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Radical Sabbatical Residencies 2019

Fee: £1200 (including VAT)

Application Deadline: Thursday 7 February, 5pm

ESP and the University of Birmingham are delighted to announce a residency opportunity for four ESP members to work with academics and curators at the University of Birmingham (UoB) for the Spring term of 2019. This year's key research themes are **COMMON-WEALTH** and **THE UNCONDITIONED MIND**.

Radical Sabbatical residencies provide a platform for artists, writers or curators to respond to the multidisciplinary nature of research, offering an opportunity for practitioners to develop new ideas and work in an exciting context of learning and expertise. Radical Sabbatical offers space for experimentation, knowledge exchange and cross-disciplinary engagement. We are interested in how creative practitioners and academics can explore each other's research and are open to proposals of all kinds, but expect that they be tailored to this rich and stimulating context.

Radical Sabbatical residents will be paired with academics, enabling an in-depth understanding of specific fields of research and offering insight into the broader workings of the University and introductions to colleagues and departments across the institution.

Eligibility: All members of ESP are eligible to apply. To find out how to join please visit <https://eastsideprojects.org/esp/product/esp-membership/>

Key Dates

Application Deadline: Thursday 7 February, 5pm

Meet the Researchers: Wednesday 30 January, 2-4pm

Designed to begin conversations and allow applicants to identify points of connection, artists and Academics from various disciplines will respond to this year's two key research themes and share insights into their work.

Residencies: 4 March–31 May 2019.

End of Term Event, Green Heart Festival: 7–9 June

These residencies focus on collaboration and development rather than outcomes, but we ask that each practitioner present an introduction to their work at UoB's Green Heart Festival. The format will be developed in discussion with residents and in previous years has taken the form of a talk with artists and researchers and a pseudo-table-top-science fair.

Space: Residents have access to a shared space in the Research and Cultural Collections Department, which can be used as a workspace and a base from which to carry out research and form relationships with experts and academics.

Resources: Access to people (academics, specialists, technical and curatorial staff), academic resources including the library, collections and artefacts (on show and in store), and equipment (with appropriate training) can be made available in agreement with the University.

Support: Residents will receive inductions and introductions from Clare Mullett, the University Curator, but will be expected to develop these relationships beyond this. Each resident will also have two 1-2-1 meetings with members of Eastside Projects' programming staff, and a 1-2-1 meeting with an external critical friend – to be identified collectively by the residents and ESP.

Commitment: Successful applicants will be expected to spend at least ten days in residence.

RESEARCH THEMES

Theme 1: Common-Wealth

Framing 'common-wealth' as a consideration of different ways of being with others, Radical Sabbatical 2019 calls for creative and academic responses exploring the effects of our current global political and economic climate on our social and national identities.

The distribution of common resources, whether environmental, cultural, digital, urban, economic or land, continually works to benefit some, but at the exclusion and detriment of others. But can this continue? and if not, what might an alternative future look like? We ask what the concept of the 'commons' means for current political and social interactions? And perhaps most crucially, how do we negotiate our understandings of ourselves as a C/commonwealth or towards a common-wealth?

Key terminologies/understandings:

- common meaning shared or public
- commons meaning land/resources belonging to the community
- commonwealth as an aggregate or grouping of states/bodies
- Commonwealth as an international association of states previously part of the British Empire
- common-wealth as the common good

Intentionally open to interpretation, responses could incorporate ideas relating to the commons, undercommons, future cities, utopia/dystopia, nation and state, national identity, migration, displacement and diaspora, socio-economics, housing/homelessness, freedom of information/resource, commercialisation of social life.

Theme 2: The Unconditioned Mind

Considering understandings of the mind as both a medical and spiritual organ Radical Sabbatical 2019 welcomes multidisciplinary responses to the concept of **The Unconditioned Mind**, questioning the ways that we are conditioned and exploring alternative ways of being.

Advancements in medical practice and technology have allowed access to the physical mind through visual medical imaging in ways never before possible. But where will this sophisticated relationship to our bodies and science take us, and what relationships can science and more esoteric understandings of our minds create?

Recent press and media attention towards mental health in society has been driven by a government agenda of categorisation and self-awareness. However, the understanding of the mind and its transitional states has been common practice within spiritual learning and exploration for centuries. Are we moving towards a medicated society, and if so what behaviours and traits will move us between medical classifications? Are there other ways to consider traits often characteristic of ill mental health and would the genius of yesteryear be considered stable today? Finally, within our highly constructed and mediated modern existence is there still room in society for behavioural deviance?

We encourage applicants to think openly about The Unconditioned Mind, and the various components that this theme covers. Responses could include issues around mental health, wellbeing, mind and body, memory, neuroscience, conditioning, cognition and perception, genius, and policy.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications do not need to include details of specific outcomes but should respond to a Research Theme, identify possible academic collaborators and describe a potential approach or working methodology as well as giving details of the applicant's practice in general.

- Application is by email only
- Proposals and statements may be made via video or audio, rather than written form, to support those with dyslexia.
- Email attachments must not be larger than 5MB.

Please send the following material to submissions@eastsideprojects.org and write 'Radical Sabbatical' in the email subject line.

1. A single pdf or word doc that includes all of the following:

- a. Your name, contact details and website address (if you have one).
- b. A proposal of up to 500 words (or equivalent video/audio) outlining:
 - Why you want to undertake a Radical Sabbatical residency.
 - How you would approach this opportunity and which research theme and academic collaborators interest you.
 - What you hope to gain by working with academics in this context
- c. A general statement on your work - 200 words max (or equivalent video/audio).
- d. An up to date CV

2. Evidence of your work

- A selection of 10 images
- or
- a 5-minute showreel of relevant material

Please also provide links (vimeo/You Tube/soundcloud etc) to full length versions of AV work and/or websites where additional visual material can be found.

3. Please also complete our equal opportunities survey that you will find at:

<https://eastsideprojects.typeform.com/to/vqLKBc>

Please note that this opportunity is **only** open to ESP members. To find out how to join please visit <https://eastsideprojects.org/esp/product/esp-membership/>