



## SUMMARY

Upland CIC (the organisation responsible for Spring Fling) and Wigtown Festival Company (the organisation responsible for Wigtown Book Festival) are seeking to appoint a visual artist or maker as artist-in-residence for a two-part residency at Wigtown Book Festival 27 September – 6 October 2019 and Spring Fling 23-25 May 2020, two major events taking place in Dumfries & Galloway. The opportunity is for a recent graduate who has graduated from a UK art school or college in the last two years only.

## INTRODUCTION

In 1998 Wigtown became Scotland's National Book Town. Since then this tiny town has been transformed from neglected rural settlement into distinguished literary capital, while its book festival has grown into one of the best-loved autumn arts gatherings in the UK. The festival now has an audience of more than 28,000. In 2012, Wigtown was awarded the inaugural Creative Place Award for communities under 2,500, designed to recognise places of exceptional creativity in Scotland.

Spring Fling is a region-wide visual art and craft open studios event and is highly regarded as one of the most successful of its kind in the UK. A major tourist event in Dumfries and Galloway, attracting 13,500 visitors during the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, Spring Fling has been running for 17 years, continues to grow and brings over £1.2 million to the local economy each year. For participating artists it offers a chance to showcase their work to a wide audience through a professional and respected platform.

## BACKGROUND

Following a pilot artists' residency project that took place during Wigtown Book Festival in 2009, Wigtown Festival Company and Upland CIC have collaborated on this residency project annually ever since - in 2010/11 Deirdre Nelson, in 2011/12 Kim Ayres, in 2012/13 Joanne B Kaar, in 2013/14 Astrid Jaekel, in 2014/15 Anupa Gardner, 2015/16 Gill White and Kate Timney 2016/17. The results of the residency each year have been on display in an open studio setting in Wigtown during the following Spring Fling.

Read more about the 2016-17 residency here:

<http://www.weareupland.com/projects/spring-fling-x-wigtown-book-festival-residency>

## THE RESIDENCY

### THIS IS A PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT RESIDENCY

This 8-day residency is for a new or recent graduate who has graduated from a UK art school or college within the last two years, are embarking on a career in their chosen creative practice and are based in Scotland.

This breaks down to 6 days spent at the Wigtown Book Festival (27 September – 6 October) during which time the artist-in-residence will immerse themselves in the festival, hold workshops and interact with the festival's audiences. This initial period will inform a new body of work or an artwork to be shown over Spring Fling 2020 taking place 23-25 May, where the artist will be expected to install new work, be present at the opening event for the artwork(s) and engage with visitors over a 2 day period.

This is a new format and allows the Artist to produce a body of work to be exhibited as part of Spring Fling, rather than the previous format which meant the artist had to recreate their own studio. We hope that this development will allow for more audience engagement and encourage the production of contemporary, thought provoking, dynamic, experimental work which is not limited to the confines of a studio environment.

There is potential for much connection between the audience of Spring Fling and that of Wigtown Book Festival, and we know that both audiences are likely to be interested in the content of each event. It is hoped that the residency project will help to enhance this relationship - and prompt visitors to visit the region more often than once a year.

#### Part 1 – Wigtown Book Festival

During their residency the selected artist will be expected to engage fully with the book festival, attending festival events and engaging with festival visitors and speakers - we will prioritise original work that encourages participation across a range of ages, interests and social backgrounds. We will provide a studio-style space for the artist to create work in during this time and the artist will be expected to be present in the studio to talk to visitors about their work for a certain amount of time during the residency. Dates and times for this can be limited and agreed in advance but this must be done immediately following selection to ensure that details can be listed on the Wigtown Book Festival website.

Accommodation in Wigtown during this period will be supplied by Wigtown Festival company.

#### Part 2 – Spring Fling 2020

The outcome of the residency will be showcased as part of Spring Fling 2020. All work is required to be completed by this time. A suitable venue will be found in Wigtown to exhibit this work during Spring Fling. It must span the full three days of the open studios event but is not limited to those 3 days. The selected artist will be expected to be present to install the work and be present at the opening night/day. The 2-day period at Spring Fling (although event spans 3 days) may also include a talk led by the Artist which both organisations will facilitate.

Accommodation in Wigtown during this period will be supplied by Wigtown Festival company.

Project managers from Upland CIC & Wigtown Festival Company will support the artist however the artist must be willing to work independently.

#### **The Artwork**

The selected artist *must* agree to create artwork inspired by Wigtown Book Festival. This should include the actual festival itself but might also cover its engagement with the town, with local inhabitants, with visitors and with ideas.

We are open to the format of the residency, which could result in an exhibition or an installation. The residency opportunity is open to artists working in all disciplines but we believe it will particularly appeal to artists wishing to rise to the challenge of:

- Developing a new piece of work in a short period of time
- Developing work with new material in a new space
- Presenting new work to a new audience
- Working independently in a new environment
- Developing work incorporating some form of audience participation
- Using social/digital media as part of the creation or recording of the work

## THE FEE

- The successful applicant will receive a fee of £2,000, to include any materials and travel costs both during Wigtown Book Festival 2019 and during Spring Fling 2020.
  - This fee breaks down to £180 per day (new graduate day rate) and £560 for materials/expenses.
- Accommodation will be provided free of charge (possibly sharing a cottage space with writers attending Wigtown Book Festival) throughout the residency and again during Spring Fling 2020.
- In addition, the artist will be given a free pass to Wigtown Book Festival events, according to availability and by prior arrangement with Wigtown Book Festival. This is so that the successful artist will have the opportunity to attend events and experience Wigtown Book Festival.
- Upland CIC & Wigtown Festival Company will allocate substantial resources on promoting this residency as a major attraction of both Wigtown Book Festival 2019 and Spring Fling 2020.

## HOW TO APPLY

If you would like to apply for this residency we would request the following:

- Six images of your work in digital format
- A statement about your practice
- An up-to-date CV
- Up to 400 words (maximum) about how you would spend your time in Wigtown, what you would propose to produce by the end of the 8-day residency, how you will develop this and present it during Spring Fling, and details of any relevant experience you have in this area.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel from Upland CIC & Wigtown Festival Company. Shortlisted artists will be expected to take part in a Skype interview during the week of the 12<sup>th</sup> August.

Please email your application to Andy Stewart at the address below.  
andy@wigtownbookfestival.com

## TIMELINE

The deadline for submissions is **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August by Midnight.**

Applicants will hear if they have been called for interview by **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August.**

Skype interviews will take place **during the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> August (exact date TBC).**

The residency will run from 27 September – 6 October 2019 with the artist expected to be present in the studio to talk to visitors about their work for an agreed amount of time during the festival itself. The artist will then be expected to present their artwork in Wigtown during Spring Fling 23-25 May 2020.

The artist must vacate their accommodation no later than Monday 7 October 2019 and their allocated studio space by the end of 7 October 2019. Similar conditions will apply to their Spring Fling accommodation and studio space.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like any more information about the residency, your contacts are:

Upland CIC on 07787299487 or [joanna@weareupland.com](mailto:joanna@weareupland.com)

Wigtown Festival Company on 01988 402036 or [mail@wigtownbookfestival.com](mailto:mail@wigtownbookfestival.com)