

SEED BED Residency

A collaboration between Circus Artspace
and Black Isle Permaculture & Arts

Artist's Brief



Funded by Creative Scotland

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Artists are invited to spend time on this residency considering our relationship with nature, ecology and the climate crisis; and how creativity can respond and guide us on a regenerative and sustainable pathway into the future, for both ourselves and our habitats?

1. About Us

Circus Artspace is a collective of practising, professional artists and producers committed to making contemporary art accessible to a broader Highland audience as well as supporting recent art graduates from our area. We are all based in Inverness and work across many different disciplines including painting, printmaking, sculpture, film, performance and participatory work.

Established in March 2019, we have committed to building a public programme around contemporary visual arts and going forward we want to amplify a wider diversity of voices, places and experiences and promote equality.

We enjoy bringing people from our broad audience of ages and interests together to create memorable experiences. Our aim is to develop events which are inclusive and build on these highly valued moments of commonality and community.

Our founding values are:

1. To promote contemporary art as integral part of culture in the Highlands;
2. To embed an artist-led ethos in all we do;
3. To value aspiration over previous experience;
4. To develop a community of support, experimentation, exchange and ideas;
5. To develop inclusive experiences which embrace diverse communities;
6. To encourage sharing of values and collaboration between art forms.

More information: www.circus.scot

Black Isle Permaculture & Arts (BIPA) is an ecological household, garden and woodland, 13km north of Inverness in the Highlands of Scotland, and the home of Clive (artist, grower, maker) and Julie (maker, crafter, grower). As well as being our home, we offer eco friendly tourist accommodation, workshops, creative residencies and volunteering opportunities focused on regenerative living and

gardening with nature. We've been a LAND (Learning Action Network Demonstration) Centre since 2018 and are using our gardens to show the possibilities of Permaculture on a domestic scale. We have been working for the last few years to develop a garden and household where we live a creative, regenerative and resilient lifestyle by the three principles of People Care, Earth Care and Future Care; where we build a sustainable livelihood and create thriving habitats for people, plants, trees and animals.

Permaculture is about living lightly on the planet, and making sure that we can sustain human activities for many generations to come, in harmony with nature. Permaculture is not about everything staying the same. It is about stability, about deepening soils and cleaner water, thriving communities in self-reliant regions, biodiverse agriculture, and social justice, peace and abundance.

Permaculture, for us, means understanding that we are all a part of Earth's ecosystem and not outside of it, having a less anthropocentric world-view and being conscious that each of our actions and decisions, whether positive or negative, will affect that ecosystem. Permaculture provides a way to design human lifestyles that make a positive impact through our actions and lifestyles.

More information: blackislepermacultureandarts.co.uk

2. What We're Looking For

Circus Artspace & BIPA are seeking to appoint a contemporary visual artist to undertake a 3 week residency in a timber, off grid eco cabin sited in BIPA's 2.5 acre organic permaculture garden and smallholding on the beautiful Black Isle during April 2022.

The Seed Bed Residency is ideal for artists working in the fields of sustainable living and food growing, climate crisis and ecology, and in dialogue with people, place and ecosystems.

The residency offers creative practitioners time and space to develop their practice through reflection, simple living and new modes of research, inquiry and production. The recipient will be invited to collaborate with local artists and networks through BIPA and the Circus Artspace collective.

This opportunity is open to artists at all stages of their career, whether emerging or established. The objective is to provide a live/work space and time for artists to strengthen their practice and explore open ended outcomes. We would welcome engagement with the land and permaculture gardens at BIPA, as well as the wider Highland community.

BIPA's permaculture garden, woodland, eco household and arts studio is our livelihood and a place we nurture, therefore we seek an artist who shares our values and respect for the natural world, and who can use this as a framework for their work.

3. Outcomes

The Seed Bed Residency is funded by Creative Scotland as part of Circus Artspace's 2021/22 programme of activity in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

We are expecting the resident artist to develop their creative practice through deepening their own research and understanding of permaculture as well as experimentation in response to the site. We are not expecting fully finished artworks or offering a traditional exhibition with Circus Artspace. Even if close to home, we recommend the artist immerse themselves in the residency by living in the cabin for the three week period, in order to fully experience the surroundings and the slower pace the residency offers.

The artist will be expected to take part in a studio session with Circus Artspace/BIPA and a public/engagement event towards the end of the residency. We are not prescribing the nature of the public event but this is an opportunity to: showcase works-in-progress/open studio; host an artist's talk, micro-exhibition or participatory workshop on-site. The form and timing of this public sharing or engagement event can be discussed with Circus Artspace/BIPA both prior and during the residency, accounting for Covid-19 restrictions at the time.

As part of the project's evaluation we would expect 2-3 short blog posts for the Circus Artspace website and for the artist to share their experience in a final report along with any supporting documentation.

4. What We're Offering

The open-plan cabin comprises both the accommodation and a small studio work space. As it is a live/work space it would be ideally suited for artists working on small scale work, or wishing to make

work outside in the wider landscape context, rather than those needing a large painting/ sculpture studio. There is limited mains electricity and no Wi-Fi provided in the cabin, so the residency is suited to artists whose creative practice and needs do not rely on these.

Being resident artists will offer a simpler and slower pace, and incorporate some daily tasks e.g. using a wood burning stove and heating your own water. The owners of BIPA were inspired to offer this type of residency on their land after spending time at other similar spaces in Scotland, Norway and Sweden.

A full description of all the facilities at BIPA is given in the Key Practical Information document - it is vital that all applicants read it and are aware of what is available on site.

Circus Artspace and BIPA will offer a friendly and supportive peer-led environment. We will host an informal studio session with the resident artist in order to help facilitate introductions, share resources and learning. BIPA will also share their working permaculture practice and as an artists-run collective, Circus Artspace are able to offer ongoing critical peer support and discussion as the work develops.

We are offering a safe and inclusive experience which respects the ongoing pandemic and supports the resident artist's needs. BIPA is fully Covid-19 compliant with all the government guidelines and has an established Covid-19 Policy. Circus Artspace will conduct a risk assessment for any public events and have experience of delivering safe and successful events during the pandemic.

5. Timeline 2022

7 January	Deadline for applications, 5pm
18 January	Interviews via Zoom
24 January	Artist appointed
Feb-March	Pre-residential scoping and indicative ideas of how you envisage using your residency time. Potential Zoom with Circus Artspace/BIPA.
April	Artist on site for 3 weeks: Week 1 - introductory studio session with Circus Artspace/BIPA Week 3 - public/engagement event
16 May	Submission of documentation and a short report to capture and feedback on the process and learning or outcomes from the residency.

6. Artist's Fee

The artist will be paid a fee of £1,500 this includes travel, mobile data, food and material expenses. To be claimed on receipt of an invoice to Circus Artspace (75% up front, 25% on completion of a public event and final report).

In addition, there is a small production and access budget to support the public/engagement event, this will be managed by Circus Artspace and any spend should be agreed in advance.

BIPA will provide off-grid accommodation, firewood, water and electricity during the residency.

7. Person Specification Criteria

The appointed artist needs to:

- Commit to being resident at BIPA full-time for a 3 week period in April 2022;
- Share BIPA and Circus Artspace's values and show respect for the natural world and sustainable living;
- Be open to cabin style living and using 'camping' skills e.g. using a wood burning stove and heating their own water;
- Plan to use the residency to experiment, explore and push the boundaries of their practice;
- Have experience of engagement with both the environment and with people/ communities;
- Be willing to share their unfolding research, process and development of work during the residency;
- Be based in Scotland.

8. To Apply

Please submit the following to Circus Artspace:

- An outline of how you plan to spend your time on the residency and any themes or areas you wish to explore;

And

- An artist's statement (max 500 words)
- An up to date artistic CV
- 8 images of recent artwork (max 10MB in total)

Or Alternatively, if this information is featured on your website please send us a link to your website.

Applications should be email to hello@circus.scot with the subject line 'Seed Bed Residency application'.

Deadline for applications: **Friday 7th January 2022, 5pm**

9. Selection Process

Short-listed candidates will be invited to a Zoom interview/discussion with a panel made up of representatives from Circus Artspace and BIPA.

Interviews will take place on Tuesday 18th January 2022.

Applicants will then be informed of the decision within 7 days of interview.

The panel are looking for the following experience and qualities in assessing your application:

- A strong and professional artistic practice;
- An understanding of nature, ecology and the climate crisis;
- Experience of delivering a public/engagement event.

Finally, we want to promote equal opportunities for all artists. If you are facing any barriers or have additional access needs which stop you from applying please get in touch. For all queries please feel free to contact Circus Artspace at hello@circus.scot