

Call for Expression of Interest from Somerset based artists

Prospectus 2017

An art school without a building - making space in time

Prospectus is a pilot project to create an alternative form of art school for the dispersed art community of Somerset. We are looking for artists to join us to develop this project to its full potential, including those eager to explore a more contemporary relevant process in their work and commit to empowering other Somerset based artists. The project aims to create a cohort of artists who spend time together, work in collaboration and share their experience. We will utilise the facilities of an art school whilst it is closed for the holidays, accessing darkroom, printmaking and possibly ceramics resources.

Artists selected will form a working group with the lead artist (Anna Best www.annabest.info) and curator (Zoe Li, Programme Associate of SAW), and act as a faculty to develop content and format for an ideal learning model for themselves and the wider artistic community, through experimentation and collaboration.

Together, the group will research and invite lecturers, teachers and facilitators to join the project. It will also include developing a series of screenings and talk to the wider public and artistic community and encourage a broader discourse around art practice.

“We will make our research during the dark, downtime of the rural year - dark outside and dark inside. Other worldly. This is an ideal time of imagining rather than action. The car, the kiln, the darkroom, the headphones - dark spaces, like winter, a processing time to receive, listen, stop producing. We will make use of and explore the car interior as an atomised lecture theatre experience, creating and listening to talks broadcast live on car radio and recorded for podcast whilst driving, creating a collective experience against the odds.” - Anna Best

Between January - April 2017, selected artists will attend the following:

- Project planning meetings in Langport with Anna Best
- 5 full days working sessions in April. Content to be confirmed by the participants, ie. guest speakers, hands-on workshops, thinking time, collaboration and making.
- 3 days residential retreat. Content to be confirmed by the participants, ie. guest speakers, social activities, team bonding and sharing sessions.

The project then will open up to more artists from April onwards. Talks and social events will take place at Bridgewater and Somerset College, Taunton being developed by the faculty and open to artists/public to take part. A body of artwork will be created by Lead artist Anna Best and will be displayed / disseminated during Somerset Art Weeks Festival 2017.

Each selected artist will receive the following:

An artist fee of £1,000 plus expenses of £250. Accommodation and food during residential retreat.

Who can apply?

You need to be SAW's Artist Member (To apply for SAW Membership)

Commit to collaboration

A good team player

Champion contemporary arts and emerging practice

Knowledge and connection to national and international arts networks are desirable

Open to challenge and willingness to take risk

Responsible for your own transportation

Make your application

Interested artist please send your Expression of Interest to SAW

info@somersetartworks.org.uk by 5pm on 12 January, 2017.

Shortlisted artists will be invited to attend a networking day to meet lead artist and curator on Wednesday 18 January 11 - 2pm. (Please indicate whether you will be able to attend the meeting in your application)

Expression of Interest includes your CV and a covering letter outlining the following (no more than 1 pages with text in 12 point size):

- Why are you interested and wish to take part in this project
- What specialist knowledge and practical skills can you bring to the project.
- How do you want to develop your artistic practice
- What is your experience in working collaboratively

Selected artists will be determined by meeting the criteria, geographical spread and availability for the full programme. SAW is committed to equal opportunity, please indicated your access needs in your application.

Prospectus 2017 is organised and presented by Somerset Art Works. Funded by Arts Council England Lottery Funding and supported by Bridgwater & Somerset College.