

Autumn School on Cultural Diversity and Collaborative Practice

An initiative of the Artist in the Community Scheme, managed by Create on behalf of the Arts Council of Ireland

Create and Counterpoints Arts are pleased to announce the 2021 School on Cultural Diversity and Collaborative Practice for up to 12 artists.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing, we are hosting the 2021 School virtually over five days: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th of October.

Deadline for submission: 30 August 2021, 5pm.

About the Autumn School

The virtual Autumn School is shaped by global and translocal practices. It is fundamentally informed by the diverse life experiences and creative practices of participants and the work and mentoring of visiting facilitators. The focus of learning in the School is enabled by an exploration of the critical space between the lived realities of cultural diversity and the connective methodologies and collective actions underpinning collaborative practice.

The School is interdisciplinary in its curriculum and composition of participants, presenters and facilitators. Together we will explore what cultural diversity means in practice – in people's intimate lives, in neighbourhoods and within communities of place and interest. Lines of inquiry include the following questions, among others:

- The concept of cultural diversity is often narrowly (sometimes stereotypically) read through the lens of policy, but how does the practice of cultural diversity resonate as an intersectional and dynamic part of everyday life? And by extension how might the language around cultural diversity be challenged and repositioned?
- How might the experience of cultural diversity be enacted in the context of collaborative arts practice and vice versa?
- How can cultural diversity and working cooperatively form an intrinsic part of the artistic, socially engaged process, acting as a powerful driver for social change in both local communities and within arts organisations?
- How to understand the critical intersection of cultural diversity and collaborative arts practice in the context of decolonisation and the urgency of global racial justice movements?

The 2021 School will take the form of a five-day virtual residency enabling a 'think and do' collaborative approach, utilizing creative workshops, critical and comparative case studies, a creative group challenge, one-to-one mentoring, international guest artists including curators, policymakers and activists.

Directed by: Dr Áine O'Brien - Curator of Learning and Research and Co-Founder, Counterpoints Arts

Co-Facilitator

Isabel Lima, Independent Artist and Director of The Gresham Horse project

Visiting artists and facilitators include:

[Dana Olarescu](#), Independent Artist and Cultural Activist

[Ismail Einashe](#), Investigative Journalist and Cultural Activist

[Nike Jonah](#), Executive Director of PACE (Pan-African Creative Exchange)

[Dominik Czechowski](#), International Curator, Researcher and Writer

Artist in the Community Scheme (AIC)

A key aim of the autumn school is to create a peer-to-peer space in which to explore the concept of cultural diversity and collaborative practice through the lens of the Artist in the Community Scheme (AIC), which has to date resulted in rich cultural ecosystems and cross-sector methodologies.

The AIC scheme aims to encourage and support meaningful collaboration between artists and communities of place and/or interest, and supports dynamic collaborations across art forms and context areas across the country.

Guidelines: Autumn School on Cultural Diversity and Collaborative Practice

1. Who should apply?

- Artists based in the Republic of Ireland
- Artists from a minority ethnic background, artists who have first-hand experience of displacement or are shaped by histories of intergenerational migration. For this bursary, candidates may self-identify as Traveller, Roma, refugee, migrant or otherwise through lived experience and/or second generational memories.
- Emerging, mid-career and established artists, who have a collaborative arts practice (working in any artform including architecture, circus, street art and spectacle, dance, film, literature, music, opera, theatre, visual arts and traditional arts).
- Artists who are interested in exploring the questions outlined above alongside their individual and shared practice.

2. Who is not eligible?

- Undergraduate students are ineligible to apply.

3. How to apply:

All applications must be made using the online form (*see section 4*)

To apply please submit:

- a) Proposal (maximum of two A4 pages). See **Proposal outline**
- b) CV and/or Biography
- c) PDF with a maximum of 5 examples of recent projects with short descriptions and relevant links which can include images and videos.

Proposal outline

In order to make the best case for why you should be part of the Autumn School, you should give very careful consideration to what you include in your proposal.

a) Tell us about your practice

Describe your work, mention recent achievements and give a general overview of your main interests and ambitions as an artist, relevant to your proposal.

b) Your proposal - Why do you want to attend the Autumn School?

You should include the following.

Outline why you are applying to this Autumn School. Explain your interest in the issue of cultural diversity and the Artist in the Community Scheme and what you wish to learn and explore alongside other participants.

We want to know why the autumn school interests you, tell us something about why cultural diversity and collaborative practice might be relevant to your current and future practice. Why apply now? What do you hope to develop in your practice in relation to this area of work?

Since the Autumn School will be run along the lines of a 'think and do' residency, we invite participants to play an active role in all aspects of the programme. We're therefore interested to hear about what you might contribute to the Autumn School's conversations and collaborative activities. What will you bring to the collective table?

This is the place to put any other information you consider relevant.

4. Making your application

All applications must be made using the online form, which you will find on the Create website.

Use the previous and next buttons to navigate through the form. However, please note that you cannot advance through the form without completing all compulsory questions.

Uploading application and supporting material

Acceptable file formats

- [text files .rtf/.doc/.docx/.txt](#)
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader files .pdf](#)

5. [How can we support you?](#)

If you have a technical query about using the online application form, email communications@create-ireland.ie in advance of the deadline.

We aim to make the application process accessible to all.

We have increased supports to remove barriers for artist applicants for the Autumn School. These additional supports may include: translation from other languages, Irish Sign Language (ISL) interpretation for advisory sessions, or transcription of audio and video files.

To find out more please contact Create at least 3 weeks in advance of the closing date. Email us at info@create-ireland.ie or call us on (01) 473 6600. If you feel your needs are not outlined here please contact us and we will do our best to support you.

[Selection process](#)

Selection will be made by a panel of representatives from Create and Counterpoints Arts. The open call will be advertised through usual visual arts channels, informal networks and complementary fields of development.

[The deadline for submission is 30 August, 5pm](#)

For enquiries contact support@create-ireland.ie.

Applicants must be available to attend all dates. Details of the virtual programme and structure will be sent to attendees in September 2020.

Create is the national development agency for collaborative arts. Our work initiates cross-sectoral national and international partnerships which support artists and communities to co-create work of depth, ambition and excellence. Our mission is to lead the development of collaborative arts practice by enabling artists and communities to create exceptional art together.

As a resource organisation we offer supports for artists working in social and community contexts. These include professional development, mentoring, project development support, commissioning and project opportunities as well as research and training. We also manage the Artist in the Community Scheme for the Arts Council.

Create believes that by working together, artists and communities can purposefully explore how collaborative arts engage in distinct, relevant and powerful ways with the urgent social, cultural and political issues of our times

Counterpoints Arts support, produce and promote the arts by and about migrants and refugees and communities of place/interest. Our work is done in collaboration through local, national and international co-productions – with artists, arts, cultural and educational organizations, neighbourhoods/communities of place and civil society activists. We believe in the ability of the arts to inspire social change and reach our mission via three integrated strands: ‘Enabling, Producing and Learning’. We develop strategic programmes and platforms, enabling organisations and practitioners to improve networking, develop practice and showcase work. We produce high quality work across different artforms and outputs - events, exhibitions, commissions, digital platforms, artefacts and

residencies engaging diverse audiences. We facilitate learning through peer-to-peer learning labs and platforms - encouraging imaginative reflection, cross-sector conversations, skills transfer, and the sharing of evaluation and impact.

Dr Áine O'Brien is Curator of Learning and Research and Co-Founder of Counterpoints Arts, London. She has worked across the arts, education and activism in the US, Ireland and the UK and was Co-Director of Counterpoints Arts 2012- 2020. She set up the Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice in 2005 (re-named Centre for Socially Engaged Practice-Based Research), a doctoral programme aligning migration research with the creative arts. She created *FOMACS* (Forum on Migration and Communications) in 2007, developing creative, arts and cross-sector public projects focusing on migration.

Her creative productions to date within the University sector, FOMACS and Counterpoints Arts (spanning across documentary film, print, exhibition and curation) explore global storylines linking migration with social justice and change. Including film productions: *Silent Song* (2000) on Kurdish lyrical protest in Europe; *Here to Stay* (2006) on migrant activism; and *Promise and Unrest* (2010) on gendered migration and long-distance motherhood. She is co-editor of a combined book/DVD-ROM *Projecting Migration: Transcultural Documentary Practice* (Columbia University Press, 2007); and is co-editor of *Art, Migration and the Production of Radical Democratic Citizenship* (forthcoming Rowman and Littlefield International).

Áine leads on Counterpoints Arts' Learning Lab platform, developing national and international learning/creative production partnerships (with artists, curators, cultural activists and organisations, policymakers and academic institutions).

Isabel Lima, Independent Artist and Director, The Gresham Horse project

Isabel Lima is an artist and researcher based in the UK since 2001. Lima develops socially engaged works, which question the sense of belonging, identity, place and culture. Her own family history of displacement is the catalyst for her research. In her practice Lima develops collaborative and/or participatory works with different groups of people, namely refugees and asylum seekers. The outcomes of her projects usually take the form of video, performance, publication and installation.

Isabel is interested in probing the contradiction between the theoretical framework of postcolonialism and the structures governing our society today, looking at ways of mapping and rendering visible the current refugee crisis in Europe and investigating the role and responsibilities of the artist as a mediator and image producer when engaging audiences with the issues of ethics, risk and precariousness.

