

# ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE GEOGRAPHY PROGRAM 2017

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The School of Geography in association with the Ian Potter Museum of Art at the University of Melbourne seeks applicants for its Artist in Residency Program (AiRG) commencing April 2017. The program intends to engage the expertise of a practicing visual artist to interrogate and explore themes researched in the School of Geography. The successful artist will engage with rich and cutting edge geographical ideas to explore contemporary social and environmental processes. S/he will be able to create new modes of communication about the work done in Geography and generate discussion amongst broader audiences.

The supported residency involves engaging closely with Geography researchers; participation in seminars and public events; and wider media engagement surrounding the developed artistic practice and themes. The residency may also include research field trips that combine human geography and physical geography perspectives in rural and urban Australia, New Zealand, East Timor or China.

## Background and Context

### Geography and Art

The arts have long played a major role in recording, interrogating and reflecting human society and its relationship with the natural world. They have acted as a medium for understanding, a catalyst for change, and a call to action.

The visual arts have the capacity to look beneath the surface of our everyday lives and engage the public in conversations about diverse contemporary challenges and visions for the future.

The discipline of geography also explores the relationship between humans, the environment and space. Geographic research speaks to broad public concerns about social justice, environmental change, and human interventions. Geographers can enhance their engagement beyond the traditional academic conversation by seeking out novel modes of communication.

### School of Geography at Melbourne University

The School of Geography at the University of Melbourne is host to the strongest geography program in Australia. Researchers and academics are world leaders in their field, critically grappling with some of the most pressing environmental, social and political challenges facing society. These challenges include climate change, biodiversity loss, indigenous rights and resource management, conflicts over resources, increased population mobility, managing our hydrological systems, growing urban inequality and rapid physical landscape change in an increasingly uncertain future.

## Aims

The Artist-in-Residence program aims to generate new and stimulating modes of communication about the work done in Geography and generate discussion amongst broader audiences.

The program will draw out the synergies between artistic practice and the intellectual work undertaken in the School of Geography on themes of nature, environment and place through visual narrative.

The artist will benefit from exposure to rich and cutting edge ideas about the environment and human relations and will be provided with opportunities to communicate complex concerns to a broader audience. The artist will benefit from engaged dialogue with some of Australia's most respected and innovative thinkers in physical and human geography, and have opportunities to extend this geographical thinking in place through field trips in Australia and Asia. The residency also aims to expose the artist's work to a broad public audience.

## Format of Residency

The 6-month residency will involve the artist working with a staff member or members to explore in depth themes of mutual interest related to the field of Geography. The artist and staff member/s will work collaboratively to explore the complexities of the identified issue through a geographical perspective. Together they will discuss the modes of artistic expression appropriate for communicating and generating discussion about these issues to broader audiences. Depending on available space and facilities, s/he will work on the project at the University.

The artist will workshop ideas with staff, document progress and attend seminars in the School of Geography on their work. A preliminary internal seminar will be held to enhance dialogue between the artist and the School. It is expected the artist will also undertake their own research with staff support. Depending on the theme this may include a fieldwork trip with physical and human geography staff and students to China, New Zealand, East Timor or locations in rural and urban Australia.

We envisage that the residency will contribute to the generation and public exhibition of a major new work. We expect that by the end of the residency this work-in-progress will be showcased in a public seminar in which the artist explores key ideas and practices arising from the residency together with staff from the School of Geography. Media engagement and attendance at public events to reflect upon the AiRG experience will occur over the course of residency.

## Specific obligations and milestones:

The AiRG will participate in the following events.

- Workshop: to develop and enhance the internal dialogue within the School and with the artist(s)
- Internal Seminar
- Public Seminar
- Media Engagement and/or public event reflection on the AiRG

- experience
- A publication outlining the artist's project and the geographical perspective

Because the development of effective communication strategies to engage artistic audiences is central to the AiRG, the artist will also during the residency participate in:

- Launch of AiRG event
- Blog &/or Instagram during residency to communicate progress/process
- Propose and generate processes that facilitate the publication of the artistic work for non-experts

## Time

The residency will run for 6 months between April/May and December 2017.

## Resources

The artist in residence will receive from the School of Geography:

- An agreed artist's fee of \$5,000 for the six month period
- Field Trip Costs (travel and accommodation) and/or funding for mutually agreed materials and communication costs of up to \$4,000

The School of Geography will:

- Provide project management for the AiRG
- Assist in collaboration with staff
- Provide a work space, including for consultation with students and staff
- Assist in the development of a publication to showcase the residency

## Ownership of the work

Work produced during the residency is owned by the artist. The School of Geography retain the rights to reproduce the work for an agreed period of time, but the artist retains copyright.

## Eligibility and Selection Criteria

### Deadline

The deadline for applications is 16 January 2017.

### How to Apply

To apply the artist must submit the following as a single PDF file to Alexander Cullen <[cullena@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:cullena@unimelb.edu.au)> before 11.59pm on the day of the deadline:

- Artistic Statement
- A Project Brief
- A Folio of Past Work
- Current Artistic CV

**Artistic Statement**

The artistic statement should be no longer than **250 words**

**A Project Brief**

The project brief should outline the relevance of the theme/s the applicant wishes to engage with as well as what the applicant intends to achieve through the residency. The brief should also mention how the AiRG will benefit the artist as well as how the outputs will provide new ways of communicating the specific geographic theme and/or increase broader discussion around this issue.

The Project Brief should be no longer than **750 words**

**A Folio of Past Work**

The Folio should reflect the quality and breadth of previous artistic output

The Folio should be no longer than **10 pages**

**Current Artistic CV**

The current artistic CV should be no more than **2 pages**

## Selection Process and Application Hints

### Selection Process

Artist applications for the AiRG will be assessed on a competitive basis according to:

- The uniqueness and vision of the proposed project brief
- The relevance of the proposed project to key geographical issues that the School currently engages with
- The practicability of the project in meeting its intended aims within the timeframe
- The quality of previous artistic outputs
- Demonstrated ability to effectively communicate with audiences across a range of platforms include artistic practice, social media

The selection panel will include representatives of the School of Geography and the Ian Potter Museum of Art who will also oversee and guide the selection process. Applicants must be available for an in-person interview between mid to late February 2017.

### Application Hints

In their proposal applicants are advised to visit the School's website and consider the research interests of the School of Geography and identify key themes as well as particular staff members they may like to work with. The school is particularly concerned with the different spatial, political, economic, cultural and environmental dimensions of:

- Climate Change
- Contemporary patterns of population movement including labour and refugees

- Urban housing and inequality
- Post-conflict development in SE Asia
- China in Transition and Australia's relationship to it
- Energy and the emergence of new carbon markets/technologies
- Multiple dimensions of biodiversity loss and related conflict
- Indigenous resource management
- Post-humanist natures
- Water and its management
- Changing cultural landscapes and identity

Applicants should develop and include a set of artistic questions, approaches and practices that will inform engagement with the chosen theme.

If possible discuss how your previous work speaks to the theme you wish to engage.

**Further Enquiries** may be made to: [cullena@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:cullena@unimelb.edu.au)