



## V&A FASHIONED FROM NATURE RESIDENCY OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### SUMMARY

Residency dates: 15 October 2018 – 15 June 2019

Residency Stipend: £12,000

Deadline for applications: 6 June 2018

Interview date: 22 June 2018

The Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A) is inviting applications from UK-based textile and fashion designers working with sustainable materials or methods (eg. circular economy, zero-waste design etc.) for a residency at the museum, coinciding with the exhibition 'Fashioned from Nature' (<https://www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/fashioned-from-nature>), which is asking the public think about the materials of fashion and the sources of their clothes.

The residency will take place at the V&A South Kensington in London over a nine-month period from 15 October 2018 to 15 June 2019. The V&A will provide a £12,000 residency fee and a studio space within the Museum's Sackler Centre for arts education. For the first three months of the residency, the studio will be shared with a Goethe resident designer also working in the field of sustainable fashion and/or textile design.

We are interested in practitioners who wish to work with the themes that will feature in 'Fashioned from Nature' (more information on the exhibition to be found at the end of this document), and who are passionate about working with the public. Applicants should have an interest in developing their practice and a good track record of producing and performing

high-quality work. We will consider applications from collectives as well as individual practitioners<sup>1</sup>.

#### **ROLE AND EXPECTATIONS OF THE RESIDENT**

The appointed Resident will be expected to:

- Hold Open Studios twice a month;
- Spend a time equivalent to at least two days per week<sup>2</sup> throughout the duration of the residency carrying out research, meeting with/presenting ideas to museum staff and developing ideas for public programmes;
- Present their research and work in progress at the V&A to museum staff and the general public on a regular basis;
- Undertake museum-focused and/or collections-based research;
- Undertake one schools project with the Learning Team;
- Contribute to the dissemination of their residency-related research on the V&A website and networks through film, photography, blog posts and/or social media;
- Author and submit a final report reflecting on their residency research, experience and findings;
- Make this residency their primary commitment, although a part-time role.

#### **BENEFITS FOR THE RESIDENT:**

- The selected resident will be part of a community of fellow resident artists and designers who will undertake their residency at the V&A at the same time.
- The resident will have access to the V&A's extensive collections (in the galleries and in storage) and the expertise of our staff and will be supported in his/her research by the V&A Residencies Team;
- Use of a shared studio space with access to a personal computer, including V&A intranet login and email address;

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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.

<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.

- 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, he/she may have to use their residency budget to rent equipment or hire specialised support.

#### **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.

Residency grant funding will be disbursed over four installments of 25% of the £12,000 residency budget, based on the completion of project-specific benchmarks, so planning for good personal cash flow is essential.

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

To apply, please complete the application form below and email it ([residencyprogramme@vam.ac.uk](mailto:residencyprogramme@vam.ac.uk)) together with a portfolio of projects relevant to this residency and your CV **by 6 June 2018**. All supporting documents must be in PDF format. In the subject line of your email, please write: LastName FirstName – FASHIONED FROM NATURE RESIDENCY.

Short listing will take place within a few days after the application closing date. Applications will be considered by at least two members of V&A staff. Once a short list has been selected, unsuccessful candidates will be informed by email and short listed candidates will be 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 take place on 22 June 2018 at the Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington and will include a short presentation and a series of interview questions. The interview panel

will most likely consist of the V&A Residencies Programme Manager, a museum curator, a V&A Learning staff member and a former V&A resident.

**NB:** Please note that we cannot cover travel costs for the interviews.

# About the Fashioned from Nature Exhibition

21 April 2018 – 27 January 2019

Sponsored by the European Confederation of Flax and Hemp

With additional support from G-Star RAW

‘Fashioned from Nature’ spans 400 years, bringing past, present and future together. The exhibition uses the V&A’s internationally renowned collection of fashion to put today’s issues about sustainability in a historical context, and ask what we can learn from the past to help us design a more responsible but equally creative industry to serve us today and in the future. With its focus on cause, effect and solution the exhibition provides a forum for discussion and debate.

The exhibition explores the fabric of fashion - from flowers and insects embroidered on fine linen and sumptuous silks glinting with metal threads to textured rayon animal prints and new materials made from waste. It celebrates fashion’s innovation and creativity, and the inspiration it finds in nature, but draws attention to its heavy footprint on the planet.

Fashion’s processes and insatiable demand for raw materials come at considerable environmental cost, contributing to waste, air and water pollution, deforestation, water loss, damage to ecosystems and the loss of flora and fauna across the globe. ‘Fashioned from Nature’ shows how and why this has happened and introduces some ways in which today’s fashion designers are rising to the challenge to create a better industry that respects and protects the earth and all its inhabitants.

The exhibition presents men’s and women’s fashions from V&A’s fashion archive alongside loan from other museums, private collectors and fashion designers. Natural history specimens, taxidermy, film and images add context. A specially commissioned soundscape brings nature into the exhibition space in another way gradually merging birdsong with the sounds of machinery to suggest the increasing impact of human activity as technology advanced and the population grew.

Throughout, ‘Fashioned from Nature’ highlights the role of campaigners in raising awareness of the negative impact of fashion, from the founding members of the Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds to Katharine Hamnett and Vivienne Westwood. Importantly, it focuses on

solutions and draws attention to the exciting interdisciplinary research taking place today which is driving the development of cleaner, less wasteful processes and materials.

'Fashioned from Nature' asks what we can learn from the past in order to design a better fashion industry for the future. It not only challenges designers to create clothes that are both beautiful and responsible, but also encourages us all to consider more carefully our own clothes.

### **Organisation and content**

The exhibition is organised chronologically:

The first three sections covering 1600-1800, 1800-1900 and 1900-2000 explore the key materials from which fashion was made at the time.

The materials include:

1600-1880: wool; silk; flax; cotton; fur; whalebone; ivory, turtle shell and mother-of-pearl

1800-1900: cotton; fur and feathers; natural and man-made colour; spun glass; rubber; lace bark, vegetable ivory, byssus and woven pineapple fibre

1900-2000: cotton; flax; wool; silk; man-made fibres (cuprammonium, cellulose acetate, viscose rayon and Tencel™); synthetic fibres (nylon, PVC, acrylic, re-cycled polymers)

Each of the above sections includes a case which explores how fashion has been inspired by nature and what this says about the way in which humans related to nature at the time.

Protest, 1970-2017: This open display uses posters, placards, slogan T-shirts, video and outfits worn or designed by environmental activists to put today's campaign for a more sustainable fashion industry in context.

Designing for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Future Fabrics: the final, large section of the exhibition presents a range of solutions, both high and low tech, tested and experimental, which together have the potential to create a cleaner, less wasteful industry. The issues the exhibits address include reducing waste through re-cycling, improved manufacturing methods and offering consumers the option of customization; reducing carbon emissions by employing energy sources other than fossil fuels, using local centres of production and utilizing more energy efficient methods of production; reducing water consumption and reducing/eliminating the use of toxins; re-visiting materials like paper and alternative protein and cellulosic fibres; and developing bio-fabricated materials and alternative processes based in synthetic biology as an alternative to synthetic materials made in the petro-chemical

industry. We are also encouraging our visitors to think about making and mending their clothes and other ways of accessing fashion such as renting outfits.

### **V&A Sustainability Policy**

The V&A is committed to embedding sustainability in its temporary exhibition practice and aims to reduce the amount of waste produced as a result of its temporary exhibition activity. The V&A aims to reuse and recycle as much display material as possible and has a stock of showcases, mannequins, dress stands, AV equipment, light fittings and label holders that should be reused in the exhibition where possible. Further information about these can be supplied on request. The design will be expected to address this important issue from the initial design stage onwards. Designers will be expected to provide a draft site waste management plan at the end of each design stage.

### **Sustainable and Recycled Materials in the Exhibition's Build**

Solid Textile Board; Varia Ecoresin: Bear Grass; Varia Ecoresin: Rice Grass; NatraHemp; Fibriboard; Shiro Alga Carta



## V&A FASHIONED FROM NATURE 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 the 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: 50 words)

## **4. THE RESIDENCY**

- A.** Why does this particular 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 V&A collections and the *FASHIONED FROM NATURE* exhibition in particular? (maximum 400 words)
- C.** Do you have any ideas on how you might engage with the V&A's diverse

audiences? (maximum 400 words)

## 5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In one email, 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 - Fashioned from Nature 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.

## 6. 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

Type or input electronic signature