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## WYSING ARTS CENTRE ARTIST ADVISOR

RECRUITMENT PACK AUGUST 2023



Syllabus III at S1 Artspace, 2018

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## **About Syllabus**

Syllabus is a collaboratively produced alternative and independent learning programme that supports ten artists across ten months. Syllabus is led by Wysing Arts Centre, with consortium partners Eastside Projects (Birmingham), Spike Island (Bristol) and Studio Voltaire (associate partner) (London). Previous partners include Iniva (London), S1 Artspace (Sheffield), New Contemporaries (roaming) and NewBridge Project (Gateshead).

In 2021, Freelands Foundation agreed a landmark £500,000 grant to fund Syllabus as part of its multimillion-pound commitment to support the work of organisations addressing racial inequality in the arts. With this grant, the future of Syllabus is secure for the next ten years.

We look forward to relaunching Syllabus in June 2024 with a newly expanded programme, including bursaries for artists, access costs for artists, an online programme, an annual guest partner, robust evaluation and a dedicated Syllabus coordinator.

The key aims of Syllabus are:

- To provide professional and practice development and peer to peer learning opportunities to artists who are unable to access traditional post-graduate routes or who would benefit from an intensive period of practice development.
- To diversify the arts sector
- To provide a strong peer network for artists
- To create a meaningful network of arts organisations that work together to share learning and promote best practice with regards to equality and diversity

Established in 2015, and now about to begin its seventh programming year, Syllabus aims to reach artists with a range of practices and artistic approaches and bring together individuals from across the UK who have not yet (or not recently) had access to similar programmes. Through Syllabus we are particularly keen to support people who are currently underrepresented in the visual arts including artists with Global Ethnic Majority Heritage, those who have faced socio-economic barriers, artists who identify as LGBTQ+, and those with disabilities.

Each year's Syllabus programme is built around a series of co-produced intensive gatherings, which the ten selected artists attend. During the first retreat at Wysing, Syllabus artists, staff from the partner organisations, the Syllabus Coordinator and the Artist Advisor collaborate to identify broad themes for the programme. These form the starting point for an evolving, responsive curriculum that will support individual and collective artistic development and provide access to networks and knowledge across the ten months of the programme. Subsequent weekend gatherings are hosted at partner venues.

The Syllabus artists, Syllabus Coordinator and Artist Advisors work with individual organisations to shape each retreat, which in addition to responding to the interests of the Syllabus artists, reflects the research interests and specialisms and the location of the various partner organisations. Planned activities may include workshops led by the organisations' alumni

artists; visits to local arts organisations, network events with local artists etc. Syllabus concludes with a final gathering at Wysing. Examples of gatherings can be viewed at:

<http://www.wysingartscentre.org/archive/retreats/>

Between the gatherings, participating artists access an online programme of workshops, mentoring and crit sessions and discussions are continued remotely, with texts and reading lists uploaded onto a shared drive.

Syllabus VII will take place between June 2024 and March 2025, with planning and recruitment for the cohort of ten artists scheduled for Spring 2024.

### **The Role: Overview**

The main responsibilities of the Artist Advisor are to support the cohort of ten Syllabus artists, with programming advice, mentoring and facilitation. The Artist Advisor will work very closely with the Syllabus Coordinator throughout the programme, but will offer a perspective from outside the partner organisations.

The Artist Advisor and Syllabus Coordinator will set the tone of each year's programme by planning the first introductory gathering at Wysing, facilitating planning sessions with the artists and contributing activity to the online programme and at future gatherings.

Following feedback from artists and Syllabus Partners, we have decided to restructure the programme, recruiting one Artist Advisor in an enhanced role rather than two Artist Advisors as in previous years.

The Artist Advisor will be engaged under "a contract personally to do work" for one year of the programme.

Wysing, and all Syllabus Partners, are committed to equity. We acknowledge that certain areas of society are not proportionally represented within the arts sector; we are doing what we can to correct this. We are committed to providing equal opportunities for everyone, regardless of their background. We welcome applications from all backgrounds including, but not limited to, those who identify as from marginalised backgrounds based on any protected characteristic including age, racialization, gender identity or sexuality, disability or long-term health condition, pregnancy, maternity or marital status, religion or belief, and class background or class identity.

### **Previous Artist Advisors**

Syllabus I: Andy Holden

Syllabus II: Milly Thompson and George Vasey

Syllabus III: Jesse Darling and Harold Offeh

Syllabus IV: Helen Nisbet and Sonya Dyer

Syllabus V: Barby Asante and Louise Shelley

Syllabus VI: Amanprit Sandhu and Jade Montserrat



Syllabus IV at Wysing, September 2018

**Position: Artist Advisor**

**Hours:** 27 days between March 2024 and March 2025.

Regular evening and weekend work will be necessary from June 2024.

**Working location:** Online and at Partner Organisations for Syllabus Gatherings. A budget is available to support national travel.

**Salary:** £7263 (27 days at £269 a day).

**Contract:** January 2024 to March 2025.

**Reporting to:** Syllabus Coordinator

**Key responsibilities include:**

- Working with the Syllabus Coordinator to programme and frame the first gathering at Wysing Arts Centre (where artists introduce themselves and their practice, begin planning and where a tone and culture for the year begins to develop).
- Working closely with Wysing's Senior Programme Curator to support the Syllabus artists, providing mentoring and guidance as they co-produce their 10-month programme with the partner organisations.
- Delivering activity, for example workshops, crits or reading groups, throughout the year, online or at onsite gatherings.
- Helping to facilitate collaboration and planning between the 10 artists.

- Providing programming advice, drawing on your expertise, networks and experience.
- Providing formal and informal mentoring to Syllabus artists including two hour long 1-2-1 sessions each.

### Person Specification

You will be a mid-career artist or independent curator with significant experience of creative practice, including working independently and with a range of organisations

- An interest in developing new models that support artists' development beyond formal educational structures.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Willingness to commit to key programme dates, including attending the first and final gatherings at Wysing and the majority of onsite/online gatherings.
- Willingness to work evenings and weekends as required.
- An understanding and commitment to Health and Safety in the Workplace.
- An understanding and commitment to intersectional approaches to access and environmental sustainability.
- A demonstrable commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism



Syllabus III visiting Glasgow International with Studio Voltaire

## **Timeline**

9 October	Deadline for Application
9 November	Interviews
January 2024 to March 2024	Syllabus Artist Recruitment
March–May 2024	Syllabus VII Planning
Early June 2024	Syllabus VII gathering 1: Hosted by Wysing, 4 days onsite. Focussed on getting to know each other, identifying key themes and sharing practice.
late June 2024	Syllabus VII gathering 2: Online. Host TBC. Focussed on planning and sharing work
End July 2024	Syllabus VII gathering 3: Offline. Host TBC
November 2024	Syllabus VII gathering 4: Offline. Host TBC
January 2025	Syllabus VII gathering 5: Offline. Host TBC Recruitment for Syllabus VIII begins (Permanent Partners)
March 2025	Syllabus VII gathering 6: Hosted by Wysing
April 2025	Evaluation and reflection

## **Recruitment Process:**

The deadline for applications is 12 midnight on Monday 9 October 2023.

We use Submittable (an online application portal) for applications. Applications can be made via text, audio or video – please use whichever methods you prefer.

**Access the Submittable portal here:** <https://wysingartscentre.submittable.com/submit>

You will need to create a Submittable account. Once you have set up an account you can return to your application any time up until the deadline. Please allow enough time to approach us with any questions or queries in using the Submittable website. We are not able to accept applications after the deadline.

Applications can also be made in video or audio format if required. If there is another method that you would prefer to use to apply due to your access requirements, please let us know. We want to remove as many barriers to applying as we can.

**In your application, you will need to include:**

- 1. Your CV, including details of your previous employment and relevant work experience.**
- 2. What interests you about the post and working on the Syllabus Programme? Please use this section to explain why you want to work on the Syllabus programme.**
- 3. Information on how your skills, abilities, and experience match the key points in the job description and person specification.**
- 4. Your contact details.**
- 5. Contact details for two referees.**
- 6. Your access document (if applicable).**

After we have reviewed applications, we will contact shortlisted applicants to join us for an interview.

We expect that interviews will be held on Thursday 9 November

Wysing's Senior Programme Curator, John Eng Kiet Bloomfield, is available to have an informal conversation about the position. Please email [john.bloomfield@wysingartscentre.org](mailto:john.bloomfield@wysingartscentre.org)

**Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:**

As a Disability Confident Leader, we guarantee to interview all disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for the vacancy. Please indicate your disability in your application so that you can be interviewed if you meet the minimum criteria.

We are committed to providing equal opportunities for everyone regardless of their background. We acknowledge that people from certain backgrounds are under-represented in the arts sector and we're committed to doing what we can to correct this. We are particularly keen to receive applications from those who identify as global majority; d/Deaf or disabled people; people who identify as being LGBTQ+; people who have a mental health condition; and people who identify as working class now or in the past.

**About Wysing Arts Centre**

Wysing Arts Centre leads the Syllabus programme.

"Wysing was founded with a utopian vision to create space for artists to live & work. Today it is ... pioneering an experimental approach to artistic practice, learning & curating." Louise Benson, Elephant Magazine, 2019



Wysing Arts Centre is a progressive organisation in a rural setting that was established in 1989. We enable artists and publics to engage their imagination freely and take creative risks; we believe that everybody has the right to time and space for creativity, away from the distractions of daily life.

The site is ten miles from Cambridge city. It holds 20 subsidised studios, accommodation for up to 80 visiting artists annually, recording and ceramics studios, flexible space to experiment, present and learn, fields, woodland, and several outdoor outworks. Work made at Wysing is seen worldwide. An accessible digital offer increases reach and archives our work; our youth programme empowers future generations.

Wysing invites artists from across the world to stay and reflect on their practice without the pressure of producing new work: time spent without a plan can often be when the best new ideas emerge. We take a proactive, intersectional approach to equity and inclusion, and often support artists who have not been well supported by mainstream gallery and funding systems. Several artists who have spent time at Wysing have gone on to be Turner-prize or Paul Hamlyn Award winners. Some artists go on to be commissioned by Wysing to make artworks, music and performance; many participate in Wysing's lively events.

Wysing engages people of all ages through artist-led workshops, events, online projects, gatherings and an alternative art school called *The Syllabus*. Our young people's programme has a focus on reaching people from rural areas. Wysing is currently building a youth council who will have decision-making powers in the organisation.

We are funded principally by Arts Council England through its National Portfolio scheme. Further funds are raised through Trusts, Foundations and via individual giving. Wysing recently received significant support from the Freeland Foundation to grow and deliver *The Syllabus* over the next decade. More can be discovered about Wysing's programme and history at [wysingartscentre.org/](http://wysingartscentre.org/) and [wysingbroadcasts.art/](http://wysingbroadcasts.art/)



Opening event: Ain Bailey Version 2021 Photograph: Chloe Page



### **About Eastside Projects**

Eastside Projects is an artist-run multiverse based in a free public gallery in Digbeth. We say multiverse because 'organisation' or 'space' are not enough. We mean that we imagine Eastside Projects as a process, as a place where multiple narratives and experiences coexist, where we make visible an evolving set of possible realities.

We commission artists, make art, think-in-public, curate exhibitions, programme events, work alongside communities, build relationships, create production facilities, support artists, produce public art projects, generate and apply research, develop talent, train artist-curators, and imagine new realities.

Eastside Projects is an evolving process. We believe in working alongside others towards change and do so to support Birmingham. Our programming aims to build active communities of interest who contribute and co-produce, rather than simply consume culture. Since 2008 we have brought world-class art to our city, now we want to build a constellation of collaborators who, with us, will explore and expand the role of the artist in public life & support our city and its citizens.

Together we make art.

<https://eastsideprojects.org/>

### **About Spike Island**

Spike Island is more than just a building; we're a public space where people can discover and connect with art, feel inspired, and learn something new or unexpected.

We celebrate the very best of international contemporary art in our museum-scale gallery spaces, while also supporting artists to develop, produce and present innovative work throughout their careers.

We want to make Bristol a great place to see and make art. That's why Spike Island provides a home to a community of over 70 artists, designers, makers, artist-led organisations and creative businesses, right in the heart of the city.

<https://www.spikeisland.org.uk/>

### **About Studio Voltaire Associate Partner)**

Studio Voltaire is one of the UK's leading not-for-profit arts and education organisations.

Championing emerging and under-represented artists, we commission and produce exhibitions, collaborative projects, artist development programmes, live events and offsite projects.

Studio Voltaire is a registered charity and part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio. We fundraise for our work through the kind support of individuals, sponsors, public funders, charitable trusts and foundations, and sales of our renowned limited edition artworks from House of Voltaire.

<https://studiovoltaire.org>