



**Watershed & MAYK  
Winter Residencies  
Call for applications**



Pervasive  
Media Studio







## An opportunity to make artistic ideas that explore technology and climate breakdown

### — When

At least 15 flexible days between  
December 2019 and March 2020

### — Where

Watershed's Pervasive Media Studio, Bristol

### — Application Deadline

Wednesday 24 July 2019, 10am BST

### — Call

Watershed and MAYK's Winter Residencies programme is a fantastic opportunity to develop and share ideas, to meet incredible people, to imagine, make and think. It is open to creative practitioners of any discipline, career stage and background, who have ideas for artistic projects exploring technology and climate breakdown. We have three 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 Winter 2019/20 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:

We're interested in artistic ideas exploring technology and climate breakdown. Global heating is causing weather-related disasters, rising sea levels, changes in food production, climate-related diseases and more. How does the climate crisis impact lives? And what role can technology play? We're looking for ideas underpinned by stories or experiences of people, from anywhere in the world, affected by climate crisis. Ideas could draw from historical, current or future fictional narratives, expressing any topic or mood, from grief and depression through to optimism and hope. Technology could form part of the narrative and/or the delivery mechanism. We're most interested in artworks that enable people to relate to what is happening, understand why it's essential that we act now and provoke action.

**Our three Winter Residencies** will encourage you to experiment, make, share and discuss your idea as it evolves. We offer a supportive space for this, with help from a Watershed Producer and Creative Technologist plus access to the expertise and networks of MAYK. This is a research and development programme, so we don't expect you to make a finished work. It is likely you will have a good story about the journey you've been on and some well-formed ideas. 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 right frame for your ideas and design an event that will help you move forwards.

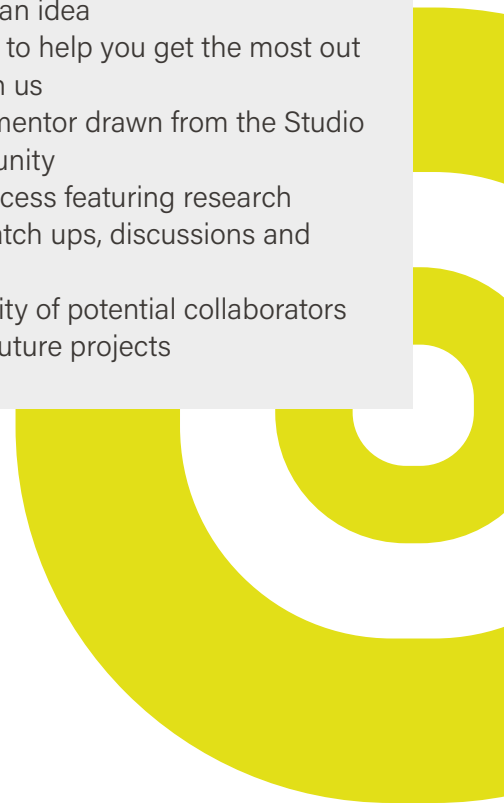
We aim to be as inclusive as possible and work to accommodate all access requirements. We will openly discuss and tailor how we do things to support you as best we can.

At the end of the residency we will listen to your feedback, reflect on your journey and think about what your next steps could be.



## — We offer:

- Time in residence at the Pervasive Media Studio supported by Watershed and MAYK
- A bursary of £2700 (tax inclusive) plus a £500 production budget
- Travel bursaries as needed
- 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 hand-picked mentor drawn from the Studio or MAYK community
- A structured process featuring research blogs, regular catch ups, discussions and sharing events
- A peer community of potential collaborators for current and future projects





“I loved being part of the Winter Residency programme. I felt very cared for during my time at Pervasive Media Studio. Everyone really got what I was trying to do and I had so many brilliant conversations. It is such a rare space. I definitely would not be where I am now without it. The residency has fast-forwarded my project by months. I know where I want to go with my theatre show and I am super excited.”

**Victoria Melody**  
Winter Residencies 2018

Victoria Melody & Edson Burton © Jon Aitken 2018



## — About you

- You have a great idea 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 work 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 to get them off the ground, 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 project idea per application. You can make multiple applications if you have more than one idea.

You can apply as individuals or groups.

We welcome applications from BAME, LGBTQI, Deaf and disabled practitioners, because they are under represented in the programme.

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



Magz Hall, Winter Residencies 2019 © Jon Aitken 2019







## — Where

You will be based at Watershed's Pervasive Media Studio and become part of our resident community of artists, creative companies, engineers, academics, scientists, technologists and tinkerers, who work on new and emerging ideas. Ideas span gaming, projections, location-based media, city intervention, connected objects, tangible interfaces and new forms of performance. Some are cultural, some are commercial. Run in partnership with the University of the West of England and the University of Bristol, the Studio has a great workspace, an open ethos and a can-do attitude.

We invite you to join, contribute to and learn from the Studio and MAYK communities, have desk space within the Studio, and access to meeting, event and quiet spaces. All spaces are accessible to wheelchairs.

Although the formal funded residency will come to a close in March 2020 your participation within the community can continue. At the end of the Residency programme we will review its value with you (as we do all Residents) and discuss the possibility of continued involvement, should you wish. In addition, all residents are welcome as hot deskers on an ongoing basis.

“Working at Watershed’s Pervasive Media Studio was a genuinely extraordinary period in my life. I saw many inspiring things, had lots of brain breaking conversations and shared in the excitement of various developing projects. I also met some truly wonderful people that embody the spirit of generosity that the Studio aims to foster. The residency has not only fuelled my practice, it has changed how I live life.”

**David Lisser**

Artist in Residence 2017

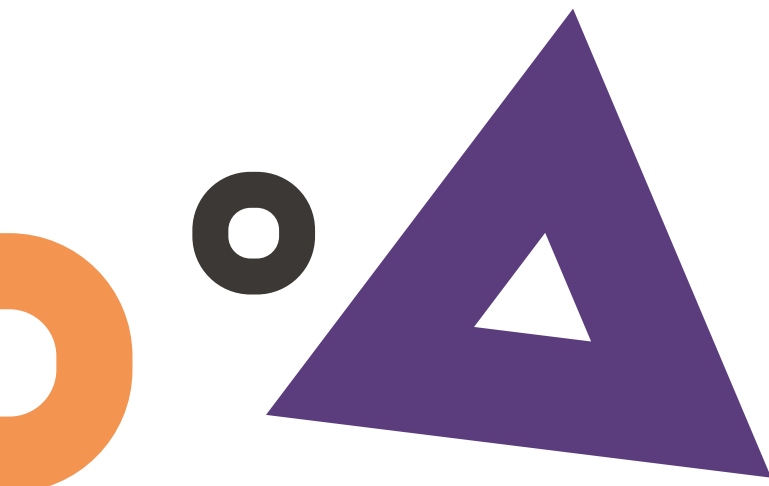
## — What do we expect of you?

- Enthusiasm and ambition to grow and develop your practice.
- An open, curious, experimental approach
- Dedicated research time at the Pervasive Media Studio
- Regular online documentation of progress and ideas
- Participation in critiques, discussions and meetings with your mentor
- A willingness to contribute to the Studio and MAYK communities
- A sharing of ideas towards the end of the residency
- Some reflection and feedback on your time with us

## — Tips for making an application

We receive a lot of applications for our funded Residency programmes, so to make sure we really understand your proposition, we suggest you:

- Contact us if forms are not your thing, please don’t be afraid to do this, we are super happy to discuss alternatives that would work better for you
- Create a biography that briefly summarises your practice, experience and any recent relevant projects
- Create a realistic proposal. It’s quite a short residency so when planning your idea, think about what you would do with the time and how it might help you move forwards
- Be as concise as possible
- Be sure to explain what difference this would make to you and why you need to be at the Pervasive Media Studio to make it happen
- If you’re planning to send links to share examples of work, choose good quality examples that are most relevant to your proposal
- Ask us questions if you need to



## — How to apply

Over the past couple of years we've received some really useful feedback about the time and effort it takes for artists to apply to opportunities. So each year we tweak our application process in an attempt to be more respectful of time, and offer a useful experience to those who travel to attend interview. This year we've most radically changed our Stage One process. We've scrapped the word count and suggested 2-3 sides instead. We are continually testing our process and we welcome feedback.

## — Timeline

### 13 June

Open for applications (Stage One)

### 24 July

Deadline for application forms, 10am BST

### 30 July

Applicants shortlisted for Stage Two notified

### 02, 03 or 04 September

Skype calls (Stage Two)

### 10 September

Applicants shortlisted for Stage Three notified

### 30 September, 01 or 02 October

Visit to Watershed for tour, interview and meetings (Stage Three)

### 08 October

Applicants notified

### December - March

Residency period

### Stage One

If you are interested in applying, please email 2-3 sides of A4 to [residencies@watershed.co.uk](mailto:residencies@watershed.co.uk) telling us:

- Your name
- The city or town where you reside
- Your email
- Your phone number
  
- A short biography
- What is the idea you want to develop?
- Why do you need to be resident at the Pervasive Media Studio to make this work?
- Any relevant links (optional)

The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 24 July 2019, 10am BST

We realise that text applications don't suit everyone, so if you would like discuss a different format or way to apply, please get in touch (details on page 10).

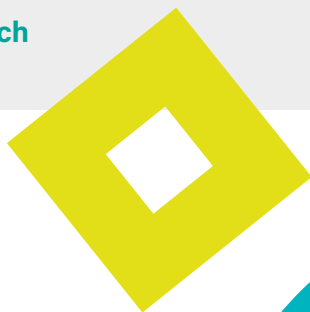
### Stage Two

If you reach Stage Two, you will be asked to join us for a short Skype conversation. We will ask you to Skype even if you are local to Bristol. 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.

### Stage Three

If you reach Stage Three, you will be invited to visit us at the Pervasive Media Studio. This will include a Studio tour, an interview and a chance to chat with a Studio resident. We'll talk to you before the visit about people you might like to meet and set up the conversation. To help you prepare, we will also send you the interview questions in advance. We will provide travel expenses and a £120 stipend (inclusive of tax) to those attending interview.

If you have access requirements there will be opportunity to discuss this prior to the visit.





“My time on residency at Watershed’s Pervasive Media Studio has been epic. I can’t speak highly enough of the Winter Residency programme. My work is often driven by ideas and form, and I’ve felt really lucky to find a space and a programme that gives you time to think and explore. I now have a much more practical and nuanced grasp of the work I’m trying to make, and a better idea of how and who to collaborate with on the next stage. It’s made a huge difference.”

**Javaad Alipoor**  
Winter Residencies 2018/19

Creative Producers International © Shamphat Photography 2017



## — Talk to us

If you have any questions about the residencies or application process, please drop us a line at [residencies@watershed.co.uk](mailto:residencies@watershed.co.uk)

If you would like to find out more about the Pervasive Media Studio and what we do, visit: <https://www.watershed.co.uk/studio> or to learn more about MAYK visit <https://www.mayk.org.uk>

If you wish to visit us in person to see the space and say hello to our other residents before applying, you are more than welcome. Contact [studio@watershed.co.uk](mailto:studio@watershed.co.uk) to arrange to join one of our weekly tours at 12:30 on Fridays, (tours are part of our Open Studio Friday public offer so booking is essential). After the tour you can join us for a free talk and hotdesk in the Studio to get a feel for how things work. Details of Open Studio Friday and upcoming talks can be found here: <https://www.watershed.co.uk/studio/events>

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

We look forward to hearing from you.  
Victoria, Kate & Matthew

**Victoria Tillotson**, Watershed  
**Kate Yedigaroff & Matthew Austin**, MAYK

## — Artists currently resident at Pervasive Media Studio:

### **Anagram**

<http://weareanagram.co.uk>

### **Action Hero**

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

### **Tom Marshman**

<http://www.tommarshman.com>

### **Lily Green**

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

### **Sleepdogs**

<http://sleepdogs.org>

### **Hellion Trace**

<http://www.helliontrace.com>

### **Alec Stevens**

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

### **Jo Bannon**

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

### **Splash and Ripple**

<http://www.splashandripple.com>

### **Ella Good and Nikki Kent**

<http://www.ellaandnicki.com>

### **Jonny Cotsen**

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

### **Raucous**

<http://raucous.org.uk>

### **Duncan Speakman**

<https://duncanspeakman.net>

### **Rusty Squid**

<http://rustysquid.org.uk>





## — About Watershed

“Watershed displays a passion for high quality, diverse and challenging art and culture, combined with a hunger for the new and an agitation for the next.”

Tom Fleming 2016

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 MAYK

MAYK is an acclaimed producing organisation based in Bristol and working nationally and internationally. We create transformative experiences for audiences by collaborating with visionary world-class artists. We are a building-less producing house, and we work across scale, creating meaningful encounters from intimate interior one-on-ones to high impact projects in public space.

Our flagship project is Mayfest – a biennial international festival of live performance, curated for Bristol. We also work year-round with artists to develop, create and tour new live performance work. <https://www.mayk.org.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>

“When I work with people I often I 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

