

Watershed Winter Residencies 2023

Call for applications

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OVERVIEW

An opportunity for creative practitioners to develop ideas that blend art and technology.

— When

At least 12 flexible days between February and March 2023

— Where

Watershed's Pervasive Media Studio + Online

— Application Deadline

Monday 31st October 2022, 10am GMT

— Call

Watershed's Winter Residencies programme is a fantastic opportunity to develop and share ideas, to meet incredible people, to experiment, make and think. It is open to creative practitioners of any discipline, career stage and background, who have ideas for projects that blend art and technology. We have two residencies available. Each comes with a structured programme, work space at the Pervasive Media Studio, a network of peers, plus financial, technical and critical support. The programme will take place in early 2023 (Feb to Mar) and we're flexible about how you structure your time. This is a remarkable opportunity to have time, resources and freedom to get an idea off the ground. <http://www.watershed.co.uk/studio>

MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME AND THEME

“the ultimate, hidden truth of the world is that it is something that we make, and could just as easily make differently.” David Graeber, 2015

We agree! So this year our residency call is based on the theme of *Making the World Differently*. To create a sustainable future, we need to change how we think about growth, wealth, consumerism and progress, and we believe creativity can play a vital role in reimagining existing constructs.

We are looking for artistic ideas that utilise technology, that positively speculate and jolt societal perspectives. We’re interested in ideas that challenge the things we take for granted and reimagine the frameworks through which we see. We hope to find practitioners who will provoke imaginations, ask questions, explore possibilities and consider what could happen if we change our angle of view.

The call is open to all artforms and will be recruited through a partial random process (see page 8 for details). We’re most interested in ideas that would benefit from being developed at the Pervasive Media Studio.

We are pleased to offer two 14-day residencies between 1st February and 31st March 2023. The time structure is flexible and we’ll discuss what would suit you best in the run up to the programme start.

During your time with us, we will encourage you to experiment and share your idea as it evolves. We offer a supportive space for this, with help from a Watershed Producer and Creative Technologist.

This is a research and development programme, so we'll support you to develop some well-formed ideas and interesting experiments. Towards the end of the residency we will invite you to share your 'work-in-progress' with the public. We'll work with you to find the best frame for this and help you with next steps.

We aim to be as inclusive as possible and work to accommodate all access requirements. We will openly discuss and tailor how we do things to support you as best we can.

— **We offer**

- Time in residence at Watershed's Pervasive Media Studio + online
- A bursary of £2400 (tax inclusive) plus £500 for materials
- A travel bursary to support temporary relocation to Bristol
- The opportunity to focus intensively on the development of an idea
- Tailored support to help you get the most out of your time with us
- A structured process featuring research blogs, regular catch ups, discussions and sharing events
- A peer community of potential collaborators for current and future projects

— **What do we expect of you?**

- Enthusiasm and ambition to grow and develop your practice.
- An open, curious, experimental approach
- Dedicated research time at the Pervasive Media Studio / remotely
- Regular online documentation of progress and ideas
- Participation in critiques, discussions and meetings
- Informal conversations with members of the Studio community
- A willingness to contribute to the Studio community (this could be a range of things, for example making an introduction, attending Studio events, reflecting on someone else's idea, and even unpacking the dishwasher or popping the coffee on!)
- A sharing of ideas towards the end of the residency
- Some reflection and feedback on your time with us

ABOUT YOU

- You have a great idea that responds to our theme and want to explore how to make it a reality.
- You have an open and curious approach to your own work and to the work of others in the Studio network.
- Your idea will significantly develop through inclusion in the programme.
- You may be well versed in using technology, have tinkered, or have some great ideas but need help with technical possibilities, any approach is fine.

We feel that creating the conditions for amazing work to thrive is to bring together people who are different from one another, so we welcome applications from everyone. You could be just starting out, mid or late career, you could be pivoting in a creative direction or returning from a career break. All career stages, creative disciplines and backgrounds are welcome.

We ask for one application per person. You cannot submit multiple Expressions of Interest. You can also apply as individuals or groups (though unfortunately we're unable to offer additional fees for group applications at this time).

You reside (or are planning to reside) in the UK.

We recognise the creative industries are majority white, cisgender and non-disabled. We believe our work will be stronger with greater diversity and welcome applications from those who bring difference.

The scheme is not aimed at undergraduate students, students in full time education, or those living outside of Bristol.

WHERE WILL IT TAKE PLACE?

Practitioners gain the most from our residencies by spending time working at the Pervasive Media Studio, so we are keen for this to happen where possible.

However we recognise that how we are able to work together can differ from person to person, so we've consciously designed a flexible programme to accommodate in-person and online working. Our spaces are wheelchair accessible, we have a quiet room and we will discuss access requirements with you.

We will invite you to join, contribute to and learn from our resident community of creative practitioners, who work on new and emerging ideas. Ideas span gaming, projections, location-based media, city intervention, connected objects, tangible interfaces and expanded performance. Some are cultural, some are commercial. Run in partnership with UWE Bristol and the University of Bristol, the Studio has great workspace, an open ethos and a can-do attitude.

MAKING YOUR APPLICATION

We receive a lot of applications for our funded Residency programmes and we are very aware of how much unpaid work goes into these processes. In previous years, we've run a traditional selection process, where artists submit detailed project proposals in advance, which are judged by a panel of our team and external artists, and receive little or no feedback on their work due to the high number of applications we receive.

This year we're trying something different. We're asking artists to submit a very simple expression of interest form, to confirm their eligibility for the residency. From these expressions of interest, we'll draw twelve names at random. These randomly selected artists will make up our shortlist for the residency.

We'll ask our shortlist to come along to a compulsory group session where we can share a bit more about what we are looking for and answer any questions. They'll also be invited to submit a proposal and attend interview.

We'll provide a small stipend to those who complete the process to help with prep and meeting time.

You can read more about our thinking behind this process [here](#). The process is also described in more detail on the next page.

— How to apply

The first step is to submit an Expression of Interest. This form will prompt you to consider if your idea fits this opportunity. You should only apply if your idea:

- Is at an early stage of development
- Blends art and creative technologies
- Responds to our theme of *Making the World Differently*
- Would be developed through an open and curious approach
- Would benefit from being developed within the Pervasive Media Studio

Stage One

If you are interested in applying, please:

- Complete an Expression of Interest form:

<https://wshd.to/winterresidencies2023>

- Complete an inclusion survey (this is anonymous and not part of the application process):

<https://wshd.to/opportunitiesurvey>

The deadline for submissions is Monday 31st October 2022, 10am GMT

We realise that forms don't suit everyone, so if you would like discuss a different way to apply, please get in touch on residencies@watershed.co.uk

Random selection of all Expression of Interests will take place in early November.

Twelve randomly selected practitioners will progress to Stage Two.

Stage Two

If your idea is randomly selected you will be invited to submit a proposal. We will ask for detail about your practice, idea and why you need to be resident at Pervasive Media Studio to develop the work. We will send full details about the content and format of this at the time. There will also be an opportunity to discuss access requirements.

At Stage Two we will also ask you to attend a compulsory 30 minute group application surgery. There will be two options for this. You can attend a session online Or you can attend a session in person at the Pervasive Media Studio. If you attend in person and haven't visited the Studio before, we would be delighted to show you around the space. Travel fares or fuel bursaries will be available for attending in person.

Stage Three

At Stage Three, you will be asked to join us for a short Zoom conversation. This will be an opportunity to discuss your practice and proposal. If you have access requirements there will be opportunity to discuss this at the time. To help you prepare, we will send the interview questions in advance.

We will also provide a £200 stipend (inc. tax) to those who complete all three stages, to help with time for interview prep and meeting the Residency team.

TIMELINE

28 September 2022 - Open for Expressions of Interest (Stage One)

31 October, 10:00 - Deadline for Expressions of Interest, 10am GMT

03 November - Applicants notified of their random selection result. Twelve invited to Stage Two.

10 November - Compulsory application surgeries and optional Studio tour (Stage Two)

30 November - Deadline for proposals, 10am GMT (Stage Two)

06 December or 07 December - Zoom calls (Stage Three)

14 December - Applicants notified

February – March 2023 - Residency period

TALK TO US

If you have any questions about the residencies or application process, please message us at residencies@watershed.co.uk

If you would like to find out more about the Pervasive Media Studio and what we do, you can:

— **Visit** <https://www.watershed.co.uk/studio>

— **Join us** at our lunchtime talks on [Watershed's YouTube channel](#)

Talks happen live every friday at 1pm and you can watch past talks too.

— **Watch** a short film about the space: <https://youtu.be/f5Gtc9B-z-U>

And if there is anything else that we haven't covered do let us know.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Victoria & Martin

Victoria Tillotson,

Talent Development Lead, Watershed

Martin O'Leary,

Creative Technologist, Watershed

SOME OF THE CREATIVES CURRENTLY RESIDENT AT THE PERVASIVE MEDIA STUDIO

Anagram

<http://weareanagram.co.uk>

Victoria Melody

<https://victoriamelody.com>

Sleepdogs

<http://sleepdogs.org>

Fozia Ismail

<https://www.watershed.co.uk/studio/residents/fozia-ismail>

Alec Stevens

<https://www.alecstevens.co.uk>

Duncan Speakman

<https://duncanspeakman.net>

Jonny Cotsen

<https://www.watershed.co.uk/studio/residents/jonny-cotsen>

Action Hero

<http://www.actionhero.org.uk>

Lily Green

<https://www.nobindings.co.uk>

Hellion Trace

<http://www.helliontrace.com>

Joe Hill

<https://www.watershed.co.uk/studio/residents/joe-hill/>

Ella Good and Nikki Kent

<http://www.ellaandnicki.com>

Trigger

<https://www.triggerstuff.co.uk>

Robbie Thompson

<https://robbiethomson.co.uk/about>

QUOTES FROM PREVIOUS RESIDENTS:

“Watershed’s Winter Residencies programme accelerated and expanded my project hugely. The support I’ve received from the residency team has been instrumental in giving me the space and new ideas the project needed to progress. It let me explore lots of different facets to my practice in a supportive and non-judgemental space.”

Xavier Velastín, Winter Residencies 2019/20

“The residency has been so valuable. It encouraged me to think at my own pace, to develop my initial ideas into a living proof of concept, whilst building my confidence in the development of the work. There was a genuine recognition of the pressures and difficulties around lockdown, and despite the fact that we didn't meet in person until almost the end of the residency, I felt encouraged and very supported by the Watershed team. When restrictions eased there was real care and sensitivity around how to safely share work with the public in person, which led to fantastic conversations.”

Katy Connor, Winter Residencies 2021

“There’s so much knowledge and experience in the Studio community. During the residency I was introduced to people working at the top of their fields and was blown away by the generosity I received from folk who took time to have a conversation and share their perspectives. Pervasive Media Studio is a very open and welcoming place to come and work.”

Robbie Thomson, Winter Residencies 2019/20

“When I work with people I often have to remind them that I am deaf and rely on lip-reading which can be quite difficult for me. However throughout my residency, Watershed always put me first - a quiet space, clear communication, good lighting. I massively respect them for that.”

Jonny Cotsen, Artist in Residence 2018

— About Watershed

Watershed's mission is to develop cultural engagement, imagination and talent. We are recognised for an internationally distinctive programme of invention and talent development; as a leading centre for film culture and as Bristol's city centre cultural meeting and debating place of choice.

<http://www.watershed.co.uk>

— About Arts Council England

Watershed is supported by Arts Council England. Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. They support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries - from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections.

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk>



WATERSHED



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