



6-month Residency in Aberdeen, Scotland

A Peacock visual arts project in partnership with Station House Media Unit

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*)Adapting our initial brief for one 18-month residency in light of consultation with artists and other organisations, we are now re-advertising this scheme as three 6-month residencies.



1. Brief

A 6-month residency within an area of Aberdeen facing regeneration to encourage varied, local communities to participate in the arts.

This residency offers sustained collaborative work within a community. Artists will choose with whom they wish to work and will be supported throughout by a range of resources. The participants and artist will be encouraged to make use of the tools available at Peacock visual arts and Station House Media Unit (SHMU), Encompassing digital media such as FM-Radio and Internet-based TV, printmaking and photography facilities. Artists will gain experience in collaborative practice and project management and expand their technical skills and have time to develop their own work if distinct from collaborative practice.

This project is funded by the Scottish Arts Council and Aberdeen City Council

Fees

The 6-month contract will cover fees of £9,000, and include paid holiday, travel and other out of pocket expenses. Half of the residency time will be set aside for the artist(s) to develop their own work.

Budget

£2500 will be available for the creation and presentation of artwork as will free access to all Peacock visual arts and Station House Media Unit production facilities and technical and administrative support by Peacock visual arts. See enclosed budget for details. It is envisaged that further funding will be sourced during the delivery of the project.

Accommodation

Artists will be accommodated in a furnished flat in the project area, allowing them to become fully immersed in the local community. A disused retail space with telephone and computer access in the project area will serve as their studio and workshop space, allowing for public access and visibility. The artist is required to live and work in Aberdeen for the duration of the residency.

Outcomes

The core aim of this project is to work with people of all ages and backgrounds who do not currently have an involvement in the arts. The project aims to encourage the participants to express themselves publicly, and express their interests, issues they are facing or concerns they may have about aspects of life in Aberdeen. While working with specific groups in target areas as core participants, the project will actively seek to encourage communication across groups and areas in the city, build relationships and break down social and



economic barriers. Ideally the residency will enthuse participants to continue their endeavours beyond the artist's stay.

Participants and artist(s) will decide upon issues to explore and the creation and presentation of work collaboratively. During the residency and in the final outcomes a focus will be on collaborative publication in diverse media formats. Peacock visual arts will provide our multi-media workshop facilities – including video, digital imaging, photography and printmaking – and the support of our experienced team throughout the project. The artist may also wish to be additionally supported by tutors with experience in community arts in Aberdeen.

The final outcomes of the residency will develop through the artists' work with local people as collaborators. Outcomes can involve content for the various community media resources available (including newsletters, internet-based TV and radio), exhibitions, events, performances, installations, film, video... These exhibitions and events can, for example, occur in public settings, at Peacock visual arts, SHMU or the artists' premises. It is hoped that the variety of events and locations will challenge exclusive notions of art and communicate with wider audiences. This will also enable participants to critically explore contemporary notions of art and art practice and to encourage their access to arts facilities throughout Aberdeen.

During their residency the artist will:

- Get to know the area, groups, individuals and issues
- Organise workshops and events with local groups and individuals.
- Collaborate with local people on one or more projects
- Create and publicly present new collaborative work
- Develop their own work, if distinct from collaborative practice

Aberdeen and the Communities

Aberdeen is Scotland's third largest city with a population of 212,125. Historically the city is known for its–still dominant–grey granite buildings. Situated on the east coast of Scotland, and a natural harbour between two rivers Aberdeen is surrounded by beautiful beaches, and is close to the Grampian and Highland mountain ranges. It is also a doorway to the Northern Isles and Scandinavia. In the late 1960s the discovery of oil in the North Sea started to redefine the local economy, replacing the declining traditional occupations of fishing and agriculture. Oil made Aberdeen one of the wealthiest cities in Scotland. However, while the oil industry attracts international business, there is great disparity and real deprivation amongst the local communities.

The three areas the residency will focus on, Woodside, Tillydrone and Middlefield are among the most deprived areas of the city. These areas have been involved in several government regeneration programmes over the past 20 years. While



there have been improvements, there are still challenges to be met. The Great Northern Partnership (GNP), Aberdeen's Social Inclusion Partnership, covered the last two of these programmes from 1997 to 2005. It was named after the road linking those areas. The activities and structures put in place during the GNP are ongoing. The areas are now three of seven priority areas, which receive government funding because of their deprivation levels.

Our Organisations and Management Structure

This residency is a PEACOCK visual arts project in partnership with Station House Media Unit (SHMU). It informed by PEACOCK visual arts' mission 'to be a centre for excellence and innovation where artists engage with other professionals and groups in the community to explore aspects of our world and to present the outcomes in innovative ways.'

Peacock visual arts is the leading contemporary arts venue in the North East of Scotland. We are a registered charity core-funded by Aberdeen City Council and the Scottish Arts Council. Our open access multimedia facilities encompass printmaking, digital media and photography. In November 2005 we launched the internet-based TV channel 360TV. Our artistic programme is based on this diverse range of media and ranges from gallery exhibitions to public interventions, debates and artist residencies.

SHMU is located in Woodside, one of the areas the residency is based in. It aims to encourage and promote filmmaking, radio, and magazine development in and around some of Aberdeen's most deprived areas. Giving open access to high quality training and resources to develop and experiment in the mediums, the Unit aims to give local residents the added confidence and tools to express themselves positively about issues that affect them personally. SHMU is community led and managed by a committee consisting of local residents who are active in the project. SHMU have recently obtained an FM Community Broadcast Licence for their local radio station, which is also available over the internet,

The management team of this residency scheme includes four representatives from the community, Peacock visual arts' curator, Monika Vykoukal and Murray Dawson of SHMU.

The management team will keep track on progress for the residency, and each agency will use their specific expertise to support the successful artist.

Peacock visual arts will:

- manage financial and administrative aspects of the residency
- support the artist in artistic aspects of the residency
- provide access to our wide range of equipment and resources
- assist with marketing needs



Station House Media Unit will:

- introduce the artist to local residents and networks
- mentor the artist on good practice for community engagement
- provide access to their wide range of equipment and resources
- involve the artist in producing community media if appropriate

Selection Criteria

- experience in and commitment to socially engaged collaborative practice
- experience in and commitment to communicating with the public
- experience in various artistic techniques and media
- an interest in exploring the local contexts of Aberdeen
- the artistic quality of previous work
- project management skills

Appointment will be subject to a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure check. See www.disclosurescotland.co.uk for more information.

Selection process

The application process will take place in two stages.

Informal interviews will take place at Peacock visual arts on Friday, 20 October 2006.

Selected artists will be notified by Friday, 27 October 2006.

All travel expenses will be paid on mutual agreement.

Application details

Artists are invited to apply by submitting a proposal, preferably by e-mail.

1. Proposal (four pages maximum) including:
 - Where you found out about this opportunity
 - Your approach to and understanding of collaborative practice
 - Experience in project management
 - Experience in various artistic techniques and media
 - Issues you might explore with communities
 - Potential outcomes
 - The sustainability of outcomes beyond the residency
 - A rough project budget (see p. 6 for details)
2. Current CV (two pages maximum)
3. Documentation of up to six recent projects (maximum five images per project) preferably in digital images (300 dpi resolution) or slides, printed images (300 dpi or above) VHS video or DVD, or publication(s)



4. Indication of availability. The suggested timeframe for the residency is December 2006 to May 2008

Send applications to

Monika Vykoukal (Curator) – monika@peacockvisualarts.co.uk,
Subject: Residency Application.

Closing date: **Friday, 29 September 2006**

Queries

If you would like an informal discussion about the project you can contact Monika on +44 (0)1224 639 539 or on monika@peacockvisualarts.co.uk

2. Draft Budget

	Period	Rate	Cash
artist fees	6 months		£ 9,000
accommodation	6 months	£250/month	£ 1,500
accommodation furnishings			£ 250
incidental expenses			£ 250
materials			£ 2,000
publicity and promotional material			£ 500
output (exhibition, publication, etc.)			£ 1,500
total costs (ex. VAT)			£ 15000
total costs for three residencies)			£ 45000
overheads 25%			£ 11250
total costs (ex VAT)			£ 56250
Income (for three residencies)			
Scottish Arts Council			£ 32,850
Aberdeen City Council			£ 15,000
Total			£ 47,850

*) Additional funds to be raised by Peacock visual arts.



3. PEACOCK visual arts artistic policy

Peacock visual arts is an educational charity funded by Aberdeen City Council and the Scottish Arts Council. It exists to bring artists and public together to share and explore ideas and to make and present art in innovative ways. To do this it has developed a wide range of production facilities and skills (in design, digital imaging, photography, printmaking and video) and promotes numerous artists' projects and public events each year. Its mission is to be renowned locally, nationally and internationally as a centre for excellence and innovation in creativity and the production and presentation of art, where artists engage with other professionals and groups in the community to explore aspects of our world and to present the outcomes in innovative ways.

It aims to achieve this by;

- helping artists create challenging new work that engages with a broad public through collaborative projects, exhibitions, installations and events and through professional development, interpretation and promotion
- involving people of all ages and abilities in creative activity as a means of empowerment and to increase their understanding and enjoyment of contemporary art through collaborative projects with artists and the provision of learning opportunities
- being a catalyst and forum for debates which challenge and inform through the development of critical events, publications and resources.

As a crucial part of its Mission, Peacock visual arts has an artistic policy that is founded on the spirit of

- quality and equality Projects at PVA will ambitiously involve the very best national and international artists but will not eclipse the talents and creative energies of artists, local and non-local, in the early stages of their careers.
- parity of esteem Projects will involve the participation of a wide community of all ages and abilities whilst at the same time acknowledging and supporting the validity of the creative output of the individual.
- Holism Projects and their attendant activities and events will be creatively designed by all PVA staff, ideally engaging the visual, the educational and the commercial around a shared conceptual motivation

It is a strategy based on the methods of

- multi-layering Rather than implement a year round programme of exhibitions, PVA will curate three to four multi-layered projects which will have the potential to manifest in various spaces around the city and beyond.
- traditional and new means of production, display and distribution Whilst furthering its reputation for excellence in the support and production of digital art works, PVA will include and support traditional artistic means.
- risk and mobility Peacock visual arts will seek to build in elements of risk into its curatorial decisions and will seek to enable projects to have mobility beyond gallery-based enterprises.



4. Peacock visual arts history

Peacock Printmakers Ltd. was established in 1974 by a group of artists and with the support of the Scottish Arts Council as a facility in the city for making fine art prints. The Scottish Arts Council agreed a grant of £2,900 (equivalent today to £18,600) for equipment and fitting out costs. Peacock visual arts is located in two buildings leased from St Andrews Cathedral in the historic city centre of Aberdeen, the Castlegate area.

Throughout the seventies Peacock continued to develop and expand. Peacock then attracted major grants from Aberdeen District Council, Grampian Regional Council, The Scottish Arts Council and the Scottish Tourist Board.

By the early 1990s Peacock had developed into a professional organisation with the some of the most impressive printmaking facilities in Scotland. From its earliest beginnings of employing just one, Peacock now employs 14 members of staff, numerous tutors and many volunteers. Artists still make fine art prints at Peacock but are also as likely to be using video, photography or digital imaging. While Peacock continues to take pride in the quality of its technical facilities and skills of its workshop team, its focus has expanded in recent years to a diverse range of artist-led projects. Reflecting this expansion of activities it changed its name in 2001 to Peacock visual arts (also see curatorial strategy).

Our focus is now on multi-layered projects, which are issue-driven and encompass participatory, collaborative, discursive and artistic elements on equal terms. All projects in our artistic programme are developed with the interaction between artist and participant at the core. In November 2005 we launched 360TV, an internet-based TV channel,. Starting in Summer 2004, we organised our first residency scheme, *LOCALE*, a series of three residencies of three months. Artists collaborated with people here in exploring aspects of life in the city.

Peacock is unique among arts organisations in Scotland in the range of facilities and programmes and the unparalleled opportunities for participation and creativity in all aspects of the visual arts it offers. What drives us is the vision of a combination of socially engaged art practice, public participation and the opportunity for artists, academics, students, other professionals and the public to be involved in the exchange of ideas in a highly visible way.



5. Peacock visual arts facilities

Digital

3 Apple Mac G4 workstations

Up to A2 photo-quality Epson inkjet printer

4 Canon N670U A4 Scanners

Canon slide scanner for 35mm slide/film and negatives

Lacie CD-writer (up to 700mb storage), DVD-ram (up to 5 GB storage)

External hard drives

Desktop video capture and editing using imovie or Final Cut Express and Pro editing software

Software

Photoshop

Illustrator

Macromedia Studio, including Flash and Dreamweaver

Video

Dedicated digital editing suite running After effects and Final cut studio

3 DV cameras

1 sports camera

Lighting equipment

Professional Microphones

Photography

3 B&W enlargers

35mm cameras & tripod

digital camera

Printmaking

Equipment for screen-printing, monoprinting, etching, lithography and relief printing

360TV Aberdeen

Internet TV channel (www.360tv.org.uk)



6. Community Planning and Community Arts Provision

Community planning, as defined by the Scottish Executive in a report of 1998, 'is a process through which a council and its public sector partners, in consultation with the voluntary and private sector, and the community, can agree a strategic vision for the area and the action which each of the partners will take in pursuit of that vision.' Involving communities in decision-making, planning and service delivery is a legal obligation for Scotland's Local Authorities since the Local Government in Scotland Act of 2003. The Act provides the basic framework for Community Planning.

In Aberdeen this has taken two forms:

- A citywide body, the Aberdeen City Alliance, including community representation to oversee planning and service delivery.
- Neighbourhood plans at community level to identify and get agency agreement to tackle local issues. Agency and community representatives meet regularly to further this.

Additionally a master planning process to investigate physical and social regeneration for the priority communities is under way. This ties in with the above mentioned neighbourhood plans. The residency is located in four of those regeneration areas.

Aberdeen City Council furthermore has an art strategy for those regeneration areas. It is concerned with increasing participation in arts and advocating the benefits of community arts to the communities and agencies. Interest in the arts and media in the areas, be it through community media with SHMU, or in visual arts, music and dance is strong. There are many participants in visual arts workshops, and a group formed by local people, the Fersands Community Arts Group.

Community arts provision in the GNP areas is primarily delivered through the Arts Development part of the Aberdeen City Council and associated organisations SHMU and City Moves. Arts Development have a team of community arts officers across the city who facilitate community arts projects in partnership with communities. These officers have access to arts tutors in various disciplines. Some of the recently completed projects include working with young people to produce sculptural work to be sited locally, and a bookmaking project with young mothers focussing on healthy eating and working on literacy skills.

City moves provide dance workshops in the areas and function in a similar manner to Arts Development. Their recent work includes dance groups for teenagers. Music provision in the areas is currently expanding to include three music leaders in the area and more hours for music tuition. Music leaders will be based in community projects to allow them to build up relationships with the young people. Currently drama is represented in the communities through the film work SHMU undertakes.



7. Websites of interest (selection)

www.peacockvisualarts.co.uk – Peacock visual arts

www.shmu.org.uk – Station House Media Unit

www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk – Aberdeen City Community Planning

Government and cultural bodies

www.scotland.gov.uk – Scottish Executive

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk – Aberdeen City Council

www.scottisharts.org.uk – Scottish Arts Council

Visual Arts

www.aagm.co.uk – Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums

www.deveron-arts.com – Deveron Arts, Huntly, Aberdeenshire

www.ssw.org.uk – Scottish Sculpture Workshop, Aberdeenshire

Music

www.lemontree.org – Live music and theatre venue

www.clubsnafu.com – Club and listings magazine

www.aberdeen-music.com – Online community of the local music scene

Festivals

www.aiyf.org – Aberdeen International Youth Festival

www.jazzaberdeen.com – Aberdeen Jazz Festival

www.triptych04.com – Triptych Music Festival

www.abdn.ac.uk/word – WORD literary festival

www.sound-scotland.co.uk – Contemporary Music Festival

Oil and Gas Industry

www.oilandgas.co.uk – Overview of the oil & gas industry in the UK

www.bp.com – British Petroleum Oil Company

www.shell.com – Shell Oil Company

www.talisman-energy.com – Talisman Energy Oil & Gas Production

www.oilc.org – Offshore Industry Liaison Committee (Trade Union)

Fisheries

www.marlab.ac.uk – Fisheries Research Services

www.aberdeen-harbour.co.uk – Aberdeen Harbour

Education

www.abcol.ac.uk – Aberdeen College

www.abdn.ac.uk – Aberdeen University

www.rgu.ac.uk – Robert Gordon University



Travel Information

www.aberdeenairport.com – Dyce Airport, Aberdeen

www.firstgroup.com – Train and bus services in Scotland

www.northlinkferries.co.uk – Ferry services from Aberdeen

Sports

www.afc.co.uk – Aberdeen Football Club

Media

www.thisisnorthscotland.co.uk – Online presence of local newspapers

www.northsound.co.uk – North Sound One Radio

www.grampiantv.co.uk/content – Grampian TV

www.mapmagazine.co.uk – New contemporary art magazine from Scotland

www.variant.randomstate.org – Free arts and culture magazine from Glasgow