

ART CRAFT TECHNOLOGY PLACE

Overview

Supported by Milton Keynes City Council, Westbury Art Centre is pleased to announce *Art, Craft, Technology, Place*, a 6-month artist in residency programme to create a new work that will be premiered as part of Milton Keynes International Festival's associated programme in July 2023.

This pilot residency is open to emerging and established artists, working in any discipline, whose practice is pushing boundaries through a creative and experimental use of technology. Westbury Art Centre and project partners are particularly interested in applications that might consider one or more of the following:

- The interplay between traditional art and craft processes and new technologies.
- Landscape and environmental sustainability.
- Site specificity and heritage
- Co-designing/co-producing with local communities, particularly under 25s.
- Critical perspectives on the role/impact of technology within society.

The offer

- £10,000 (inclusive of VAT, fees, travel, accommodation, materials, and equipment to produce a new work)
- A free studio space and use of other facilities at Westbury Art Centre
- Access to the Maker Space at [MK:U](#)
- Access to the Hack Space and Facilities at [Aiimi](#)
- Ongoing support from Pooleyville, Westbury Art Centre, MK International Festival and MK Council Culture Team.

Application Process

To apply, please submit:

- a **500-word** statement, or a short film, outlining your artistic practice and initial approach to the residency.
- a CV (2 pages max), and links to website/social media.
- Two references from previous exhibitions, commissions, or residencies.

The artist(s) will be selected by a panel including:

Monica Ferguson (CEO and Artistic Director, The Stables & MKIF), Joe Little (Westbury Art Centre Studio Holder), Fiona Boundy (Head of Culture, MK City Council), and an Offset Projects Young Leader.

Westbury Arts Centre encourages people from all sections of our community to apply. We particularly welcome Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic, disabled or those with long-term health conditions, from lower socio-economic backgrounds or other marginalised positions.

Deadline for applications

13 January 2023 at 5pm

Please submit applications via email to: simon@pooleyville.uk. Please clearly mark 'Art, Craft, Technology, Place Residency' in the subject field.

Residency Expectations

- Working onsite at Westbury Art Centre at least 5-7 days a month.
- Deliver at least one public talk as part of the residency.
- To collaborate with Offset Projects, who work with under 25s, to devise an engagement programme based on your practice that will run in parallel with the residency or directly involve this group in creating the final work.
- Share research, ideas, and work in progress via Westbury Arts Centre's social media channels and participate in associated press and marketing to promote the residency as required.
- Contribute to project evaluation at the end of the residency.

About Westbury Art Centre

Westbury Arts Centre occupies an ancient site. It was old before the Normans came south on their pillaging way to London and burned many other local manor houses in 1066. There was a medieval moated manor house here and the house was substantially rebuilt in 1670 – although a corner of the pre-17th Century manor remains as does part of the moat. The front door, legend has it, was made using timbers from the Spanish Armada. Through the years though, Westbury lost its status as a manor house and became a tenanted farmhouse, part of the 19th Century Hunting and Shooting Whaddon Chase landscape.

In the late 1950s, it was bought privately, and a modern extension added in the 60s, but not long after the new town of Milton Keynes was begun it was compulsorily purchased and the last owners left in 1986. In 1993, the Commission for New Towns offered the farmhouse and its gardens, now Grade II listed, to the Silbury Group, a group of Milton Keynes based artists, and 15 members moved into Westbury.

In 2012, Westbury became a charity. The grounds no longer stretch to Howe Park Wood, once part of the Westbury Estate, but there are large gardens. There is one corner of the ancient moat still here and recently the Armada door was examined, and dated to the late Tudor period, giving the possibility that Armada legend might be true.

Westbury has been an arts centre/studio provider for about 30 years, during which time it has grown from a temporary home to a charitable institution. Future plans for capital development would see a professional standard exhibition and performance space, facilities for people with disabilities, new studios, and workshop spaces making Westbury an exciting cultural destination for the people of Milton Keynes and beyond. Westbury currently offers 19 studios to local artists on long- and short-term leases, as well as rooms for exhibitions and runs a programme of workshops, exhibitions, and events. For more information please visit: <https://www.westburyartscentre.org.uk>