



# V&A DIGITAL WONDERLANDS RESIDENCY

## // OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**Residency dates:** 29 September 2021 – 1 July 2022

**Residency stipend:** £12,000

**Deadline for applications:** 9 July 2021

**Interview date:** 13 August 2021

**V&A Induction dates:** 29 September – 8 October 2021

The Victoria and Albert Museum is inviting applications from UK based practitioners working across the mediums and disciplines of digital creative arts who wish to develop their practice or portfolio of work. We are interested in practitioners who work in a critically informed way and are interested in developing their practice with the thematic starting point of *Wonderlands*.

This invitation coincides with the V&A's major exhibition, *Alice: Curiouser and Curiouser*, which charts the origins, adaptations and reinventions of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* over 157 years, following its evolution from manuscript to a global phenomenon beloved by all ages. This theatrical staging provides an immersive and mind-bending journey down the rabbit hole into Alice's fantastical and extraordinary world: Wonderland.

Similarly, the V&A is a doorway into other worlds and a place full of wonderful objects and stories. We invite practitioners working with diverse methods as well as inclusive and imaginative approaches to digital artistic practice. We encourage practitioners to engage with the Museum's spaces, galleries and collections in creative and original ways. We are particularly interested in practitioners working through, but not limited to, the mediums of mixed realities, projection mapping, performance design and scenography, digital animation, storytelling and world-making.

We encourage practitioners to outline in their application how they envision their residency in response to the theme, as well as contribute to our visitor's experiences through our Learning Programme and public engagement activities. We welcome contribution to our visitor's experiences through performance, interactive displays and gallery interventions that can explore the V&A's wonder and innovation. Like Alice, we invite you to unlock and navigate your curiosity within the Museum and inspire and challenge our audiences to do the same.

The residency will take place at the V&A South Kensington in London over a nine-month period from 29 September 2021 – 1 July 2022. The V&A will provide a £12,000 bursary and a studio space within the Museum's Sackler Centre for arts education. We will consider applications from collectives as well as individual practitioners.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted however, that the residency fee is a lump sum for the residency and would have to be divided amongst a group. A lead practitioner must be identified, if a group application is made.

## ROLE AND EXPECTATIONS OF THE RESIDENT

The appointed Resident will be expected to:

- Spend time equivalent to at least two days per week<sup>2</sup> throughout the duration of the residency carrying out research and developing their practice, meeting with/presenting ideas to museum staff and developing ideas for public engagement;
- Undertake museum-focused and/or collections-based research;
- Make this residency their primary commitment, although a part-time role;
- Present their research and work in progress to the V&A museum staff and the general public on a regular basis (e.g. 121s, Work in Progress, Open Studios, InFocus Tours);
- Hold Open Studios (we estimate a minimum of 4 for the duration of the residency);
- Participate in monthly 121s with Residency Producer and a 'Work in Progress' presentation in Spring 2022 (an informal 'crit' session with V&A curators);
- Undertake one public engagement project with the V&A Learning Team;
- Contribute to the dissemination of their residency-related research outputs on the V&A website and networks, through film, photography, podcast, blog posts and social media;
- Author and submit a final report reflecting on their residency research, experience and findings;
- Commit to 2-week induction and orientation at V&A from 29 September – 8 October 2021 prior to residency start date;
- Commit to residency code of professional practice (to be signed during their induction).

## BENEFITS FOR THE RESIDENT

- Access to the V&A's extensive collections (in the galleries and in storage, when and where possible);
- Support in their research from our curatorial departments, the V&A Residencies team, as well as external contacts and networks when appropriate;
- Studio space on site at the V&A South Kensington, with access to a personal computer, including V&A intranet login and email address;
- The selected resident will be part of a community and collective of V&A alumni residents, with access to alumni events and networking opportunities;
- They will be issued a temporary V&A Museum Security pass for the duration of the Residency, subject to Security clearance.

**NB:** The V&A cannot offer secretarial or administrative assistance to Residents beyond access to the desk mentioned above and any related stationery required to support the research needs of the Residency. Moreover, the V&A cannot offer technical support for the production of new work and depending on the resident's practice, they may have to use their residency budget to rent equipment or hire specialised support.

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<sup>2</sup> There is flexibility to accommodate other commitments that the Resident may have (travel, teaching, exhibitions etc.) so the Resident can work more intensively during some periods and less during others but we are looking for a practitioner that will make the Residency a primary commitment.

## RESIDENCY BUDGET

The Resident will receive a total fee of £12,000. This fee will cover the Resident's bursary and production budget for the residency, including but not limited to any equipment, software, materials and technical support required by the resident. It should be noted that the V&A cannot otherwise contribute to the Resident's living costs, including accommodation in central London (if required and to be arranged by the Resident), subsistence and travel costs to and from the artists' normal working location and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The Residency bursary will be disbursed over four instalments: end of September, January, April and June. Instalments are based on completing project-specific benchmarks, so planning for good personal cash flow is essential, and grant should not be relied upon as sole income stream.

## APPLICATION PROCESS: SHORTLISTING, INTERVIEW AND OFFER

To apply, please email your completed application form to: [residencyprogramme@vam.ac.uk](mailto:residencyprogramme@vam.ac.uk)

Your completed application should include:

- V&A Digital Wonderlands Residency Application Form (see next page);
- Your CV/resume (no more than 2 pages);
- A portfolio of projects relevant to this residency;
  - We are open to a range of portfolio formats, however, all supporting documentation must be submitted as a PDF, so please embed website links if applicable.

All documents **must be in PDF format** and the deadline for this open call is: **9 July, 2021**.

In the subject line of your email, please write: **LAST NAME, FIRST NAME - WONDERLAND RESIDENCY**

Shortlisting will take place after the application closing date. Applications will be considered by at least two members of V&A staff. We regret that due to the huge numbers of applications, we will not be able to respond to unsuccessful candidates. Successful candidates will be informed by email and invited to interview.

Interviews will take place on **13 August** through **Microsoft Teams** and will include a short presentation and a series of interview questions. The interview panel will most likely consist of the V&A Residencies Producer, a museum curator, a V&A Learning staff member and a former V&A resident.

**NB:** 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).

## **V&A DIGITAL WONDERLANDS 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. ESSENTIAL INFORMATION**

First name:

Last name:

Place of birth:

Nationality (as indicated in passport):

Current Address:

Telephone no:

Email address:

Website address:

### **2. REFERENCES**

**Please include details of two references.** Letters or statements of support are not required at this point.

#### **REFEREE 1**

Name:

Title:

Email address:

Relationship to referee:

#### **REFEREE 2**

Name:

Title:

Email address:

Relationship to referee:

### 3. EXPERIENCE

- A. Describe your creative practice and the thinking behind it (maximum 200 words)
- B. Give details of any experience you might have working in a community or educational setting or working with the public (maximum 200 words)
- C. Have you taken part in a residency program before? If so, please provide brief details (maximum 100 words)

### 4. THE RESIDENCY

- A. Why does this residency at the V&A interest you? How do you propose to use this residency to develop your practice? (maximum 400 words)
- B. How do you propose to engage with or respond to the theme of Wonderlands? (maximum 400 words)
- C. Do you have any ideas on how you might engage and/or work with the V&A's audiences? If so, what groups would you want to work with? (i.e. Schools, Young People, Adults, Communities) (maximum 400 words)
- D. What collection or object in the V&A provokes your curiosity, and why? (maximum 100 words)

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please submit the following in PDF format in one email, with the subject line: **LAST NAME, FIRST NAME - WONDERLAND RESIDENCY.**

- 1. A completed version of this application form
- 2. CV/resume
- 3. Portfolio of selected works relevant to this residency

Only information in your application form and the requested documents will be assessed.

Please do not include more than the three required attachments.

### 5. CONFIRMATION

I confirm this information to be correct. I have completed the application form and submitted all required materials in PDF format by email:

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Date

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Type, or electronic input signature