

**Call Out for SUSTAIN: models for artist exchange and growth**  
**SLOW CULTURE RESIDENCY EXCHANGE**

**Castlefield Gallery & Aarhus Center for Visual Art**

Castlefield Gallery and Aarhus Center for Visual Art invite contemporary visual artists living and/or working in Greater Manchester and the Aarhus region to apply for one or both of a jointly programmed **Artist Digital Exchange** and **Slow Culture Residency Exchange** focussed on low carbon artmaking.

SUSTAIN is supported by Creative Industries Trafford, the Danish Arts Foundation and Manchester City Council.

**Deadline: 12 noon, Friday 3rd September**

**Introduction**

The artworld has long been wedded to carbon-intensive international movement and air travel – biennales, residencies, free ports, art fairs. However there is the start of a shift, as artists look for more sustainable ways to make art and to intervene in the developing ecological emergency.

SUSTAIN is a two-year programme of professional development and artist exchange focussed on low carbon artmaking. By this we mean making work using low carbon materials and production methods, and also low carbon methods of research and development (e.g. overland rather than air travel; public rather than private transport) and of showing work (e.g. low energy installations or low carbon transport of artworks). Low carbon artmaking can also encompass work made with an intention to help create a low carbon culture or a liveable future.

**Part 1: SUSTAIN Artist Digital Exchange**

Five artists from Greater Manchester and five artists from Aarhus will take part in a six-month programme of workshops, talks, visits, critical feedback and professional support focussed on low carbon artmaking.

**Part 2: SUSTAIN Slow Travel Residency**

1 artist from Greater Manchester and 1 artist from Aarhus will undertake a 2-month 'Slow Culture Residency', making use of only slow and low carbon travel to travel between Manchester and Aarhus.

**Overview**

SUSTAIN focuses on developing low carbon and ecologically aware ways of producing and experiencing art.

SUSTAIN will bring together 10 visual artists living and working in Manchester and Aarhus (5 from each location), to take part in a 6-month **Artist Digital Exchange** (October 2021 to March 2022). The exchange will focus on climate change and low carbon culture in the context of artistic production, work and consumption in an international context.

SUSTAIN will also invite 2 artists living and working in Manchester and Aarhus (1 from each location) to undertake a 2-month **Slow Culture Residency Exchange** (May/June in Manchester; August/September in Aarhus), making use of only slow and low carbon travel to travel between Manchester and Aarhus.

The participating artists will be supported to explore how their practice and the way they work can contribute to a low carbon culture and a low carbon future, in a professional context and, especially, re working internationally. Participants will develop their carbon literacy and explore strategies for low or zero carbon artistic production. Participants will be supported to develop peer-to-peer feedback and learning, so that over the course of the programme they learn how to self-sustain as a network of practicing artists working with low carbon artmaking. The participating artists will be supported to commit to action on alternative ways of producing and working, of thinking about how their work is encountered and experienced, and strategies for extending their learning and sharing it with their professional networks and the wider public.

SUSTAIN aims to facilitate:

- An international Manchester-Aarhus peer network of 12 visual artists (6 in Manchester and 6 in Aarhus).
- A set of relationships that focus on low carbon cultures and climate change in the context of artistic production, work and consumption.
- The creation of artistic products, actions, events and materials designed to share the participants' learning.
- An action research pilot with an emphasis on delivering better understanding of artist exchange and international working, cultural export and import, on a slow travel and digital exchange basis.

For more information about the Artist Digital Exchange, please see the Call Out which is available at [www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk/news/call\\_out-sustain/](http://www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk/news/call_out-sustain/)

## **SUSTAIN Slow Culture Residency Exchange, 2022**

The SUSTAIN Slow Culture Residency Exchange is a two-month residency in the city of Aarhus, including low carbon travel to and from Aarhus.

**What:** 1 funded place on the SUSTAIN Artist Digital Exchange

**Who can apply:** Contemporary visual artists living and/or working in Greater Manchester

**When:** August/September 2022

**Applications accepted from now until 12 noon, Friday 3rd September**

**Applicants notified:** Friday 17th September 2021

We are looking for an early to mid-career contemporary artists to participate in a two month slow culture residency. The artist will receive:

- a stipend of £2,200
- production budget for the creation of work during the residency and also for sharing of work and ideas
- studio and accommodation in Aarhus for the duration of the residency
- funding to cover travel costs, including visa fees, any required Covid-19 tests and insurance.

A condition of the residency is that the artist will travel to Denmark via low carbon transport and that this travel period will form an integral part of the residency.

The residencies are timed so that the artist from Aarhus visits Manchester for May and June 2022, coinciding with the British Art Show 9 touring to Manchester, including to Castlefield Gallery. This

will be an especially active and significant period for the city's visual art and visual culture scenes. The Manchester artist will be resident in Aarhus for August and September 2022. It is envisaged that the artists will meet each other during each residency period.

Each artist will be provided with studios and live/work space, and have access to production materials and/or facilities. They will access a programme of activity in the city that they visit, including networking and introductions, enabling the visiting artists to connect meaningfully with the host city artist/creative communities, and beyond.

The residency artists will not be expected to generate finished artistic works, although this could be an outcome. However we hope that the artists will explore ways (e.g. talks, published content, events etc) to share their learning and development, and the outcomes of their period in residence, more widely with others – peer networks, professional networks, including the organisers, and the wider public.

The visiting artists will be hosted in Corporum in Aarhus [ABOUT CORPORUM – Corporum](#) and by one of Castlefield Gallery partner studio providers in Manchester.

### **What we are looking for**

We are looking for an early to mid-career visual artist with a demonstrable contemporary art practice and a strong interest in low carbon ways of artmaking. We are interested in artists who are committed to finding out more about low carbon artmaking but have limited experience of it, as well as those who have an established track record in this area. We welcome applications from artists across all the subdisciplines of the visual arts and those working in an interdisciplinary context.

Participants must be able to commit to the full duration of the residency.

### **What we expect**

Successful candidates are expected to:

1. Participate in the full duration of the residency
2. Communicate regularly with the programme co-ordinators.

### **Covid-19 Pandemic**

Please note all dates are provisional and subject to change in line with up-to-date advice from the British and Danish governments.

### **How to apply**

Applicants must be contemporary visual artists living and/or working in Greater Manchester.

Please read further information below and carefully note the eligibility and selection criteria.

Send the following to [leslie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk](mailto:leslie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk) marked 'SUSTAIN Residency' in the email header or by post to SUSTAIN Digital Exchange, Castlefield Gallery, 2 Hewitt Street, Manchester, M15 4GB:

- Completed **application form** saved as a pdf (with your name first in the title, eg Jan\_Smith\_SUSTAIN\_Residency)

Please submit video or sound files as links in the application form or via WeTransfer <https://wetransfer.com>

Please title any images, video and sound files with your full name, the title of the work and the year of production, eg Jan\_Smith\_Still Life in Strata (2021)\_SUSTAIN\_Residency Application).

- An up-to-date **CV** including links to relevant websites (in 1 pdf file, with your full name in the title e.g. Jan\_Smith\_CV)
- Completed [Diversity Monitoring Form](#) [also available to download below] (eg Jan\_Smith\_DMform)

**Applications must be received by 12 noon, Friday 3rd September**  
**Please note that we cannot accept late or incomplete applications.**

For those with access needs interested in applying, please contact [leslie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk](mailto:leslie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk) or call 0161 832 8034 and ask for Leslie Remonato.

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## FAQs

1. **Aims of the Programme**
2. **Logistics**
3. **Who is eligible?**
4. **Selection process and criteria**
5. **Key dates**
6. **Conditions**

### 1. Aims of the Slow Culture Residency Exchange

- Support artists to develop ways of low carbon artmaking
- Model low carbon ways of carrying out residencies and international activity
- Share learning, especially on climate change and low carbon culture and artmaking, and generate debate on the role of visual artists and art in the future of our cities and surrounding areas.
- Deliver artistic and career development opportunities for visual artists in both Manchester and Aarhus
- Enable cultural exchange between artists on an international, and particularly European, basis enabling experience of one another's practices, ideas and cultures.

### 2. Logistics:

The residency is being co-ordinated by Castlefield Gallery and Aarhus Center for Visual Art.

Each artist will receive a stipend of £2,200. A production budget is also available during the residency for the creation of work, public-facing activity, development activity and the sharing of work, ideas and info with other creative practitioners and the wider public.

### **3. Who is eligible?**

Early to mid-career contemporary visual artists living and/or working in Greater Manchester.

### **Exclusions and requirements**

- You will be required to be available for pre-residency communications.
- Applicants must be available to take part in the full period of the residency.
- Applicants will be required, and must confirm agreement before the start of the residency, to engage and take part in post-residency evaluation.
- We will not consider applications from those currently engaged in full-time education.
- Any incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline of 12 noon on Friday 3rd September 2021 will be ineligible.

### **4. Selection process and criteria**

Selection will be made based on the strength of applications in the context of the programme aims and selection criteria; we will not be carrying out interviews.

The selection panel will be made up of Castlefield Gallery and Aarhus Center for Visual Art staff as follows:

- Helen Wewiora, Director, Castlefield Gallery
- Line Sandvad Mengers, Director, Aarhus Center for Visual Art
- Matthew Pendergast, Curator, Castlefield Gallery
- Sasha Rose Richter, Project Manager, Aarhus Center for Visual Art
- Jane Lawson, Castlefield Gallery Artist Development Co-ordinator

The decision to award a place or not is at the discretion of Castlefield Gallery and Aarhus Center for Visual Art. Outcomes of the decision-making process will be final and will be based on a scoring and balancing process.

Applicants will be reviewed against the following selection criteria:

- Demonstrating how participating in the programme will be valuable to their artistic and professional development, taking into account the aims of the residency.
- Commitment to developing their understanding of low carbon artmaking; applicants do not need to have an established track record of “low carbon” artmaking, but do need to show interest and motivation in this area – this may be through non-art activities.
- Demonstrating how their network of peers and the wider public might benefit from their participation in the residency, taking into account the aims of the residency.

### **5. Key Dates**

- Applications accepted from now until 12 noon, Friday 3rd September
- Applicants notified: Friday 17th September 2021
- Aarhus artist on residency in Manchester May/June 2022

- Manchester artist on residency in Aarhus August/September 2022

## **6. Conditions**

In submitting an application, you confirm you meet the eligibility criteria and are not excluded by any of the exclusions listed above.

We unfortunately cannot provide support to develop applications or feedback on unsuccessful applications.

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