house. In 2014 they collected some of this work into an artists' book, *An Endless Round of Repetitive Tasks with Operatic Anger and Comic Turns* (Norwich: Sideline Publications). In February 2016 *Townley and Bradby* launched a quarterly publication called *Brood: art and parenting in an age of austerity*. Recent performances have included *Making The Bed* (part of the Takeover Night at British Art Show 8, Norwich University of the Arts, 2016), *Everybody Questioning* (part of Essex Camarades, Firstsite Gallery, Colchester, 2016), *ICANTHEARWHATYOURESAYING* (The Minorities Galleries, Colchester, 2015).

Information for supporting applicants

Your written or filmed statement plays an important part in the selection process; both as a tool in helping us to shortlist artists for interview, and as a basis for the interview itself. The following advice is designed to help you complete your statement as effectively as possible.

Read and digest the opportunity described

The opportunity has been outlined in the above information and is accompanied by links to *Townley and Bradby* and their arts practice. Ensure that you have read, researched and understood this information before you begin your application. Applicants should ensure they can provide an up to date DBS certificate and Arts Award Discover and Explore training is desirable, although not essential.

Analyse the opportunity

Ask yourself why you are interested in this opportunity. It might be a chance to gain more skills, develop or enhance your creative practice. We encourage those artists whose personal and participatory practice interlink and creatively feed off one another to consider how the opportunity may support both their creative and personal development. The project provides a particularly exciting opportunity for an early or mid-career artist and applicants may wish to outline within their statement how they see their practice benefiting from the chance to work with an established artists duo. The project may present a sought after mentoring opportunity or chance to further your continued professional development. We therefore invite you to consider *Townley and Bradby's* practice before applying.

goldenthreadsdenmark.wordpress.com
www.axisweb.org/p/townleyandbradby
vimeo.com/user3766798/videos

Consider your experience

Think about any evidence you have at your disposal which you can use to prove you have the necessary skills, knowledge and experience. You may also want to consider any voluntary or unpaid work experience which you've completed to support your application.

Please include a description of your personal artistic practice. We would like to know about your artistic focus, breadth of skills, use of materials, and how you reached this point in your career. We are particularly keen to understand how your artistic practice complements your participatory and/or education practice inspiring the cross fertilisation of ideas and reflective thought processes. If appropriate please provide links to supporting materials e.g. websites, social media, Youtube etc. If you are sending hardcopy images, discs or DVD please note that we cannot return any materials sent to us. Please do not send us any original work.

Employment history

Write out your artistic career history. Do not go into too much detail but make sure you explain the main features of relevant and associated projects.

How to apply

Please submit your CV, statement and recruitment monitoring form by 10am Monday 7 November 2016 to learning@mkgallery.org entering 'Playing Out' in the subject header. Alternatively please send to the Learning Department, MK Gallery, 3 Theatre Walk, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3PX.

MK Gallery

Recruitment Monitoring Form

The data on this form is used for statistical purposes to provide MK Gallery with information for its annual statistical returns to Arts Council England and to monitor the performance of its Equal Opportunities Policy. Any reports produced using this information are anonymised. Any information given on the form is treated in the strictest confidence and is not used in any part of the selection process.

Post applied for	Participatory Artist – Playing Out
Date of application	
Your surname	
Your first name	

Gender

<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
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Age

<input type="checkbox"/> Under 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 22-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 30-39	<input type="checkbox"/> 40-49	<input type="checkbox"/> 50-59	<input type="checkbox"/> 60-69	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 70
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Ethnic Origin (please cross the box which most closely relates to you)

<input type="checkbox"/> Black African	<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/> White British
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/> Black British
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Irish
Black other (please specify)		
White other (please specify)		
Other ethnic background (please specify)		

Dependents

Do you have any dependents (children, elderly relatives)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Disability

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?*	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Are you registered disabled?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

*A disability is defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as a “physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day to day activities.” Disabilities can be hidden and include long-term conditions which can be controlled through medication, for example epilepsy, asthma, heart conditions, diabetes.

Where you have an impairment or condition please use the space below to describe any accessibility requirements (e.g. physical access, hearing and/ or sight requirements) you would wish us to accommodate should you be invited to attend interview.