

BRIEF FOR APPLICANTS: VENICE AND CARDIFF ARTIST RESIDENCY OPPORTUNITY

Introduction

We are inviting UK and international artists to submit short proposals in response to this brief for a residency on waterways in two cities, Venice, Italy and Cardiff, UK.

The residency is a special opportunity for an experienced artist to research and devise new work in response to the historic inland canals network to which these port cities are connected.

This opportunity is part of a broader series of artists' residencies conceived and developed jointly by the Arts Council of Wales, Glandŵr Cymru (the Canal & Trust in Wales) and the curating agency Addo. The aim is to contribute to the cultural significance of canals in Wales and their relevance to local communities and contemporary Welsh culture. The residencies also aim to develop artists' roles in animating and re-interpreting the waterways.

The successful artist will be linked to two innovative arts organisations in each city: Bevilacqua La Masa, a leading arts space in Venice, and Chapter Arts Centre, a leading cultural space in Cardiff.

From May – November 2016, the artist will develop ideas in response to the waterways in these two very different European cities with different waterway legacies. They will not be expected to spend the entire period traveling between the two cities, but the commissioning partners are looking for a strong commitment and deep curiosity to explore common and divergent themes suggested in this brief and to develop work for a future exhibition.

Background

Glandŵr Cymru has teamed up with the Arts Council of Wales to create a series of artists' residencies across waterways in Wales over a three-year period. This partnership is highlighting not only the heritage and historic significance of Wales' canals, but also celebrating their current relevance to local communities and contemporary Welsh culture. The Trust is exploring how contemporary arts can play a new role in conserving, animating and re-interpreting the waterways in Wales.

The locations

South Wales – Cardiff region

The artist will investigate the past and present relationship between the port cities of South Wales and the inland waterways. Early on in the industrial revolution the South Wales valleys were primarily concerned with the production of iron. In 1794, the 25-mile-long Glamorganshire Canal was opened between Cardiff and Merthyr Tydfil to bring iron products down to the coast and for nearly 50 years was unchallenged as the main transport link between the two towns. It was later to become the primary route for carrying coal to Cardiff

Bay. The Glamorganshire Canal and its feeders to the Docks have now largely vanished, although parts are still in water in the City and the route can be traced along new roads.

East of Cardiff, the stunning Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal, completed in 1812, follows the bucolic Usk Valley. Horse-drawn boats transported iron, lime and coal from the area – including what is now the Blaenavon World Heritage Site, and linked with the port of Newport, further East of Cardiff. In 1880 the canal was taken over by the Great Western Railway. Within 35 years, commercial carrying had all but ceased on the waterways. Today much of the canal has been beautifully restored.

Arts partner in Cardiff

Chapter in Cardiff, is a multi-artform cultural space that presents and produces international visual art, performance and film. The art centre includes 35 artists' studios, two cinemas, a gallery, two theatres and a dynamic café bar and social space that is an important work and meeting place for the artistic and wider community of Cardiff. Chapter will be the artistic base for the artist offering support and guidance. The artist will make two visits to Chapter, each of 2-3 weeks in duration, between April and August 2016. It is expected that the artist will present work in progress and deliver a talk about the residency experience but the outcomes of the residency can be developed in dialogue with the curatorial team. Further information can be found at <http://www.chapter.org>

Accommodation in South Wales

Chapter will provide both studio and residential accommodation during the artist's visits to Cardiff. The residential accommodation will be off-site but will be organised close to Chapter.

Venice

The Republic of Venice was a major maritime power and port city during the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and a staging area for the Crusades and the Battle of Lepanto, as well as centre of commerce (especially silk, grain, and spice) and art in the 13th century up to the end of the 17th century.

What is less well known is the history of the waterways and canals that surround and feed Venice from the surrounding areas of Northern Italy. Some of these hidden canals are of major historical importance stretching back many centuries. Today, there are ambitious plans to restore the medieval and renaissance inland waterways to open up over 500 kilometres of continual waterway by boat from Lake Maggiore to Venice via Milan.

Further information can be found at <http://www.bevilacqualamasa.it/home>

Arts Partners Venice:

The artist will spend three months in Venice at Bevilacqua la Masa during September – November 2016. The Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation was founded in 1898 shortly after the Biennale of Venice and was founded by Felicita Bevilacqua, widow to General La Masa, who left her family palace, Cà Pesaro, to the foundation on condition that it should be used as a place for artistic culture in the city.

Bevilacqua La Masa has become the launch pad for young artists such as Boccioni, Casorati, Semeghini, Gino Rossi and Arturo Martini. In addition Bevilacqua La Masa hosts exhibitions dedicated to artists such as Jean-Michel Basquiat, Louise Bourgeois, Joseph Beuys, Milton Glaser, Shirin Neshat, Frida Kahlo, Sonia Delaunay, and to the critic Giuseppe Marchiori. Intended as a space for early career artists to undertake artistic research, the Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation continues to pursue this mission after a century of existence.

Accommodation:

Bevilacqua La Masa will provide accommodation at Palazzo Carminati, with internet access; administrative and staff support, including introductions to the Venetian art community; studio and other visits; space to conduct research and meet with others; and an opportunity to give a talk/event. The package is worth 12,000 Euros.

Aims of the residency the artist will build on existing links to complementary projects locally and regionally in order to aid Glandŵr Cymru's aim to:-

- *Make a difference to the communities that the canals serve and to CRT staff by encouraging a greater sense of ownership of the waterways*
- *Raise the profile of the waterways*
- *Make Wales' canals and rivers more accessible through high-quality contemporary art activity and engagement experiences*
- *Nurture innovation in revitalising and conserving the canals and rivers and improving the waterways environment*
- *Create enduring partnerships, particularly with cultural institutes located near or next to the waterways*

In the longer term we hope that by working with artists Glandŵr Cymru will embed artistic working practices within its everyday structures, seeing these as important and relevant to on-going relationship with its public.

The broader aims of the project are to raise the profile of Glandŵr Cymru, develop relationships between existing groups and project partners, exploring and developing ways in which artists may contribute to the development of the organisation and its facilities.

Partners

Representatives from Canal & River Trust, Arts Council of Wales and Addo will work with Bevilacqua La Masa and Chapter to form the Steering Group for the project. Addo will act as the main point of contact between the group and the artist, offering support to the artist. Local groups and associations will work with the steering group and the artist to identify local participants in the initial stages of the project.

Outcomes

The material outcomes of the residency are open but may take the form of temporary artworks created with input from riparian communities, canal users, volunteers and staff. It is expected that the artist will present work in progress and give at least two public talks about the experience in both Venice and Cardiff.

A large exhibition, featuring work from the artists across all seven planned residencies, is due to take place at a key Welsh venue or gallery at the end of the project in 2017. The artist will be expected to show work produced as part of this residency, or as a result of themes explored during their time in residence, in the final exhibition in 2017.

The Artist

The artist will be someone interested in responding to the waterway heritage of South Wales and Venice and its surrounding waterways on the mainland.

This opportunity is open to UK and international artists.

Applicants must demonstrate:

- Creative originality and professionalism in their work
- The ability and desire to work collaboratively with the public and other partners as part of their creative practice
- A willingness to immerse themselves in the life and culture of the area
- An understanding of the issues of working in partnership and the concerns and opportunities presented by waterway history, tourism and restoration.
- The artist must be aware of and abide by the laws for working with children and vulnerable adults, should they undertake such work as part of the residency.
- In the event of manufacture/installation of artworks by the artist, the artist must demonstrate current and appropriate indemnity insurance relevant to the artist in person and to any object/s to be manufactured.

Studio

The artist will be provided with residential accommodation in both Cardiff and Venice. Research space will be provided by Chapter in Cardiff and by Bevilacqua La Masa in Venice.

Payment

Bursary: £7,500

The selected artist will be paid the bursary in installments to be agreed on appointment. This fee is inclusive of all travel costs, subsistence and materials. Both residential and research space will additionally be provided in Cardiff and Venice.

How to submit

Please provide the following:

Please send to: tracy@addocreative.com by 5pm BST on Friday 15th April 2016:

- Up to 10 digital images in a PDF document or a Powerpoint presentation, or a 10-minute (max) showreel. All work should be numbered and include, title, date, dimension and media;
- An up-to-date CV;
- A brief letter of application that broadly outlines why you are interested in this opportunity and how it is relevant to your practice;
- Two letters of support.

When sending large files (over 4MB), please provide hyperlinks to online files or a DropBox containing the files. Information submitted in other formats will not be accepted.

Please note that we do not require a project proposal at this stage as we anticipate that details of activity to be undertaken as part of the residency will be developed following a period of interaction with the area, community and key stakeholders.

Selection Process:

A panel of key stakeholders will shortlist candidates for interview from the applications received.

Interviews will take place in Cardiff on Wednesday 27th April 2016. Candidates must be available for interview on this date. Invitations to interview will be sent out by 20th April 2016. Up to £150 per artist will be available to cover travel and subsistence expenses incurred by attending an interview. Interviews via Skype may be arranged. At interview, interviewees will be expected to speak in more detail about their work and working processes and the approach that they envisage taking towards the residency.

Further Information: www.addocreative.com

Contact Details:

For queries and further information, if you have any further queries about this opportunity, please contact: Tracy Simpson, Addo, 0789 0203218, tracy@addocreative.com