

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 generally a maximum of five years.

Studio meetings

Wysing Arts Centre's curatorial staff will provide up to two formal studio 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**

Updated Version (Feb 14) adopted: **5 March 2014**

This version: Jan 2015