

Wysing Studio Policy

Wysing Arts Centre provides affordable, subsidised, studios to visual artists 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 leased 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. We understand that artists may need to be away from studios to undertake commissions and residencies but ask that Wysing is kept informed of long absences.
- 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.

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 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.

*From January 2017 a small number of artists annually will be invited to apply to join a new initiative: Studio Programme Associates. Artists will have been identified by Wysing staff through ongoing discussion. Information on the Studio Programmes Associates Policy is detailed at the end of this Policy.

Wysing's Studio Policy

<i>Adopted by Wysing Arts Charity's Board of Trustees:</i>	<i>March 2007</i>
<i>Version:</i>	<i>Nov 2018</i>
<i>Adopted by Board of Trustees:</i>	<i>12 December 2018</i>
<i>Date of Review:</i>	<i>Dec 2019</i>

Appendix 1: Equality & Diversity Policy

Wysing Studio Policy - Studio Programme Associates

Wysing Arts Centre provides affordable, subsidised, studios to visual artists 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 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.

We recognise that we have attracted a number of highly engaged artists that are contributing, not only to Wysing's programme, artistic community and education programmes, but are also making significant contributions to contemporary art nationally and internationally. In addition, we recognise that a number of studio artists have made significant contributions to Wysing's programmes for young artists, including Circuit and the Leverhulme Summer Schools. A valuable aspect of this has been the mentoring and skills sharing that has been provided to young artists. In developing new young artist programmes in the future, these contributions will be core.

We also acknowledge that there is a shortage of quality studio provision for artists in Cambridgeshire and as an organisation we are working with external partners, in the medium to long term, to address this shortage.

In response to these conditions, we have developed a new programme for artists who have completed their five-year lease period at Wysing but who are playing a valuable role within the organisation and who we would like to enable to continue to use a studio for a longer period at Wysing.

Criteria

A small number of artists will be invited to apply to join the Studio Programme Associates by Wysing staff and will have been identified through ongoing discussion. Studio Programme Associates will also have demonstrated that they:

- Are regular attendees at Wysing events and recognise the value of attending events as a way to develop their own art practice.
- Made a positive contribution to Wysing's public programmes, in particular educational and young peoples' programmes, by working in collaboration with Wysing staff to generate appropriate programme content.
- Have a regular presence at Wysing through working in their studios.
- Engage in ongoing dialogues with Wysing staff through reviews.
- Are committed to critically engaged contemporary visual art practices.
- Make a positive contribution to the artistic community at Wysing.

In applying to join the Programme Associates artists will demonstrate a continued commitment to these points and in addition will be:

- Willing to participate in up to three public studio tours per year.
- Willing to participate in three (1hr) mentoring sessions with young artists as part of Wysing's education and outreach programmes.

- Willing to contribute to Wysing's education programme including providing up to three (1hr) mentoring sessions or artists talks with young people, other studio artists or youth partner groups.
- Willing to participate in other opportunities to promote Wysing and its activities, when appropriate.

Studio Programme Associates is aimed at artists who have reached their five-year licence period. A small number of artists will be invited to apply to become Studio Programme Associates if they meet the outlined criteria. It is expected that the majority of artists will leave their studios at the end of the five-year period in line with Wysing's Studio Policy.

Artists invited to join the Studio Programme Associates will meet Wysing staff annually for review.

Wysing's Studio Programme Associates Policy

Adopted by Wysing Arts Charity's Board of Trustees: Dec 2018

Date of Review: Dec 2019