

CREATE



**V&A RESEARCH INSTITUTE OFFSITE RESIDENCY  
IN COLLABORATION WITH CREATE AT THE RABBITS ROAD INSTITUTE  
OPEN CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS**

**SUMMARY**

Residency dates: 15 October 2018 to 15 January 2019

Residency Stipend: £6,500

Production/Research/Public Engagement Budget: £3,000

Accommodation and standard return ticket to London

Deadline for applications: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 at midnight

Interview date: Friday 20 July 2018

[The Victoria & Albert Museum](#) (V&A) and [Create](#) are seeking nominations for a three-month residency based at Create's [Rabbits Road Institute](#) in East London. Nominations can be for contemporary artists and designers who are interested in working in community settings. We welcome applicants of any nationality based outside of the United Kingdom that meet the criteria of the residency brief outlined below.

**Nominators will be asked to submit a joint application with the nominated practitioner.**

## VARI (VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM RESEARCH INSTITUTE) AND VARI RESIDENCIES

‘VARI’ is the Andrew W Mellon Foundation supported Research Institute nestled within the V&A Research Department. Over the five years from 2016 to 2021, VARI will support and resource a portfolio of specific research projects as well as responsive research positions involving academics, makers, designers, conservators, and other practitioners of all kinds, creating a unique research environment.

In line with VARI’s aims to incubate new methods for interdisciplinary collections research, a new strand of VARI Residencies has been launched, both onsite at the V&A South Kensington and offsite in East London in collaboration with different partner organisations.

The purpose of the VARI Residencies is to bring together creative practitioners with curators, scholars and diverse audiences to explore cross-disciplinary connections and strategies to see and show our collections in new ways, by creating encounters with new constituencies and/or exploring new methodologies of disseminating and communicating research. VARI Residencies are explicitly for research and do not require residents to exhibit artwork.

This residency dovetails with the broader [V&A Residency Programme](#) and the work that the V&A has been effecting with East London communities through a variety of programmes and pop-ups as it explores avenues for its participation in the Cultural Educational Quarter that is planned for the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

## CREATE LONDON AND THE RABBITS ROAD INSTITUTE

### About Create London

[Create](#) exists to explore the ways that artists can contribute to the lives of people in cities, by helping artists to connect more closely with communities through an ambitious programme of projects. Their work is primarily focused in East London, home to more artists and arts organisations than anywhere in Europe, and amongst the most economically deprived parts of the UK.

### About the Rabbits Road Institute

In 2015, Create worked with artists Ruth Beale and Amy Feneck to establish an artist-led residency space as part of a former Library in Newham. The [Rabbits Road Institute](#)

provides space for artistic practices encompassing making, performance, research and public activities.

For the past year, artist collective One of My Kind ([OOMK](#)) have been artists in residence at the Rabbits Road Institute, where they have set up [Rabbits Road Press](#), a community risograph print studio and publishing press. With a focus on facilitating original work between local community groups and artists in and around the Old Manor Park Library, the small-scale publishing press prints artist work and custom-bind zines and small publications on demand. A responsive programme of workshops, drop-ins and events is exploring a contemporary model for community publishing, bringing together artists, designers, writers with people living in Newham.

#### About Old Manor Park Library

The Rabbits Road Institute is located in [Old Manor Park Library](#). The library, which is a Grade II listed Carnegie building and had been unused for four years, was redesigned by architects Apparata to incorporate 24 affordable artist studios managed by Bow Arts and, in the large ground floor hall, the Rabbits Road Institute.

Located in the London Borough of Newham, Manor Park has one of the most diverse populations in London. In common with the rest of the borough, it has the highest proportion of young people in Europe and among the lowest rates of cultural engagement. Over half of the population of Manor Park were born outside the UK, with many families moving here from India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Other residents are of Somali, Nigerian, Lithuanian and Romanian origin. Over 40% of the community identify as Muslim.

#### **RESIDENCY BRIEF**

The V&A Research Institute and Create are requesting applications from social practice artists or designers who are interested in drawing on the V&A's collections to work within the vibrant community setting of the Rabbits Road Institute.

The V&A collections include over 2.3 million objects that span over 5,000 years of human creativity. The Museum holds many of the UK's national collections and houses some of the greatest resources for the study of architecture, furniture, fashion,

textiles, photography, sculpture, painting, jewellery, glass, ceramics, book arts, Asian art and design, theatre and performance. Detailed information on how to study and research the V&A collections and archives both at the museum, in our study centres and online can be found here: <http://www.vam.ac.uk/page/r/researching-the-collections>.

We are interested in proposals that make connections between the V&A collections and the diverse communities around the Rabbits Road Institute. This could take the form of researching the museum's prints and posters collections to connect them to the Rabbit Road's Press or investigating other connections between the history of and objects in the V&A collections and the different communities living in the area.

#### **ROLE AND EXPECTATIONS OF VARI OFFSITE RESIDENTS**

Resident will be expected to:

- Carry out research, meet with/present ideas to V&A and Create staff and develop ideas for public programmes that draw on the V&A's collections and connect with the work and ethos of the Rabbits Road Institute;
- Work with Create and engage with local audiences in Newham and East London through talks, workshops and/or displays;
- Present their research and work in progress both at Create and at the V&A South Kensington to museum staff and the general public;
- Develop an online presence for their practice on the V&A website, including blogging (technical support will be offered);
- Author a report on their research and findings that can be a contribution to VARI and Create's developing modus operandi;
- Make this residency their primary commitment during the residency period.

N.B.: The copyright and other intellectual property rights in any works created during the Residency shall vest with the Resident. The V&A and Create shall be granted a non-exclusive, non-commercial, royalty free licence to copy and to reproduce the works for any purpose whatsoever relating to the V&A and Create's work.

#### **VARI OFFSITE RESIDENTS WILL BE OFFERED:**

- Desk space at the Rabbits Road Institute in Manor Park, Newham, with accommodation and a studio space at [The White House](#) in Dagenham.
- Technical support and introductions to the local context of the Rabbits Road Institute in Newham by Create's team;
- Formal affiliation with VARI (V&A Research Institute) as part of the V&A's Research and Collections Division;
- Appropriate introductions to other V&A residents, staff and departments and support from the V&A Residencies team;
- Access to relevant curatorial expertise and V&A collections;
- Temporary V&A Museum Security pass for the duration of the Residency, subject to Security clearance.

#### **RESIDENCY STIPEND AND PRODUCTION BUDGET**

The appointed Resident will receive a stipend of £6,500 and will have a production/research/public engagement budget of £3,000, which can be used to make new work or for materials used in public engagement activities.

Please note that apart from a standard return flight to London (provided by the V&A) and accommodation (which will be provided by Create), all other living expenses (food, transport etc.) will have to be covered by the residency stipend.

#### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

We are looking for outstanding practitioners who meet the following essential criteria:

- (i) An interest in researching and drawing on the V&A's collections;
- (ii) An interest in working in research-led, experimental and community settings and a successful track record of working on collaborative projects;
- (iii) A strong track record of public presentation of their work (through exhibitions, talks, publications etc.);
- (iv) An understanding and desire to work collaboratively with both the public and the V&A community;
- (v) Interest, experience and sensitivity in engaging with different stakeholder groups;
- (vi) The ability to work independently;

- (vii) Creative originality and professionalism in their work;
- (viii) A working knowledge of spoken and written English.

#### **APPLICATION PROCESS: SHORTLISTING, INTERVIEW AND OFFER**

Anyone can be a nominator and nominated applicants can be contemporary artists and designers of any age and nationality who meet the criteria of the residency outlined above.

Nominators and nominated practitioners will be required to submit a joint application form (enclosed) and supporting documents (namely a CV and their portfolio).

All supporting documents must be in PDF format and emailed to [variresidencies@vam.ac.uk](mailto:variresidencies@vam.ac.uk) by the deadline.

Short listing will take place within a few days after the application closing date. Once a short list has been selected, unsuccessful candidates will be informed by email and short-listed candidates are invited to interview. Please note that we are unable to provide any feedback on unsuccessful applications (we will only be able to provide feedback to shortlisted applicants that are interviewed).

Interviews will include a short presentation and a series of interview questions.

**NB:** Please note that we cannot cover travel costs for the interviews. Applicants will be interviewed via skype.



## VARI OFFSITE RESIDENCY APPLICATION FORM

Please complete each section adhering to the word count. **If you do not have a pdf editing tool, please note you can copy paste the wording below and complete the application form in word.**

### 1. NOMINATOR

First name	
Last name	
Nationality (as indicated in passport)	
Current Address	
Telephone no	
Email address	
Relationship to nominated practitioner	

### 2. NOMINATED PRACTITIONER FOR THE RESIDENCY

First name	
Last name	
Nationality (as indicated in	

passport)	
Current Address	
Telephone no	
Email address	
Website	

### 3. SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE NOMINATOR

Describe your relationship with the nominated practitioner and why you think he/she would be a good candidate for this residency (maximum 1000 words).

### 4. SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE NOMINATED PRACTITIONER FOR THE RESIDENCY

- A. Describe your creative practice and the thinking behind it (maximum 500 words).
- B. Give details of your experience working in a community or educational setting or/and with a museum, historic collection or archive (maximum 500 words).
- C. Give details of how you propose to use this opportunity to develop your practice (maximum 500 words).
- D. Give details on how you propose to respond to the residency brief (maximum 800 words).
- E. Give details of how you might engage with different individuals and stakeholder groups in Newham and/or East London (maximum 500 words).
- F. Give an outline of how you envisage engaging the public with the process of researching and developing creative work. (maximum 500 words).
- G. Please provide any other information or skills that you think are relevant to this application / opportunity (maximum 500 words).

In one email (to be sent to [variresidencies@vam.ac.uk](mailto:variresidencies@vam.ac.uk)), applicants are expected to submit:

- A. A completed version of this application form in PDF format.
- B. A CV/resume
- C. Portfolio (only one pdf file with all images and texts).

In the subject line of your email, please write: **LastName FirstName VARI Offsite Residency.**

Important: Do not include any important information in the body of your email. Only information in your application form and the requested documents will be assessed. Also do not submit more than the three required attachments.

#### **CONFIRMATION**

I confirm this information to be correct. I have completed the application form and submitted all additional required materials, by email only.

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Place and date

**Nominator**

Type or input electronic signature

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Place and date

**Nominated practitioner**

Type or input electronic signature