



Syllabus V at Eastside Projects

SYLLABUS VII

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Wysing Arts Centre, Eastside Projects, New Art Exchange, PS², Spike Island, Studio Voltaire and TACO! invite applications from artists for Syllabus VII. Syllabus is a collaboratively produced alternative learning programme in its seventh year that will support ten artists across ten months.

Syllabus offers time to come together with artists from across the UK to discuss ideas, work, life and approaches to practice.

Starting in June 2024 the Syllabus VII curriculum will be built around a series of six intensive in-person weekend gatherings and an online programme, which the ten selected artists will collaboratively develop with curators and artists who work with the partner organisations, the Syllabus Coordinator and this year's Artist Advisor, Uma Breakdown.

Artists will benefit from:

- The opportunity to rethink individual practices through an intensive programme of in-person gatherings and an online programme, hosted by the partner organisations.
- Working together to collaboratively shape and develop a reflexive, collective learning experience.
- Critical conversations about ideas and work in progress with a supportive, national network of artists, curators and organisations.
- Becoming part of a new network of artist peers

- Introductions to, and connections with, arts organisations, communities in cities across the UK and access to new networks, expertise and resources.
- Two gatherings at Wysing Arts Centre and gatherings at Eastside Projects, New Art Exchange and PS².
- An online programme convened by Spike Island
- A gathering with this year's guest partner, TACO! and associate partner, Studio Voltaire.
- Two 1-2-1 meetings with Artist Advisor, Uma Breakdown, over the course of the year
- One 1-2-1 meeting with a partner organisation.

To support participation in Syllabus VII, artists will receive:

- A bursary of £1,000 for accommodation and travel
- An access budget for those who need it.

As in previous years, gatherings will include content generated by the cohort itself, and so we are looking for participants who want to proactively bring forward ideas to the programme and contribute to its design and delivery across the ten months.

Syllabus VII aims to reach artists with a range of practices and artistic approaches and bring together individuals from across the UK who have not yet had access to similar programmes. We are particularly keen to support people who are currently underrepresented in the visual arts including artists those with Global Ethnic Majority heritage, those who have faced socio-economic barriers, artists who identify as LGBTQ+, and those with disabilities. We ask applicants to make this clear when applying, if applicable.

BACKGROUND

In 2021, Freelands Foundation agreed a landmark £500,000 grant to fund Syllabus as part of its multi-million 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.

Find out more about Freelands Foundation [here](#).

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.

PEOPLE

Key individuals and organisations who will collaborate with the Syllabus VII artists, and who will be involved across the ten months, are:

- Uma Breakdown, Syllabus VII Artist Advisor
- Wysing Arts Centre: Natasha Ruwona, Syllabus Coordinator; Rosie Cooper, Director
- Eastside Projects: Ruth Claxton, Artist-Maker
- New Art Exchange: Michael Radford, Head of Neighbourhoods; Saad Eddine-Said, CEO and Artistic Director
- PS²: Ciara Hickey, Artist Development Curator; Jane Morrow, Creative Director (Acting)
- Spike Island, Carmen Julia, Curator
- Studio Voltaire, Maggie Matić, Curator (Studios and Residencies)
- Taco!, Mat Jener Artist-Director; Gina Prat-Lilly, Artist-Producer

Previous iterations of Syllabus have involved contributions from a wide range of artists, writers and curators. Applicants to Syllabus VII will have the opportunity to access similar networks. Contributing practitioners have included Larry Achiampong, Ruth Beale, Monster Chetwynd, Celine Condorelli, Adam Farah, Nav Haq, Nadia Hebson, Anthea Hamilton, Andy Holden, Evan Ifekoya, Shama Khanna, Pil and Galia Kollektiv, Mark Leckey, Richard Long, Modern Clay, Sofia Niazi,

Katrina Palmer, Keith Piper, Holly Pester, Rory Pilgrim, Morgan Quaintance, Nicola Singh, Tai Shani, Rosalie Schweiker, Cally Spooner, Linda Stupart, Richard Wentworth, Jonathan P. Watts, Keith Wilson, DM Withers, Rehana Zaman and Andrea Luka Zimmermann. We have received additional input and support from John Akomfrah, Benedict Drew, Kathy Noble, Eddie Peake, Marinella Senatore, Yinka Shonibare and Mike Sperlinger and have arranged visits to Documenta Athens and Glasgow International. Artists Barby Asante, Sonya Dyer, Jade Montserrat, Andy Holden, Milly Thompson, Jesse Darling, Harold Offeh and curators Helen Nisbet, Amanprit Sandhu Louise Shelley and George Vasey have led the Syllabus as Artistic Advisors in previous years, engaging with and supporting participating artists over the course of the programme.



Syllabus III at S1 Artspace, 2018

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The programme will be structured around a series of gatherings which all participating artists will be required to attend. During the first retreat at Wysing, Syllabus artists, individuals connected to the partner organisations, the Syllabus Coordinator and the Artist Advisor will collaborate to identify broad themes. These will 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 next ten months. Subsequent weekend gatherings will be hosted at partner venues in August, September, November and January usually running from Friday to Sunday. The Syllabus will conclude with a final gathering at Wysing in March.

Syllabus VII will foreground the skills, talents and experiences of the cohort itself as a key resource. We are looking for artists who are able to take an active role in leading and contributing to elements of the curriculum, from sharing skills and experiences to organising workshops and leading reading groups for the wider group.

During periods between the gatherings, an online programme will maintain contact between artists, and the Artist Advisor will support and advise participating artists through a series of planning sessions and 1-2-1 conversations.



Syllabus VI at Wysing, September 2020

PROGRAMME TIMETABLE

13 to 16 June 2024 - Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridgeshire

A four-day retreat, with onsite shared accommodation and food provided, that will introduce everyone who will be involved in Syllabus VII to one another. Led by the Syllabus Coordinator and Artist Advisor, this gathering will enable selected artists, curators and programmers from the partner organisations, to come together, share practice and begin collaboratively planning the curriculum for Syllabus VII.

2 to 4 August, Eastside Projects

27 to 29 September, Studio Voltaire & TACO!

21 to 22 November, New Art Exchange

24 to 26 January, PS²

20 to 23 March 2025, Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridgeshire

Online Programme, convened by Spike Island



Syllabus IV at Wysing, September 2018

COSTS

Access to the Syllabus VII programme is free.

Each participating artist will receive a £1,000 bursary towards travel and accommodation. Sessions are planned well in advance to give time for participants to book this at a low cost.

In addition, we have ringfenced an annual budget to support access costs across the cohort. If you wish to apply for access costs as part of Syllabus VII, please make this clear in your application.

The partners are happy to write letters of support for participants who wish to make applications for professional development or travel grants.

Here are links to some funders who have supported previous participants:

- [Arts Council England Developing Your Creative Practice](#)
- [Creative Scotland Open Project Funding](#)
- [Arts Council Wales](#)
- [Oppenheim-John Downes Memorial Trust](#)

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applicants **must** have been out of formal education for at least 4 years. We are also interested in hearing from artists who have not progressed through formal art training routes.
- We aim to establish a cohort that represents a diversity of cultural perspectives and artistic practices and welcome applications from a wide geographic spread across the UK.
- We are looking for applicants who want to both develop their own work and actively contribute to the collaborative development of the curriculum for Syllabus VII.
- Applicants are expected to make a significant contribution to shaping the programme and must commit to attending all gatherings and retreats.
- Syllabus VII is open to artists based in the UK
- Applications may be made via video or audio, rather than written form.

To apply, please provide:

- A statement. Tell us why you would like to participate in Syllabus VII (max 500 words);
- Initial ideas for contributions to the programme. This could include ideas for workshops, skill shares, reading groups, or other collective activities as well as methods of collaboration, themes to explore as a group or external contributors to invite. Please describe what this could bring to Syllabus VII and why it is important to you and your work (max 500 words);
- Information on your work and interests. This could include an artist statement, a text written by another person or some thoughts on what you would like to do next. (max 500 words)
- A current CV (max 2 page);
- Examples of your work. You can upload a portfolio or individual images or can provide links to a website or to individual works (vimeo/youtube/soundcloud). We advise sending approximately 3 key works, but you may submit more if appropriate to your practice.
- Information relating to your personal circumstances, if you feel these have acted as a barrier to you benefiting from similar opportunities or practising as an artist in the past. This might include information on your financial circumstances, your cultural background, gender or sexuality, or details of any access needs. We believe that a diverse cohort of artists makes a strong cohort and will use this information to ensure that a diverse range of artists are interviewed for this opportunity. We also want to ensure that we can support all of the artists on the programme. (250 words?)

- **Applications must be made online** at Submittable [here](#).

The deadline for applications is **Midnight, Monday 18 March**

Interviews for Syllabus will take place on zoom **on 2, 3 and 4 April**

FIND OUT MORE

21 February, 1–2pm, [Online Pre-application Workshop](#), Eastside Projects

To read a FAQ, click [here](#).



Syllabus III visiting Glasgow International with Studio Voltaire

ARTISTIC ADVISOR BIOGRAPHIES

Uma Breakdown is a disabled artist, writer, and award winning game designer interested in animals, horror, and queer feminist literature. Everything they make is about some combination of love, grief, hallucination, and an excess of joy. Recent projects include Earth AD (Wysing Arts Centre, FACT, Liverpool; QUAD, Derby 2022–2024); The Speculative Dismemberment of Agent Leon Kennedy (Market Gallery, Glasgow, 2022), Hinterlands (Baltic, Gateshead, 2022), The Joy of Destruction (Backlit, Nottingham, 2023), Elan Vitale (Container Magazine, Bristol, 2023).

PARTNER BIOGRAPHIES

Wysing Arts Centre is based in rural Cambridgeshire, UK, ten miles from central Cambridge city. Set across 11 acres and comprising studios, accommodation, fields, a woodland, ceramics and recording facilities, Wysing supports artists through residencies and commissions, engaging publics of all ages through workshops, events, online activity and gatherings. Wysing celebrates the imagination; it supports ideas and practices that shape the world. More can be discovered about Wysing's programme and history at wysingartscentre.org/ and wysingbroadcasts.art/

Eastside Projects, Birmingham

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.

<https://eastsideprojects.org/about/>

New Art Exchange, Nottingham

New Art Exchange is a ground-breaking, award-winning and internationally recognised creative space in the heart of Hyson Green, Nottingham. We are dedicated to promoting excellence in culturally diverse contemporary arts through our exhibitions, events and engagement initiatives.

PS², Belfast

PS² = Paragon Studios x Project Space, an artist-led organisation established in Belfast in 1994. We support artists through the provision of nine artists' studios, three workspaces for our annual in-residence programmes for a writer/s, collective, and curator/s and multi-annual artist development programmes. We welcome audiences and artists to our city-centre Project Space: an extension of the studios which offers an open, temporary gallery for experimental enquiries. We also undertake creative projects offsite in urban, suburban and rural locations throughout Northern Ireland, including PeasPark: our outdoor community garden and art project in North Belfast.

<https://www.pssquared.org/>

Spike Island, Bristol

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/>

Studio Voltaire, London

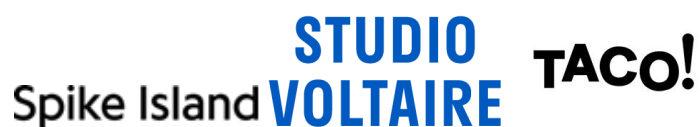
Studio Voltaire is one of the UK's leading not-for-profit arts and education organisations. Championing emerging and under-represented artists, we commission and produce exhibitions, collaborative projects, artist development programmes, live events and offsite projects. Studio Voltaire is a registered 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>

TACO!, London (Guest Partner)

TACO! is an artist-led enquiry, providing space for research, production, and exchange. Located in Thamesmead, SE London, TACO! is engaged with its local context and centres the work and role of artists in all the work it undertakes, supporting a dialogue between artists, audiences, community and place. www.taco.org.uk

Syllabus



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