



FABRICA
BRIGHTON'S CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Open Call for an Artist Commission: Fabrica & The Living Coast Residency 2021

Fabrica gallery, Brighton is seeking proposals for an artist residency to take place between 17 May – 17 June 2021.

This opportunity is in partnership with The Living Coast (the Brighton and Lewes Downs UNESCO Biosphere) and runs in parallel to Fabrica's Spring exhibition by an internationally renowned artist, which will be co-presented at Fabrica during Brighton Festival 2021. The artist and exhibition title will be announced on the **30th March** as part of the Brighton Festival launch.

The opportunity is open to artists and makers living or working in The Living Coast Area (see map)

Fee: £1200 for c. 6 days artist time, plus £150 expenses

Deadline for applications: Monday 12 April 2021, 12 noon

For further information, and to apply, please download the accompanying pdf and respond to office@fabrica.org.uk with The Living Coast Residency 2021 in the subject.



The Living Coast Residency 2021 – Application Details

INTRODUCTION

Fabrica gallery, Brighton is seeking proposals for The Living Coast Residency, an artist residency to take place between 17 May – 17 June 2021.

This opportunity is in partnership with The Living Coast (the [Brighton and Lewes Downs UNESCO Biosphere](#)) and runs in parallel to the Fabrica Spring exhibition, by an internationally renowned artist, co-presented during [Brighton Festival 2021](#).

The opportunity is open to visual artists and makers* living or working in [The Living Coast Area](#) (<https://thelivingcoast.org.uk/about/area-information>)

Fee: £1,200 (c.6 days, including 1 day preparation in April), plus £150 expenses.

The artist and exhibition title will be announced on the **30th March** as part of the Brighton Festival launch.

Deadline for applications: Monday 12 April 2021, 12 noon

* sculpture/installation, photography, film, digital media, mixed media including time-based and performative practices, crafts, painting, drawing

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

We are seeking proposals for an artist residency to take place between: 17 May – 17 June 2021. This process-orientated commission provides the opportunity for an artist to work with experienced commissioners Fabrica, during Brighton Festival 2021, on a project that seeks to engage audiences about perceptions of, and our relationships to 'nature' and 'the countryside'.

In Spring 2021, Fabrica will present an immersive exhibition filling the gallery space with branches and saplings, creating an illusion of thickly grown woodland. Gallery visitors are invited to explore this fairy tale by means of a narrow winding path. Should visitors wish to, there will be books and films on hand to discover the provenance of the materials used for the work, how to access nearby woodland, learn more about our ancient association to woods and forests through stories, folklore and wood management; and how immersion in the natural world is good for our physical and mental wellbeing.

In devising this opportunity, we are seeking, through the eyes of an artist, to understand more about our complex relationship with 'nature' and 'the countryside', and we welcome proposals from artists and makers living or working in [The Living Coast](#) area, that explore this thematic.

We are open to a wide range of approaches to the thematic, for example:

- Anthropocentrism and biodiversity
- Ideas of the pastoral
- Land ownership, land use and social hierarchies
- Local flora and fauna
- Sussex heritage and folklore

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Proposals that primarily take a process-based, not a production-based approach. We are looking for proposals that frame a clear line of enquiry, which the artist will follow for the duration of the residency. The selected artist will be expected to share their thoughts and findings with audiences via a residency blog, Instagram and other social platforms, and Fabrica will provide some support in establishing the blog and marketing it and the artist residency to a broad audience. There may also be opportunities for the artist to propose small-scale events/discussions for audiences at Fabrica or outdoors, subject to Covid-19 restrictions.

We are interested in artists who can bring their existing knowledge and insight to the opportunity, as well as following a new line of enquiry for the residency. We are primarily interested in proposals from artists or makers who can demonstrate a deep interest in/track record with the thematic. We would expect this to be evidenced by images of relevant past work or documentary/research material that shows clear intent to make work.

We will favour expressions of interest that are experimental, interactive, reflect current thinking in arts practice, and that show a clear understanding of audiences.

Your proposal should:

- Outline a line of enquiry that makes a clear point of connection with the thematic: our relationship to 'nature' and 'the countryside'.
- Outline work that you have previously produced or devised that is relevant to the thematic and this enquiry.
- Describe how audiences might interact with you and your enquiry – where do you anticipate that the learning opportunities will be?

TIMELINE & PROCESS

- **Monday 12 April 2021, 12 noon - deadline for applications**
- Thursday 15 April, 5pm – shortlisted artists notified
- **Monday 19 April, 12-5pm – interviews for shortlisted artists**
- Wednesday 21 April – selected artist notified and contracted.
- One day preparation time, between 21 April and 11 May 2021 to work with Fabrica's team to set up the blog and agree its social media marketing plan and any events.
- 17 May-17 June 2021 - 5 days artist residency, including blog writing, Instagram takeover and attending any artist-programmed events as part of the residency.

SELECTION PANEL

Liz Whitehead – Director, Fabrica. Liz develops Fabrica's exhibition programme which responds to Fabrica's site, an unconverted 19th century chapel. Since 2013 Fabrica has consciously sought to bring environmental

issues and the human questions these issues raise into Fabrica's artist programme. Fabrica is a cultural partner in The Living Coast.

Sarah Dobson – Living Coast Biosphere Programme Manager. Sarah's first degree was in Fine Art where her practice focused on the relationship between people and the environment. She spent 10 years working in the music industry before completing her Masters in Environmental Strategy. Prior to her role with The Living Coast, Sarah worked at the Natural History Museum, London.

Liz and Sarah will be joined by up to two other Living Coast Partners

ABOUT THE PARTNERS & EXHIBITION

Fabrica has a strong track record in commissioning artists and presenting large-scale immersive works. An educational charity, Fabrica creates a wide-ranging programme of discussions, events, film screenings and hands-on activities around each exhibition it presents, believing that it enriches visitors' experiences of the artist's work, and opens up the possibility of learning more about the subjects that artists research.

Alongside this advertised artist residency Fabrica is also commissioning artist [Steve Geliot](#) to undertake a residency alongside the exhibition. A campaigner for [Dark Skies](#), Steve is using his residency to further his understanding of 'natural night' and the physiological-psychological experiences it opens up for us.

Fabrica is working with The Living Coast, Brighton & Lewes Downs UNESCO Biosphere region for this residency. The Living Coast is a diverse partnership of over 40 organisations, including local authorities, the South Downs National Park authority, universities, private companies, national bodies, charities, cultural and community organisations. The mission of The Living Coast is to connect people and nature to inspire a positive future, today, and a key element of achieving this is through cultural partnerships. The Living Coast partnership works towards three objectives, shared by all global biospheres: Conserve and enhance nature and culture; Support sustainable human development; Promote environmental awareness, knowledge, learning and engagement.

Biospheres are a spatial designation, recognised for their globally important habitats, species, environmental & cultural heritage, but also for the way local communities live, work and learn sustainably in the area.

The Living Coast's Biosphere designation is built upon the chalk block of the Eastern South Downs, from the River Adur in the West to the River Ouse in the East, following the Northern edge of the Downs escarpment to encompass the towns of Ditchling and Lewes, and also extending two miles off shore to incorporate the chalk reef. Within the Biosphere we have 14 sites of Special Scientific Interest, 2 National Nature Reserves and European Special Area of Conservation and one Marine Conservation Zone. The majority of our special sites are designated as good examples of rare chalk grassland, which are classified as priority habitats in the UK (habitats that are identified as most threatened and requiring conservation action). Chalk grassland has a rich cultural and environmental heritage, however over 80% of this habitat has been lost in the UK since World War Two.

The Exhibition

The artwork is part of the Towner Art Gallery's collection based in Eastbourne. It has previously been exhibited in the UK at Towner and at the Whitworth Gallery, Manchester and at Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York. These spaces are predominantly white-walled contemporary art spaces, so Fabrica's gallery offers a wholly different proposition, providing the opportunity for the piece to connect sculpturally and materially with the architecture of the building, which is a wood panelled 19th century chapel.

The work will be made from locally sourced branches and saplings. And Fabrica is working with Foxwood Forestry, a private wood near Lewes, East Sussex and the Stanmer Park team at Brighton & Hove City Council to produce and recycle the material needed for the exhibition. One aspect of the exhibition interpretation will be to tell the story, through a short film, of the growth cycle of the material as well as the making of the work at Fabrica. The exhibition will be a new co-presentation with Brighton Festival 2021, at Fabrica during April, May and June 2021. Current Covid-19 restrictions mean that the exhibition will be online only prior to the 17 May.

HOW TO APPLY

Who Can Apply

- Artists based in The Living Coast area (Adur to the west, Ditchling & Lewes to the north, Newhaven to the east)
- Artists who have been making work professionally for no less than one year.

Submitting a proposal

Your proposal should include all of the following:

1. Your full name

2. Contact Details: your full address+, your phone number, your email address, your URL (or somewhere online that we can view work by you that is relevant to the thematic and the line of enquiry that you are proposing).

*your home address or place of work must fall within the Living Coast Area.

4. Your statement. This should be no longer than 1000 words in total. Your statement will:

- Introduce yourself and your artistic practice
- Outline a line of enquiry that you wish to follow through this residency. The connection between your line of enquiry and the thematic (our relationship to 'nature' and 'the countryside') needs to be clear to the reader.
- Mention any areas of research or personal and/or professional work you have already done in relation to this thematic, and outline any further research that would need to be done prior to the start of the residency.
- Show that you have thought about how audiences could engage with you about your residency.
- Say where you might need practical support from Fabrica.
- Send your proposal as a pdf document by email to: office@fabrica.org.uk with:
- a CV no longer than two pages
- a link to your website, or a downloadable file, which contains documentation of your previous work.
- Please put Fabrica & The Living Coast Residency 2021 in the subject bar of your email.

DEADLINE: Monday 12 April 2021, 12 noon