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Open Call for Artist Commissions: From Stream to Sea: An Artist Residency for The Living Coast 2024

We are seeking proposals for an artist residency to take place between May and July 2024.

This opportunity is a partnership between University of Brighton, Fabrica, ONCA and The Living Coast ([The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere](#)).

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

Fee: £2,125 (equivalent to 6-7 days artist time). The fee includes time to develop two creative engagement workshops with an adult group and a sharing event of the artist's research with a critically engaged audience.

Deadline for applications: Tuesday 2 April 2024, 12 noon

Please apply by email as specified below to office@fabrica.org.uk, with The Living Coast Residency 2024 in the subject.

From Stream to Sea: An Artist Residency for The Living Coast 2024

Application Details

INTRODUCTION

Fabrica and University of Brighton, in partnership with ONCA and The Living Coast (the [Brighton and Lewes Downs UNESCO Biosphere](#)) are seeking proposals for From Stream to Sea: An Artist Residency for The Living Coast 2024 to run between April and July 2024.

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

The fee for the residency is £2,125 (equivalent to 6-7 days artist time). The fee includes time to develop two creative engagement workshops with an adult group and a sharing event of the artist's research with a critically engaged audience. £250 is also available for related expenses and materials.

Deadline for applications: Tuesday 2 April 2024, 12 noon

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

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

We are inviting proposals for an artist residency to take place between May and July 2024, in The Living Coast area. In creating this opportunity with The Living Coast, we want to explore parallels between the 'life journey' of the scientific water-cycle model (from stream to sea), the life-journey of humans (youth to elders), and the lifecycle of materials.

The project seeks to foster greater knowledge and understanding of environmental pollution challenges, the circular economy and to draw connections between human beings, human products and the marine world in ways that are new and meaningful.

We welcome proposals from artists and makers living or working in The Living Coast area whose work explores this theme.

This process-orientated artist commission provides the opportunity for an artist (or artist group) to work with experienced commissioners Fabrica and Dr Catherine Kelly, University of Brighton whose research area is blue spaces-human interactions.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Proposals that primarily take a process-based approach, we are not looking for an artwork to be made during this residency. 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 deliver the following public engagement activities:

- 2 workshops introducing the residency themes and the artist's approach to university students and older people.
- A research-informed public seminar developed with Dr Catherine Kelly.
- An Instagram takeover. Supported by Fabrica, the selected artist will be expected to share their thoughts and findings with audiences via Instagram.

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: to explore parallels between the 'life journey' of the scientific water-cycle model (from stream to sea), the life-journey of humans (youth to elders), and the lifecycle of materials.
- Outline work that you have previously produced or devised that is relevant to the thematic and this enquiry.
- Briefly describe how you might use the public engagement opportunities to share your line of enquiry with audiences.

TIMELINE & PROCESS

- **Tuesday 2 April 2024, 12 noon - deadline for applications**
- **Monday 8 April by 5pm - shortlisted artists notified**
- **Thursday 11 April 2024 1.30-5pm interviews for shortlisted artists**

- Monday 15 April 2024 - selected artist notified
- Monday 29 April 2024 selected artist contracted
- Between 1 May and 29 July 2024: 6-7 days artist time (including preparation, Instagram takeover and attending artist-programmed events as part of the residency, de-brief with Fabrica).

SELECTION PANEL

Liz Whitehead, Co-Director, Fabrica. Liz develops Fabrica's curated artistic programme. Since 2013 Fabrica has consciously sought to bring environmental issues and the human questions these issues raise into Fabrica's programme. Fabrica is a cultural partner in The Living Coast.

Dr Catherine Kelly is a geographer with research interests in sustainability, tourism and wellbeing. Her lecturing, research and practices cross a range of these broad categories. Catherine's research areas have varied over her academic career - starting with rural geography, then moving into the field of heritage studies and then tourism (cultural, heritage, wellness and sustainable tourism specifically); with a more recent emphasis on the importance of 'blue spaces' for human wellbeing. She is interested in the importance of water-based 'therapeutic landscapes' for physical, psychological and social wellbeing. Catherine's research also looks at how wellbeing can be used to advocate for personal relationships with the coast and its stewardship/environmental conservation. She is interested in access to the sea - in physical, social and cultural terms. Since joining the School of Business and Law, Catherine is also interested in the role of the Blue Economy in tourism development and sustainable business practices. Catherine's work on Blue Spaces has received widespread media attention resulting in interviews for the BBC, Guardian newspaper, Independent, and a range of high circulation magazines and podcasts. She is a regular invited speaker at public events and festivals in the UK and overseas. She sits on the newly created UK national Blue Space Forum for the Environment Agency. She is the author of *Blue Spaces: How and Why Water Can Make You Feel Better* where she explores the latest research into the physical, psychological and social factors that connect water and wellbeing, and explains why water makes us feel better. Dr Catherine Kelly is a partner in The Living Coast.

Sarah Dobson and/or Melanie David-Durand –The Living Coast Biosphere Programme Managers.

Susuana Amoah – Interim Co-director, ONCA or another representative from ONCA. Susuana aka The Black Gallerina is a London-born, Brighton-based cultural activist, curator and interdisciplinary artist. Susuana is currently a PhD

researcher at Goldsmiths, University of London and is researching decolonial praxis in public contemporary art galleries. Susuana is passionate about socially-engaged art, fugitive feminism, decolonial praxis and exploring creative ways of highlighting narratives and social movements by marginalised groups. ONCA is a cultural partner in The Living Coast.

ABOUT THE PARTNERS

Fabrica has a strong track record in commissioning artists to present large-scale immersive works and supporting artists to develop and share their working process with audiences. An educational charity, Fabrica creates a wide-ranging programme of discussions, events, film screenings and creative hands-on activities that connect different audiences to an artist's work, thereby opening out the opportunity of learning more about the subjects that artists research.

ONCA is an arts charity that bridges social and environmental justice issues. Since 2012, ONCA have cultivated art that engages with environmental change, social justice and wellbeing, hosting residencies and curating exhibitions and events at its gallery base in central Brighton gallery and satellite sites. A key focus moving forward is developing accessible, inclusive curatorial and organisational practices.

Fabrica and ONCA are partners in The Living Coast, Brighton & Lewes Downs UNESCO Biosphere. 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:

1. Conserve and enhance nature and culture;
2. Support sustainable human development;
3. 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 offshore 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 Living Coast supports and delivers projects with a core focus on supporting a resilient natural environment that enables us all to thrive. Current key projects that may be points of reference are:

Changing Chalk - this is a landscape scale project aiming to create a sustainable future for the South Downs. It focuses on chalk grassland restoration and nature connection but also the cultural heritage of the Downs, including archeology.

Locally two projects are particularly relevant:

- Greening the Cities - bringing the Downs into the Towns through creating new areas of wildflower planting in the urban environment.
- Wilding Waterhall - rewilding a former Brighton & Hove City Council golf course.

Black Rock Rejuvenation - the Black Rock site in the East of Brighton and Hove is being regenerated with improved connections between the urban and coastal environments at its heart. This space includes a significant area of coastal vegetated shingle - a rare and special habitat in the UK.

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 (nature and wellbeing) 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 might engage with you about your residency.
- Say where you might need practical support from Fabrica, The Living Coast Biosphere Programme Manager.

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 The Living Coast Residency 2024 in the subject bar of your email.
- a completed Equality & Diversity Monitoring Form. You can download it via [this link](#) as a word document. Please complete it, save it as a pdf and send it in the same email as your application.

DEADLINE: Tuesday 2 April 2024, 12 noon