

Emerge Bursary Programme 2023

An 8 month programme of mentoring and a bursary of £1,000 for early career artists or makers, working in any visual art or craft medium, who have a strong connection to Dumfries & Galloway.

Two EmERGE Bursaries are available in 2023 for emerging artists and makers*:

- One for an emerging artist or maker aged 30 years and under (supported by The Holywood Trust).
- One for an emerging artist and maker of **ANY** age (supported by Creative Scotland).

*Emerging / early career – a general definition:

Open to emerging artists or makers, 5 years (or less) out of University, Art School or College as well as those without a formal qualification who can evidence commitment to an emerging practice which is less than 5 years' in its development. However, we realise everyone's situation is different so if you have any queries please just contact us. There is also room on the application form to explain why you consider yourself an 'emerging' practitioner.

About Upland and the Programme

What is Upland?

Upland is a bold, ambitious, rurally-based visual art and craft development organisation that evolved from Spring Fling CIC and was established in 2015.

Spring Fling Open Studios continues as Upland's flagship event but we now offer a year round programme delivering a range of projects, events and exhibitions working with young people, emerging and established artists and makers. As the visual arts and craft development organisation for Dumfries & Galloway, Upland aims to provide a network for learning and sharing, offering advice and support to creative practitioners whilst aiming to inspire and educate a wide range of audiences to participate in and be supportive of visual arts and crafts.

As a membership organisation we work to create opportunities that connect our artists and makers with audiences, communities and each other. With a strong sense of place, we aim to highlight and celebrate our unique region and its creative community, raising its profile in a national and international context.

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For 2023, Upland is offering two Emerge Bursaries for early career artists and makers originally from or with a strong connection to Dumfries and Galloway. Upland will offer a mentoring programme with an established practitioner in a related discipline, £1000 to fund the creation of new work and funded and automatic entry into Spring Fling 2023 (27th-29th May 2023). The programme is aimed at emerging practitioners who intend to pursue a career as a professional artist / maker. Emerge aims to provide support which will enable the participants to develop both creatively and professionally providing a stepping stone between education or employment and a career in the arts. This year we are offering one bursary for an artist/maker aged 30 and under and one for an artist/maker of any age, recognising that embarking on a creative career can happen at any age.

The deadline for applications to the 2023 Emerge Programme is midnight on Sunday 2nd October 2022.



Work by Joshua Williams, Emerge recipient 2022



'17 Hertz', installation by Rachel Shnapp for Spring Fling 2021, Emerge recipient 2021.

The 2022 programme: For 2022, we awarded two Emerge Bursaries. The recipients were Joshua Williams and Savannah Crosby.

Joshua Williams is a potter with a studio in Newton Stewart, who makes functional bespoke kitchenware inspired by the landscape around him.

Previously he had undertaken a two year apprenticeship at a production Pottery in Oxfordshire, before returning to the region to set up his ceramic studio in 2020.

Savannah Crosby graduated from the University of the West of Scotland with a MA in Creative Media Practice, having previously completed the BA (Hons) Photography course at the University of Cumbria. Savannah's work focuses on landscape/nature photography, exploring mental health and how being around nature helps improve mental health and wellbeing.

The 2021 programme: For 2021, we awarded two Emerge Bursaries. The recipients were Sian Yeshe and Rachel Shnapp. Rachel graduated from University of Glasgow with a MA in Philosophy and English Literature and having worked within the film industry for a number of years, was looking to hone her creative practice within visual art film. She was mentored by Mark Lyken with additional support from Colin Tennant and Saskia Coulson (CT Productions). Sian works in film and digital media and since graduating from a MA creative practice course from the University of Cumbria in 2020 was keen to further explore the rural culture of Southern Scotland through documentary moving image work. She is based in Langholm and was mentored by John Wallace with additional support from Colin Tennant and Saskia Coulson (CT Productions).



Work by Savannah Crosby shown as part of Spring Fling 2022.

Comments from previous participants: “I would recommend the programme, because it has given me so much help and advice and encouragement that I wouldn’t have had otherwise. It has also helped me with confidence and made me more confident about my own ability.”

“Emerge was even better than I expected. I feel like I have grown so much as an artist, I have learned an unbelievable amount through my mentor and also through visits to other local artists and their studios.”

Find out more about the programme in general and past recipients here:

<http://www.weareupland.com/projects/emerge>

Requirements & Application

Applicants should be able to evidence a clear commitment to an emerging practice which is less than 5 years’ in its development or less than 5 years outwith formal education.

Applicants must:

- Demonstrate a strong connection to Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland
- Be available for 12 days mentoring with a matched mentor between January – August 2023
- Be available to create new work to show at Spring Fling Open Studios 2023**. You should be in attendance in a temporary 'open studio' space from 10.30am - 5.30pm each day over 27th-29th May 2023



- Agree to the Terms & Conditions of taking part in Spring Fling 2023. These will be made available for applicants to view on request.

Applicants will be asked to enter their date of birth on the application form.

You will also be asked to enter why you want to take part in the programme, what you hope to gain and outline why you consider yourself an 'emerging' artist or maker.

Applicants will also be asked to provide an arts related referee (such as a tutor or someone working at an arts organisation, arts professional etc.) to be provided as part of the application form, if you are unsure about this please do get in touch).

All Emerge applicants have the opportunity to be considered for Spring Fling Open Studios 27th-29th May at a reduced cost (providing the criteria is met). Please check the relevant box on the application form to be automatically considered if your Emerge bursary application is not successful.

****Bursary recipients are strongly encouraged to take part in Spring Fling but in exceptional circumstances an alternative showcase can be considered.**

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Assessment Criteria

1. Quality of the applicant's work (design and/or concept, technical ability)
2. Quality of CV and artist statement
3. The applicant's connection to Dumfries & Galloway
4. The applicant's reason for wanting to take part in the programme and the level of potential impact this will have on their creative and professional development.

Benefits

- £1000 to aid the creation of new work (£800 paid January 2023 and £200 paid on completion of programme). This bursary will be used for materials and expenses incurred in creating the new work, and in participating in the programme.
- 12 days mentoring programme over a period of 8 months from an established Upland artist/maker who works in a similar discipline providing the awardee with both creative and business advice.
- Additional go and see trip to be organised between mentor and young artist.
- Free and automatic entry into Spring Fling Open Studios 27th -29th May (this is a selected event with a participation fee of £250)
- A free studio/exhibition space for the Spring Fling weekend (if you don't have your own studio /space already)
- Marketing under the Upland banner – including a profile in the Spring Fling brochure



and on the Spring Fling website and inclusion in Spring Fling launch events and press releases.

Programme Timeline

Sunday 2nd October : Applications close midnight.

5th October: Notification of shortlisting

10th or 11th October: Shortlisted candidates to attend interviews (via Zoom or in person)

12th October : Applicants will be notified of the outcome by this date and any unsuccessful applicants who wish to be considered for Spring Fling Open Studios 2023 will be considered at the SF selection panel meeting and notified by mid-November.

November: Call out for Mentors, matching mentors and artists

Content for Spring Fling brochure and website required. Venue for Spring Fling confirmed.

December: Contracting mentors

January 2022: Introduction to mentor, £800 released to Emerge Artists, mentoring programme begins

January – August 2023: 12 days of mentoring (to be agreed between Mentor and Emerge Artist).

27th-29th May: Emerge Artists will show their work at Spring Fling 2023. This will either be in the studio of the Mentor or in a studio/exhibition space organised by Upland.

June: Spring Fling event evaluation completed.

End of August 2023: Completion of the programme - £200 released to Emerge Artists after evaluation completed.

How To Apply

Fill in the application form here: <https://form.jotform.com/222353672040952>

If you do not receive a confirmation that your application form has been received from an Upland team member within 3 days of submitting please email amy@weareupland.com to confirm your application has been received.

Please also get in touch if you prefer to submit your interest in an alternative form, we are flexible and open to different methods of applying such as video and/or audio.

Further Information

For more info about Upland please visit – www.weareupland.com

For more info about Spring Fling Open Studios please visit - www.spring-fling.co.uk/

If you have any queries regarding the Emerge programme or application please contact Amy Marletta, Creative Director on amy@weareupland.com or 07871201473.

