

## **Watershed Spring Residencies 2021**

Call for applications

**An opportunity to develop artistic ideas that explore technology, environmental emergencies and possible futures.**

### **— When**

At least 12 flexible days between mid-February and April 2021

### **— Where**

Online + Watershed's Pervasive Media Studio and/or outdoor locations in Bristol (if possible)

### **— Application Deadline**

Monday 7th December 2020, 10am BST

### **— Call**

Watershed's Spring Residencies programme is an opportunity to develop and share ideas, to meet incredible people, to imagine, talk and think. This year it is open to Bristol based creative practitioners of any discipline, career stage and background, who have ideas for artistic projects exploring technology, environmental emergencies and possible futures. We have two residencies available. Each comes with a structured programme, a network of peers, plus financial, technical and critical support to bring concepts to fruition. The programme will take place in early 2021 (mid-February to April) 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 possible futures. Human activities are accentuating climate-related change, rising sea levels, extreme weather, soaring pollution, spread of diseases, loss of biodiversity, challenges in food production and much, much more. 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 explore technology and environmental emergencies, that positively speculate, and work to jolt deeply rooted societal perspectives. We're interested in ideas that challenge the things we take for granted and reimagine the frameworks through which we see. We're not asking you to solve immediate problems, we're asking you to come up with ideas that provoke imaginations, ask questions, explore possibilities and consider what could happen if we change our angle of view.

**Our two Spring Residencies** have a research focus. We will encourage you to experiment, think, share and discuss 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 programme, so we'll support you to develop a concept rather than design a finished work. By the end of the programme it's likely you will have a well-formed idea and a good story about the journey you've been on. Toward the end of the residency we'll invite you to share your

concept 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 supported by the Pervasive Media Studio and Watershed
- A bursary of £2400 (tax inclusive)
- A small local travel bursary
- 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 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

“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

### — About you

- You have a great idea that relates 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 project idea per application. You can make multiple applications if you have more than one idea. You can also apply as individuals or groups.

You reside (or are planning to reside) in Bristol, UK. We want to place focus on restoring our local ecology and discouraging travel in the context of Covid-19.

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**

The immediate future and how we will be able to work together is unknown. We've consciously designed flexibility into the programme, so residencies could take place remotely or at times physically (if possible) either at Watershed's Pervasive Media Studio or at locations outdoors. We don't know if we will be able to use our building, but if we can, measures are in place to ensure any time spent there is safe and productive. Our spaces are wheelchair accessible, we have a quiet room and we will discuss your needs in relation to working remotely. We will monitor and respond to circumstances relating to Covid-19, and chat with you nearer the time to support you as best we can.

During lockdown the Pervasive Media Studio community moved online and continues to thrive in that space. So whatever the situation, 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.

“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**

— **What do we expect of you?**

- Enthusiasm and ambition to grow and develop your practice.
- An open, curious, experimental approach
- Dedicated research time remotely and at the Pervasive Media Studio / outdoors (if possible)
- Regular online documentation of progress and ideas
- Participation in critiques, discussions and meetings
- Meeting with a mentor
- A willingness to contribute to the Studio community
- 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 or recordings 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 few 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 respectful of time. This year in response to the current public health crisis, we are offering optional conversations to discuss any concerns you may have or help you understand our Covid-19 measures. We are continually testing our process and we welcome feedback.

## Stage One

If you are interested in applying, please send either 2-3 sides of A4 OR a video or audio file (max 10mins in length) to [residencies@watershed.co.uk](mailto:residencies@watershed.co.uk) telling us:

- Your name
- Your postcode
- 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)
  
- Please complete an inclusion survey (this is anonymous and not part of the application process): <https://wshd.to/springresidency>



The deadline for submissions is **Monday 7th December 2020, 10am BST**

We realise that text or recorded 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 11).

## **Stage Two**

If you reach Stage Two, 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 an opportunity to discuss this at the time. To help you prepare, we will send the interview questions in advance and provide a £75 stipend (inclusive of tax) for your time.

## **Optional Covid-19 Conversation**

We recognise that as individuals, we carry varying levels of concern and anxiety relating to the current public health crisis. We invite an open dialogue around this. If you have any concerns you would like to discuss, there will be an opportunity for you to talk with a Producer about the programme and the measures that are in place in relation to Covid-19. This is not part of the selection process and will have no bearing on your application. Contact [residencies@watershed.co.uk](mailto:residencies@watershed.co.uk) if you would like to book a slot or discuss any access requirements.

“The residency was a great opportunity for us to focus on one element of a much larger project. Time for pausing, thinking and research was really valuable. It’s unusual to find residencies genuinely focused on research & development that don’t push for a huge outcome before you’re ready. There was a genuine enthusiasm in the team for what we were doing - it felt they were as invested in and excited by our project as we are. The real sign of this investment was their ability to introduce us to the right people to get advice and move the project forward.”

**Ella Good & Nicki Kent, Winter Residencies 2019/20**

## — Timeline

**14 October 2020** - Open for applications (Stage One)

**16 and 26 November** - Slots for optional Covid-19 conversations available

**07 December** - Deadline for application forms, 10am BST

**17 December** - Applicants shortlisted for Stage Two notified

**05 or 06 January 2021** - Zoom calls (Stage Two)

**13 January** - Applicants notified

**Mid-February – April** - Residency period

— **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, 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>

Please bear in mind that our film was made pre-Covid-19, so some of the things it mentions such as weekly Studio tours are not available at the moment. The Studio layout is also a little different, it has for example a new entrance and one-way system, but the film should give you a jist of what we're about.

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

We look forward to hearing from you.

Victoria

**Victoria Tillotson,**

Talent Development Lead, Watershed

— Some of the artists currently resident at the 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>

**Joe Hill**

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

**Splash and Ripple**

<http://www.splashandripple.com>

**Ella Good and Nikki Kent**

<http://www.ellaandnicki.com>

**Duncan Speakman**

<https://duncanspeakman.net>

**Rusty Squid**

<http://rustysquid.org.uk>

**Jonny Cotsen**

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

**Libita Sibungu**

<https://www.watershed.co.uk/studio/residents/libita-sibungu>

“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**



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**