

V&A RESEARCH INSTITUTE OFFSITE RESIDENCY

*Raw Materials: Newham, East London*

In collaboration with Bow Arts’ RAW Studios, Royal Albert Wharf

**Open Call for Nominations and Applications**

*Residency dates: 2 x 3-month residencies from Summer 2022*

*Residency Stipend (to include accommodation cost and basic material costs): £10,000*

*Production budget: depending on project and proposal*

*Standard return ticket to London*

*Deadline for applications: TBD*

*Interview date: TBD*

The Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) and Bow Arts are seeking nominations for two residencies based at Bow Arts’ RAW community space, situated in the heart of the Docklands at Royal Albert Wharf in East London. Nominators will be asked to submit a joint application with the nominated practitioner.

These off-site residencies will take the starting point of histories and practices of making, manufacturing, and materials in the area of Newham, which borders the east bank of the River Lea and encompasses the historic Royal Docklands. We are looking for international artists, designers, or makers with a socially engaged practice or practitioners who consider community engagement central part of their creative process. The residencies will be rooted in the local context with the aim of engaging our local communities as part of the pre-opening, outreach programme for V&A East, the V&A’s new project in Stratford, London. V&A East will be at once locally rooted and globally relevant. These site-specific residencies embody this ethos and are integral to our pre-opening community engagement programme that operates as a test site for exploring new and innovative modes of museum engagement for the 21st century.

**Further information**

**V&A East**

V&A East is an ambitious new institution located across two sites in Stratford’s Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park: a dynamic new museum at Stratford Waterfront, and a Storehouse for collections, research and learning at Here East. The V&A East project will radically expand the museum’s reach and impact providing unprecedented access to the museum’s unrivalled collections of art, design and performance, and provide new platforms for display and public programming. V&A East aims to inspire and empower the next generation of artists, designers and innovators; support and promote the creative industries; and help people discover the value of creativity and design. It will enable the V&A, its expertise and world-renowned collections to become part of East London's rich heritage and uniquely diverse community; working in partnership with the area’s creative industries and the population of students, makers, designers and digital innovators on its doorstep.

*‘V&A East represents an extraordinary opportunity to open-up the V&A's collection to all: as a vital sourcebook for infinite creative possibilities, as a place where young people can develop their creative skills and critical thinking, and as a platform to interrogate the ideas of our time through the designed world past and present. To ensure V&A East is rooted in its neighbourhood by the time it opens in 2024, we will continue to build relationships across the Olympic boroughs, and test ideas through conversation and collaborative creative projects. With local people helping shape its vision and programmes, V&A East will be a place for everyone representative of the cultures, communities and creativity of east London and beyond.’ Catherine Ince, Chief Curator, V&A East*

For more information please visit: <https://www.vam.ac.uk/info/va-east-project>

**Bow Arts**

Bow Arts was founded in 1994 with a mission to support community renewal across London by delivering arts and creative services through a financially sustainable social enterprise model. Bow Arts manage 12 different [Studio](http://bowarts.org/studios) sites across London alongside the [Nunnery Gallery](http://www.bowarts.org/nunnery), a contemporary art gallery housed at the heart of our Bow Road site, an award-winning, schools education programme and the RAW creative arts and community hub located in the Royal Albert Wharf area, where these residencies will be based.

Raw Materials is an on-going research project led by Bow Arts and supported by the V&A, exploring the industrial heritage of the River Lea one material at a time. The series began with wood in 2017, examined textiles in 2018 and most recently looked at plastics in 2019. All these materials had a dramatic impact on the industrial development of east London, inspiring invention and innovation and shaping the lives of those that worked in and around them. The next project, which these residencies are a part of, will focus on the area of Newham, which borders the east bank of the River Lea and encompasses the historic Royal Docklands, exploring new ways of collaborative working and community engagement.

**The V&A Research Institute (VARI) and VARI Residencies**

VARI is the V&A Research Institute, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. VARI hosts a varied portfolio of research projects, positions and affiliations involving academics, makers, designers, conservators, and other practitioners of all kinds, creating a unique research environment. VARI seeks to incubate new methods for interdisciplinary collections-led research and research-led teaching, and with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is taking the V&A’s established culture of research, postgraduate teaching, and academic partnerships into a new phase.

As part of VARI’s intention to develop new collaborations and methods for interdisciplinary collections research, a new strand of VARI Residencies was launched in 2016, both onsite at the V&A South Kensington and offsite in East London in collaboration with different partner organisations.

VARI Residencies bring together creative practitioners with curators, scholars, and diverse audiences to explore cross-disciplinary connections and strategies to see and show V&A collections in new ways. Through the residencies we seek to create encounters with new constituencies and/or explore new methodologies of generating, disseminating and communicating research.

For more information please visit: <https://www.vam.ac.uk/info/the-va-research-institute-vari>

VARI Offsite residencies constitute a new and experimental model of residencies whereby the Museum invites an external and independent voice to help develop new ways of thinking about and working with V&A collections and the public. We invite practitioners to disrupt business as usual in the museum, offering critique and fresh perspectives that encourage us to think differently and innovate.

**Theme for this year’s Residency: Materials, Making and Manufacture in Newham**

The appointed residents (x2) will:

* Work in the Bow Arts’ RAW community ‘Art in the Docks’ space at Royal Albert Wharf for 3 months;
* Collaborate with colleagues to creatively investigate materials, manufacture and making histories and practices in Newham, east London;
* Devise and deliver creative, participatory activity as an integral aspect of your work;
* Work with V&A East and VARI teams to explore and understand how the Museum can continue to create and facilitate useful spaces and platforms for creative practitioners to engage with the V&A, each other and our communities;

NB: We welcome applications from applicants based internationally. We cannot accept applications from those who are already employees of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

**Key Benefits for the resident:**

• The resident will have access to the expertise of V&A staff and collaborators as well as the V&A’s extensive collections (on display and in storage). Please be aware that due to its relocation to the Olympic Park, a proportion of the collection is currently physically inaccessible;

* Practitioners will be further supported by the team at Bow Arts and their extended creative networks;

• The selected resident will have the opportunity to build on their own experience and broaden their connections with external networks linked to the museum and related to arts and culture across London;

• Use of desk space with access to a personal computer, including V&A intranet login and email address;

• Temporary V&A Museum Security pass for the duration of the Residency, subject to Security clearance.

**Role and Expectations of VARI Residents:**

The appointed Residents will be expected to:

* Spend a time equivalent of at least **35 hours per week**[[1]](#footnote-1)throughout the duration of the residency;
* Work closely with the V&A East, VARI teams and Bow Arts colleagues to develop and deliver community engagement activity and share their work with colleagues;
* Develop an online presence for their practice on the V&A website, including blogging (technical support will be offered);

**Offsite Residents will be offered:**

* A stipend £10,000 to include the costs of accommodation and basic materials with further budget for project outcomes and programmes dependent on the proposal;
* Introductions to local community and creative networks;
* Direct involvement in the culture of the V&A Museum and Bow Arts through the activities and mechanisms listed above;
* Appropriate introductions to staff and departments of the Museum and support from the V&A East and VARI teams;

**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.

**Residency Budget**

The VARI Offsite Residencies are supported through a stipend of £10,000.

Residency grant funding is disbursed over two installments of 50% of the grant amount, based on the completion of project-specific contract-specified benchmarks, so planning for good personal cash flow and host venue collaboration is essential.

**Application Process: Shortlisting, Interview and Offer**

Applicants are required to submit an application form (enclosed) and CV by invitation. All documents must be in PDF format and emailed to [variresidencies@vam.ac.uk](mailto:variresidencies@vam.ac.uk) by the deadline.

Once a shortlist has been selected, candidates will be informed and invited to interview.**Please note that regrettably we are unable to inform or provide any feedback on unsuccessful applications due to the volume we receive (we will only be able to provide feedback to shortlisted applicants that are interviewed).**



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**VARI OFF-SITE RESIDENCY**

**Raw Materials: Newham, East London**

**APPLICATION FORM**

1. **ESSENTIAL INFORMATION**

First name:

Last name:

Place of birth:

Nationality (as indicated in passport):

Current Address:

Telephone no:

Email address:

Website address:

1. **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:

1. **MOTIVATION AND BACKGROUND**
2. Why does this particular residency at the V&A interest you?
3. Give details of your experience you have working in a collective maker space, community or educational setting. What were the challenges? (maximum 200 words)
4. Have you taken part in a residency programme before? If so, please provide brief details. (maximum: 50 words)
5. **EXPERIENCE AND APPROACH**
6. Describe your current practice (maximum 200 words)
7. Give an example of a project you ran or are running. In what ways do you seek to facilitate working effectively with others? (300 words)
8. How do you propose to engage with theme of Materials, Making and Manufacture in Newham, east London? (maximum 400 words)
9. Do you have any ideas about how you might engage with the V&A’s diverse audiences, in ways both in and outside the museum building? (maximum 400 words)
10. **OUTCOMES**

A. What do you see as the main value created through this residency? (maximum 300 words)

1. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

In one email, applicants are expected to submit:

1. A completed version of this application form in PDF format.
2. A CV/resume
3. Portfolio (only one pdf file with all images and texts).

**In the subject line of your email, please write: LastName FirstName – Raw Materials, Newham 2021**

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.

1. **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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APPENDIX:



**COMMITMENT TO RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE**

**V&A** **RESIDENCY // CODE OF PRACTICE - 2020/2****021**

We believe that it is in the interests of a flourishing museum and our own community that our discussions are conducted with civility and dignity. Therefore, we undertake to do our best and encourage others to do their best, and to:

• **Show respect and courtesy** towards all those who are engaged in these discussions, whatever views they hold;

• Acknowledge that there are **many differing, deeply held and valid points of view**;

• **Use language carefully** and avoid personal or other remarks which might cause unnecessary offence;

• **Listen carefully** to all points of view and seek fully to understand what concerns and motivates those with differing views from our own;

• **Ask questions** for clarification when we may not understand what others are saying or proposing;

• Treat objects and studios with **care and respect;** looking after andreplacing any equipment that is lost or damaged

• Express our own views **clearly and honestly with transparency** about our motives and our interests;

• Respond to questions asked of us with clarity and openness and, whenever we can, with **credible information**;

• **Look for common ground and shared interests at all times.**

**As a resident, we will have the opportunity to:**

· Create links between the V&A’s collections and contemporary art, craft and design practice and the local community in East London;

· Inspire and invite public interest and engagement in creative practice and making;

· Disrupt business as usual in the museum, offering critique and fresh perspectives that encourage the institution's innovation and evolution within the arts and culture;

· Raise the profile of contemporary practice and audience engagement approaches.

**As the residency team, we will endeavour to:**

· Enable the selected practitioner to draw upon the V&A’s vast collections, carry out research, learn new skills and create new work that pushes boundaries of creative practice;

· Offer professional development and opportunities to the selected practitioner in public engagement and arts education, as well as access to museum staff expertise;

· Provide relevant inductions and training for equipment and systems relevant to the residency in the museum

· Support the resident with regular 121s and with opportunities to reflect and feedback throughout their time at the museum.

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Residency Programme

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Resident

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1. It should be noted that 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 who will make the Residency a primary commitment. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)