

## WYSING ARTS CENTRE - STUDIOS INFORMATION PACK 2015

Wysing Arts Centre develops new ways to support artists and enables art and ideas to engage a wide range of people in unexpected ways. Wysing offers a unique environment for art to be developed and presented; with an ongoing and innovative programme of events, exhibitions, retreats and residencies, and a unique programme for young artists. Wysing's large rural site near Cambridge comprises artists' studios, education facilities, a gallery and project spaces, a 17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse and outdoor sculptures and structures.

Wysing has up to 30 artists working on the site at any one time and operates a year-round programme of residencies, public events and exhibitions. There are a range of studios available for lease, varying in size and cost. Facilities on site include wi-fi connections, a ceramics studio, a communal dining room and kitchen, where staff and artists can take a break or have meetings, and ample parking.

### STUDIOS AVAILABLE

There are currently **4 studios** currently available that can be selected from the following 7 studios:

**Top Barn Studio 1** Ground floor studio with a mezzanine area, good natural light, electricity, sink with running water, gas central heating , and wi-fi internet access. There is access to a shared toilet in the top barn building. Floor area 35.7 m<sup>2</sup> (including mezzanine)

**£276.50** per calendar month, including VAT but exclude bills

**Top Barn Studio 2** Ground floor studio with a mezzanine area, good natural light, electricity, sink with running water, gas central heating , and wi-fi internet access. There is access to a shared toilet in the top barn building. Floor area 35.7 m<sup>2</sup> (including mezzanine)

**£276.50** per calendar month, including VAT but exclude bills

**Top Barn Studio 4** Ground floor studio with a mezzanine area, good natural light, electricity, sink with running water, gas central heating , and wi-fi internet access. There is access to a shared toilet in the top barn building. Floor area 35.7 m<sup>2</sup> (including mezzanine)

**£276.50** per calendar month, including VAT but exclude bills

**Top Barn Studio 5** First floor studio, natural light, electricity, gas central heating , and wi-fi internet access. There is access to a sink with running water and a shared toilet in the ground floor of the top barn building. Floor area 19.7 m<sup>2</sup>

**£145.00** per calendar month, including VAT but exclude bills

**Strawbale Studio 7** This ground floor building is aimed at emergent artists and was designed to be as affordable as possible. It therefore does not have central heating or running water (toilet facilities are in nearby buildings), but does have plenty of natural light, electricity and wi-fi.

Floor area 34.8 m<sup>2</sup>

**£197.00** per calendar month, including VAT but exclude bills

**Studio Block Studio 2** Ground floor studio with electricity, under floor heating , wi-fi. There is access to a sink with running water and a shared toilet in the ground floor of the studio block building.

Floor area 17.5 m<sup>2</sup> (4.44 x 3.94m)

**£130.00** per calendar month, including VAT but exclude bills

**Stableblock Studio 8** Ground floor studio with electricity, running water & sink, gas central heating , and wi-fi and internal and external access doors. There is access to a shared toilet in the stable block building.

Floor area 29.7 m<sup>2</sup> (7.49 x 3.97m)

**£220.00** per calendar month, including VAT but exclude bills

## Wysing Studio Policy

Wysing offers subsidised studios to artists working in any visual art form who support Wysing's values and ways of working. Wysing's ethos as an organisation is one of artistic enquiry and experimentation and this ethos is applied to the studios.

Studios are licensed to artists who want to use the opportunity of being at Wysing, for up to five years, as a way to move their practices forward. To secure and maintain a studio at Wysing, artists need to commit to engaging with Wysing's artistic programme, through attending events and exhibitions, and being open to playing a role in educational and other programmes. Being a studio artist at Wysing is more than simply licensing space; it is a commitment to being an active contributor to the Wysing artistic community.

Studios are licensed for up to five years, to enable a large number of artists working across a range of media to benefit from the subsidised rents and access to Wysing staff and programmes.

Subsidised studios at Wysing are for visual artists who are:

- At Wysing as a developmental opportunity
- Committed to critically engaged contemporary visual art practice
- Establishing a career as a professional artist
- Committed to at least two days/ 16 hours per working week (excluding weekends) to using their studio\*
- Exhibiting or engaging in opportunities (exhibitions, projects, residencies) regularly, nationally and internationally
- Committed to constructively participate in the active artistic community at Wysing
- Keen to allow visitors to the site access to their studio
- Willing to participate in opportunities to promote Wysing and its activities, when appropriate.

*\* we understand that artists may need to be away from studios to undertake commissions and residencies which is allowed as long as Wysing is kept informed.*

Wysing subsidises the studios through its Arts Council England funding, to enable rents to remain low. Wysing is an educational charity and a not-for-profit organisation and as such studio artists are currently exempt from paying business rates. Studios therefore cannot be used as a registered business address or to undertake solely commercial activity.

### Lease period

Leases are reviewed annually at review meetings with a curator. Studios leases will only be secure if artists are able to demonstrate their usage of the studio, their commitment to the organisation and with Wysing Arts Charity's core values and organisational objectives. The time a studio will be rented to same artist is up to a maximum of five years.

### Studio meetings

Wysing Arts Centre's curatorial staff will provide up to two formal studio review meetings per year to artists licensing studios. This is an opportunity for critical feedback, professional development and mentoring. The meetings will also include a review of how the studio is being used; in line with this policy. Specific advice may also be available (charges may apply for additional meetings and support, for example with funding applications).

### The culture of Wysing

Wysing's staff team have worked hard to create an atmosphere where artists are encouraged to push their practices and take creative risks. Additionally, artists participating in residency and other programmes are encouraged to join studio artists and staff at social times, such as lunch times, to informally network. The culture of the centre is one of dialogue, discourse, collaboration and enquiry.

## **Lease termination**

Wysing aims to avoid having inactive subsidised studios at any time. If an artist does not adhere to the studio policy and the values and aims of the organisation, articulated through the artistic programme, their lease will be terminated with one month's notice. If an artist wishes to leave their studio before the end of the term of their lease, they are required to give one month's notice.

## **Sub-letting**

Because Wysing is establishing itself as an active community of artists who will be selected on both the quality of their work and their commitment to being positively engaged in the community, sub-letting to other artists is prohibited.

Appendix 1: Equality & Diversity Policy

*Wysing's Studio Policy was adopted by Wysing Arts Charity's Board of Trustees: **March 2007***

*Update Policy approved: **5 March 2015***

## **APPLICATION INFORMATION**

Studio applications are submitted online through our Wysing Submittable online webpage <http://wysingartscentre.submittable.com/submit/40324>. To apply, you will need to provide us with the information listed below, each as a separate document (you can save and return to your online application at any time up until the deadline).

Please refer to the studio policy and our website which shows the work of [studio artists](#) and [residency artists](#), please use this as a guide to the work of artists that have successfully applied for a studio. Please note applications must evidence that your practice will fit into the Wysing community and that a studio at Wysing will support the development of your work.

### **To apply, please submit:**

- Your name, address and contact details
- Details of which studio/s you would be interested in leasing
- A statement on your practice.
- A CV.
- A description of why you would like a studio and what you could bring to Wysing.
- A selection of up to 10 images of your work (or other relevant material such as video, sound, press cuttings etc, or send a document with links to websites hosting material such as Vimeo or Youtube).

The deadline for applications is **midnight, 25 January 2015**.

**For more information please contact [louise.thirlwall@wysingartscentre.org](mailto:louise.thirlwall@wysingartscentre.org)**