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**SSW x Counterflows Caregivers Residency | Application Pack**

**Deadline for applications: Monday 14 December 2020, 12 noon**

The care of others is central to the collective survival of our world yet is deeply undervalued within our society - this is often mirrored in the structures of support created for artists.

The SSW x Counterflows Caregivers residency is shaped to support artists who undertake this essential care work and is set up to provide a nourishing, open and flexible residency structure to serve their diverse needs.

Caring for family (biological or chosen), community and/or kin, either professionally or informally can form and create artistic practices as well as disrupt them. Throughout lockdown however, all aspects of home, work and caregiving have become tangled up and mashed together, often making each of these things feel increasingly impossible.

We recognise how difficult it is for artists with caring responsibilities to grasp time, energy, resources and focus for their practice, particularly when support networks are disrupted and funding diverted through the C-19 pandemic. With this in mind, this residency offers funding, flexibility, respite and space for self-care, to focus on their own needs and support continued learning and development.

Counterflows and SSW support artists working across all disciplines, but for this residency applicants should have experience in working with sound and/or experimental performance in some form. Through this residency we want to learn with the selected artist to develop how both organisations can best support caregivers, in this residency and wider activity.

**Pack contents**

These sections are also available in large print and as audio recordings on the SSW website.

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1. **Details**

To support residency activity, the selected artist will receive:

* £1500 artist’s fee
* £300 travel budget
* £300 materials budget
* A four week residency at SSW with use of studio, workshops and technical support
* Private accommodation in the SSW house. This has 4 bedrooms and a kitchen/ bathroom
* A budget of £1000 to support access and care costs to enable the artist to take part in the residency

As a caregivers’ residency, we understand the need for flexibility for everyone involved. Here we have listed what the residency can offer, however this can be developed and shifted in collaboration with the selected artist, according to their needs and the unfolding impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

* 4 weeks funded residency at Scottish Sculpture Workshop in Lumsden, Aberdeenshire. The timeline for when and how this happens is flexible and can be considered as one longer stay or several shorter visits depending on your (and those who you care for) schedule and needs. We hope that the residency visit(s) can start in the first half of 2021 and complete before Counterflows Festival 2022.
* No outcome from the residency is required. It is an opportunity to dedicate time to your practice and fulfil your own needs. If you would like to share your process or work developed on residency through the Counterflows 2021 or 22 programme this is possible in whichever form is appropriate. This could include an intervention on the Counterflows website or as part of the Counterflows blog series but this is not a requirement of this residency opportunity.
* Following the residency period both organisations will continue to support your work and advocate for your practice.

1. **Eligibility**

To apply for the SSW x Counterflows Caregiver’s Residency you must:

* Identify as a caregiver - see FAQs for more detail
* Have experience making experimental sound or performance-based work
* Be based in Scotland
* Be willing/ able to travel to SSW and participate in the residency with the support outlined in Section 1.

1. **Equal Opportunities**

We see the multiple and intersecting barriers experienced by artists in accessing funding and support for their practices, due to their ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, (dis)ability and socio-economic background among others.

At SSW and Counterflows we are working to address and dismantle these barriers, and actively encourage artists who are underrepresented in our programmes to apply for funded residencies. This could be artists who experience racism, artists who are disabled and/or neurodivergent, artists who are trans, non-binary and/or queer, and artists from lower socio-economic backgrounds, among other underrepresented and oppressed identities.

To support you to apply, we have:

* built a more inclusive applications process, with no requirement for CVs and the choice to submit in various formats
* created a range of additional resources to support you in making an application, such as FAQs and audio recordings
* introduced decentralised artist-led decision making, by inviting artists with diverse lived experiences and perspectives to sit on the panel and make the award.

We encourage all applicants to complete our equal opportunities monitoring form as this helps us measure the diversity of our organisation and our work.

1. **How to apply**

The deadline for applications is Monday 14 December 2020, 12 noon.

The following section is intended to support you to make a strong application, by giving us the information we need.

* Read this carefully before completing your application
* Submit your application before the deadline. Get in touch with us if you are having problems submitting on time.
* When you finish submitting your application you will receive a confirmation message.

Please contact us at SSW if you have any questions about this residency, if you have technical difficulties or you have any access requirements that we can support you with in the application process.

Please apply using the format that feels most comfortable for you, either text, audio or video. We have no preference and will only evaluate the content of each application, not its production.

We want to hear about your work, ideas and research in your own words. Try to tell us about these without using jargon or complicated words.

**The application form**

* The form does not save as you are filling it in, so we advise you write your answers into a separate document, save it on your computer, then copy and paste your answers or recording links into the form in case you lose your connection or refresh the page while you are filling it in.
* The application form allows you to include links and any related passwords for recorded applications.
* If for access reasons you would prefer to not submit through the online form, there is a .doc and .pdf copy of the questions available via the website. Once complete, email the completed form to sam@ssw.org.uk with “Caregivers Residency Application” in the subject, before the deadline.
* In each section there is an indicated word count or recording duration. This is to give you an idea of how much to say and how in depth we expect your answer to be. Please try and tell us everything that is relevant within the word count.
* If there is another format that would support you to do your best application then please get in touch via jenny@ssw.org.uk and we will work with you to try and make it possible.

**The questions**

* 1. Tell us about your work, ideas and research in your own words.
     + Tell us about what interests and excites you in your practice. What are you thinking about just now? How does this relate to things you have made in the past or are making now?
     + We are not looking for a CV or exhibition/performance history here, rather to understand what you are doing and what drives your practice forward.
  2. Tell us about what you would like to do on residency at SSW.
* We are aware that often artists are led by the process of making and doing so this might be difficult to think about.
* Whatever you are thinking now, will possibly change through the process of making it, and this is ok.
* As such we do not need you to tell us about a 'final work' that you want to make on residency, rather tell us what you would like to learn and work through. This could be exploring and/or developing processes, ideas or other things. It could also be focusing on one area of work intensely or crystallising various ideas or bodies of work you have made in the past, among other possibilities.
* It might help to look at the SSW and Counterflows websites to understand what is available to you through the residency award and what we can support.
* Try to be realistic about what you propose - it is an exciting opportunity but we want to see that you are able to do these things within the constraints of the residency offer. We also understand that your caring responsibilities may also impact on what’s possible for you in this time and want to ensure space for this.   
  1. Tell us how the residency would be useful for you and how it would support the continued development of your practice.
* We want to award the residency to someone who needs the dedicated time and space for their practice, who is otherwise unable to do so because of their caring responsibilities. Tell us how the residency would be useful for you, and how it would support your continued development as an artist.
* Try to be as specific with this as possible.
* We are aware that many artists with caring responsibilities will need the funds, time, space and facilities available, so try to link your specific needs at this time (personal & professional) to what we can provide through the residency offer.

Finally we will ask for some examples of your work to support your application.

* This does not need to be recent work if you have had a break from your practice, but it will give us an opportunity to understand your practice better.
* This can be provided in whatever format is most convenient for you.
* Please be mindful that the panel has a limited time allocated to each application and will not be able to watch whole films or listen to complete audio recordings if they are longer than 2 minutes.
* Please provide a maximum of 6 images, 3 pieces of text or 2 links to external media or websites. We will not be able to look at all pages on a website so direct us to the content you want the panel to see.

Before you make your application we would advise reading or listening to our FAQs and listening to both ‘in-conversation’ recordings with previous SSW X Counterflows residency artist Letitia Pleiades and the SSW/Counterflows team.

1. **Selection Process**

**Shortlisting**

We anticipate a high volume of applications, as such Jenny Salmean, Programme and Communications Manager at SSW and Alasdair Campbell, Director of Counterflows, will shortlist the applications for the decision-making panel based on the following considerations and weighting:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Consideration | Weighting |
| The artist’s clear need for this residency (in relation to caring responsibilities). | 30% |
| Articulation of how this residency would support the ongoing development of artist’s practice | 30% |
| Links and connections between residency proposal in relation to the artist’s existing work and interests | 20% |
| Does the proposal evidence an understanding of SSW and Counterflows, and the related residency offer in the proposal, and outline an interest in the facilities, location and/or existing areas of programming | 20% |
| **Total** | **100%** |

The 10 highest scoring and eligible applications will be shortlisted for the panel to make the final selection.

We will use [positive action](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/employers-what-positive-action-workplace) in this process with the aim of bringing a range of applications from artists with diverse identities to the panel. If there are two applications scoring equally, but one is by an artist with an underrepresented identity, we will take forward the application by the underrepresented artist.

**Final panel**

The panel will read through/ listen to/ view 10 shortlisted applications and discuss each one.

The panel will be made up of Letitia Pleiades; DJ, artist, performer, teacher and bodyworker and last year’s SSW x Counterflows resident, together with Nakul Krishnamurthy, student of South Indian Carnatic music and composer of contemporary electronic music, advisor and musician on Counterflows' project A Carnatic Paradigm with Mark Fell and Rian Treanor, performed at Counterflows 2017.

Alasdair Campbell and Jenny Salmean will be present to advise the panel on practical information and support their decision making, but will not evaluate applications beyond the shortlist or have a vote on the artist selection.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by Friday 22 January 2021. We will offer short overview feedback based on the decision-making framework and more in-depth feedback from the panel to unsuccessful but shortlisted applications.

1. **About Scottish Sculpture Workshop (SSW)**

SSW is an arts organisation based in Lumsden, Aberdeenshire. We empower artists and communities through collective learning and skills development.

Our programme and rural workshops support experimentation, alternate knowledge production and artistic desire. We question the narratives of our location and critically engage with the urgent issues of our time, through artist-led projects, residency, open access and international collaboration.

We build meaningful connections with the material world and each other.

[Read more about SSW on our website.](http://www.ssw.org.uk/)

1. **About Counterflows**

Counterflows is a contemporary music festival produced by AC Projects & OtoProjects and curated by Alasdair Campbell & Fielding Hope.

The festival features a wide array of artists bound together by their questioning spirit and refusal of easy categorisation. Whether born out of the likes of so-called DIY scenes, the internet or geographically remote communities, we believe that the underground belongs to a myriad of voices and is best engaged with when we come together, share ideas, break down borders, challenge hierarchies and push boundaries.

[Read more about Counterflows on their website.](http://www.counterflows.com/)