



Artful Migration:

Artist Residency Opportunity at National Trust for Scotland (NTS), Dumfries and Galloway.

Project background

This residency follows on from a pilot residency which took place in 2017-18. It is the second phase of a wider three-year programme during which the project partners wish to:

- encourage and support artists, including emerging artists, who primarily create work informed by the fields of wildlife, the natural world and the environment or are interested in doing so
- give artists the opportunity to creatively explore the themes identified surrounding the individual birds and the scientific research being done and to create new high quality art work as a result
- increase the provision of interpretation opportunities within the wildlife reserves of Dumfries and Galloway
- develop a programme of creative activities for a range of groups and individuals to participate in
- connect with international partners or artists along the migratory routes

About the Residency:

The programme is being developed by Upland in partnership with Ginnie Wollaston and Nicholas Parton Philip of Moving Souls Dance. Ginnie's uncle George Clark left her a legacy and his brother John Clark was a keen artist who lived for many years in Gatehouse of Fleet. She wanted to give this legacy to Dumfries and Galloway in memory of both uncles. The programme is also being supported the NTS Threave Garden and Estate and WWT Caerlaverock.

This residency is built upon a successful pilot which took place at WWT Caerlaverock in 2017-18. This initial residency focused on the Whooper swans and their family groups. It is our aim to explore a different migratory bird with each residency. For the 2020 residency we are delighted to partner with NTS Threave Garden and Estate to enable an artist to research and create work based on the Osprey.

The artist in residence programme will be hosted at Kelton Mains, Threave Nature Reserve (which is part of Threave Garden & Estate) so that the artist can study and record the Osprey's behaviour. The artist will develop a new piece of work based on this research. The residency will be spread over Spring and Summer (late April to August 2020) to coincide with the female Osprey laying her eggs (late April), observe the birds raising their young and then witness the birds leaving the site to return to their wintering grounds, most likely in West Africa. There is some flexibility for the artist to manage their time on site and this will be negotiated between the artist and project partners, however, there are key points at the end of April and throughout June / July (when the ringing of the birds takes place) which should be prioritised.

Work created will be exhibited at Threave Garden visitor centre in August 2020.

Location and Focus for artist in residence programme:

The residency will take place at Threave Garden and Estate, Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway.

Threave Garden and Estate is a series of gardens owned and managed by the National Trust for Scotland, located near Castle Douglas in the historical county of Kirkcudbrightshire in Dumfries and Galloway region of Scotland. Covering 64 acres (26 ha), the gardens are part of the 1,500 acres (607 ha) Threave Estate originally developed by William Gordon who bought the estate in 1867. The garden is home to the Practical School of Horticulture.

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/threave-garden>

Artistic Outcomes:

The artist in residence will bring both research and artistic exploration together in this unique artist in residence opportunity. The following research and recording may be undertaken:

- Observation and visual recording of the osprey's and their behaviours
- Exploration of the challenges that climate change and plastic / lead poisoning are having on this raptor (i.e pollutants like pesticides, pharmaceuticals and plastics are a growing threat, and their potential impacts on the osprey and their food chain)
- Exploration of threats to the birds, which include illegal hunting and persecution, pollution, entanglement in nets, collision with powerlines, habitat degradation, fish barriers in waterways etc. These threats can be directly addressed through generating mass awareness, political support for change, and promoting international collaboration
- Recording of sketches, photos and digital media to reveal the artistic research that may inform presentations at the end of the residency
- Artistic work produced during the residency will be showcased at the end of the residency at Threave Garden visitor centre
- Artist to give a talk during their residency to share their progress with visitors
- Artist to deliver 2 days of workshop activity with children / young people as part of NTS Threave's ongoing education programme (how this 2 days is spread will be negotiated between the artist and project partners)

The final artwork created can take any form and proposals are welcome from artists and makers working in any medium including but not limited to painting, digital, multi-media, installation, moving image, photography and live art.

The opportunity to engage with the Conservation project, *Flight of the Osprey 2020*, which will be undertaken by Sacha Dench flying a paramotor following the 7000 km flightpath of the Ospreys from Scotland to Ghana, will be also be offered to the artist in residence. Sacha Dench is well-known to WWT and global conservation partners for raising awareness of the dangers to the Bewick Swan's flight path from Russia to the UK through lead poisoning, shooting and her passionate education through flying and following the swan's path. Sacha has confirmed she will visit Threave Garden & Estate to give a talk at the start of the residency period (in early May) to raise support and awareness for her flight. This will act as a launch for the residency project and provide a key opportunity to tie into this wider conservation project.

'Through digital cameras attached to 8 birds and video tracker to her own paramotor they will create a unique platform from which to engage, educate and empower communities along the flyway and further afield, to a deeper understanding of the challenges to migratory birds, within and beyond the conservation community.'
Flight of the Osprey <https://conservation-without-borders.org>

Fee for the artist in residence:

The successful artist will receive a fee of £4,200 with a minimum of 15 days to be spent on the project. This includes 2 days to be spent on education / outreach work with children / young people. (This fee is based on an artist/maker with 5 years + experience and therefore may be subject to negotiation in line with the Scottish Artist Union rates of pay depending on experience). Artists will be contracted by Upland.

A production fee of £700 is available towards creating new work for exhibition and an additional £100 for materials for the school's workshops.

There is £400 available towards the artists travel and £100 for subsistence. Accommodation can be provided on

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site for the artist (at no cost to the artist). The provision of accommodation is not available for the full residency term but can be available throughout June & July in negotiation with Upland and Threave Garden & Estate.

Responsibilities

The artist will take responsibility for the following:

- research and development of the project
- work with the project team to liaise with interested groups
- work with project team to deliver and install the resultant artwork
- give one artist talk in relation to the project
- Artist will be required to interact with the public and volunteers and with school visits at Threave Garden & Estate.

- deliver 2 days of engagement with children/young people
- keep diary notes and photos documenting the development of the work during the project
- provide content for the Upland blog
- attend meetings with the project team when required
- contribute to PR, marketing and social media
- end of project report

Artists will need to:

- commit to spending a minimum of 15 days working on the project and at least 12 days should spent on site at Threave Garden & Estate (it is important to spend as much time as possible on site but we understand some work / fabrication may happen off site at the artists own studio)
- be a good communicator and have the ability to manage their work with minimal supervision
- ideally have access to transport as Threave Garden & Estate is not easily accessible by public transport

To apply please submit the following as a single pdf:

- An outline of your interest in the project including how you would approach the residency and in what way the opportunity will contribute to the expansion and development of your artistic practice (max one side A4)
- An artist statement including relevant experience (max one side A4)
- Curriculum vitae
- Up to 6 images of your work
- If including time-based media please include links to online content (vimeo, you tube, soundcloud or similar).

Selection will be based on

- Quality of previous work
- Relevance of practice and previous experience
- General response to the brief
- Experience of public engagement

Applications should be emailed to: Amy Marletta, Creative Director at amy@weareupland.com and should have 'Artful Migration Residency' in the subject heading. If you have not received confirmation that your application has been submitted within 3 working days, please contact us to ensure we have received it.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5pm on 5th March 2020

Shortlisted artists will be invited to an interview on 18th March 2020 at Threave Garden & Estate.

Additional Information:

About the Osprey's at Threave

The Osprey nest (eyrie) was artificially constructed in 2008 with a viewing platform created in 2009. The first chicks were raised at Threave in 2009.

The male (Black 80) arrived at Threave in 2008 and has been breeding since 2009. He is a Welsh bird having hatched in Glaslyn in 2006 and was ringed in June 2006 at 5 weeks old.

The origins of the first female bird are not known as she was not ringed but she was paired with the male from 2008 to 2011. Blue KC is the current adult female and has been nesting at Threave since 2012. She was ringed as a chick in 2009 in Stirlingshire, being from a brood of 4 young, which is very rare.

The typical life expectancy of an Osprey is 20-25 years but some birds do live to over 30 years old. The adult male arrives at Threave first, typically the last week in March. The adult female arrives a few days later.

Since 2009 a dedicated group of Osprey volunteers have been operating the Osprey viewing platform. The platform is staffed each day of the week between 10 am to 4 pm from late March to early September. A dedicated group of 20 volunteers give their time and enthusiasm during the season to educate and inform visitors who travel to Threave from around the world. The Osprey Viewing Platform sees approximately 15,000 people a year from around the world.

About Upland Arts Development CIC

Upland evolved from Spring Fling CIC and was established in 2015. In its new expanded role Upland works to develop and promote high quality visual art and craft practice in Dumfries & Galloway. It aims to provide a range of platforms to enable this and looks to create new opportunities for professional artists and makers to show their work and for audiences to engage with it. Spring Fling Open Studios continues as Upland's flagship event but now Upland offers a year-round programme delivering a range of projects, events and exhibitions working with young people, emerging and established artists and makers.

www.weareupland.com

About Moving Souls Dance

Ginnie Wollaston and Nicholas Paton Philip founded Moving Souls Dance in 2017.

We combine our skills, knowledge and passions in producing quality dance and arts management and participatory projects with young people and communities, where the interaction engages the heart in the art making. We provide opportunities for artists, participants and audiences to engage in cultural dialogue that touch on important issues of our day and challenge our thinking. We offer guidance on funding projects, artist development and targeted work with harder to reach participants and communities in the Midlands. We work in partnership with arts and community organisations on collaborative ventures and create larger scale works to reach a wider public.

We are building art programmes which resonate with our interest in the environment and wildlife conservation. We are already working to set up an artist in residence in South West Scotland, with the focus on bird migrations, which will be linked with international partners.

As individuals, we believe in the urgent need to build safe places for conversations to be nurtured and developed across cultural, spiritual and age divisions. We facilitate the opportunity for people's voices and responses to be heard so that we can all participate in new and challenging conversations in an open and honest manner. We embrace this debate through social media as well as promoting the need for face to face interactions.

www.movingsouls.dance

About Threave Garden & Estate

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Covering 64 acres (26 ha), the gardens are part of the 1,500 acres (607 ha) Threave Estate originally developed by William Gordon[1] who bought the estate in 1867. The garden is home to the Practical School of Horticulture.

The gardens include a working walled garden, a rock garden, several ponds and water features. There is also a visitor centre and plant centre. The wider estate is managed as a nature reserve and is home to bats and ospreys, and includes part of the Loch Ken and River Dee Marshes Special Protection Area. Threave Castle is located on an island in the River Dee, at the north-west side of the estate.

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/threave-garden>

About WWT Caerlaverock

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, WWT was founded in 1946 by renowned artist and founding father of the modern conservation movement, Sir Peter Scott. WWT is a conservation charity that protects wetlands for wildlife and people and are pioneers in saving threatened wetland wildlife. This is achieved by their experts in conservation science, engagement and wetland management and creation. WWT believes that showing people first-hand how amazing wetlands are can ignite their passion to help save them by providing amazing experiences at their ten unique wetland centres throughout the UK, visited by over one million people every year. The Caerlaverock Wetland Centre was opened in 1970 to provide a winter home for the Svalbard breeding population of barnacle geese which have increased in numbers from as few as 300 in the late 1940s to over 40,000 today, one of the great conservation success stories. The reserve also provides a winter home for thousands of other wildfowl including up to up to 500 Icelandic whooper swans which can be seen at close quarters from the heated observatory overlooking the pond where they are fed twice daily.

Terms and Conditions

The project is administered by Upland CIC

All appointed artists will be self- employed and will be responsible for their own tax and N.I. payments.

Risk assessments will be carried out by the Artist working with the Reserve management.

The ownership of the artists' own work shall remain with the Artist unless otherwise agreed in advance between the Partners and the Artists. Work created with community members is jointly owned by the project and the groups involved. Until the end of the Project Period as specified in the project schedule, the Partners will be responsible for holding and exhibiting the work, as appropriate.

Artists must have their own public liability.

This project is funded by:

