



CERAMICIST IN RESIDENCE

APPLICATION BRIEFING



Watts Gallery Trust are seeking a Ceramicist in Residence who is interested in developing their creative practice and responding to our permanent collection and heritage of working with clay. The residency period is October 2021 – March 2022.

We are interested in hearing from ceramicists, potters and those working in clay who would be interested in exploring the art, ideas and ceramic practices of Mary Watts (1849-1938).

There will be opportunities during the residency to collaborate with four key groups:

1. Visitors to Watts Gallery – Artists' Village, which might include families, special interest groups and local creative professionals
2. Schools and young people
3. Community groups local to Surrey
4. Watts Gallery Trust's Curatorial and Public Programming teams

We are open to how and in what form collaborations take place; it may be through participatory practice, open studios, workshops or another form of interaction. But we envisage that these collaborations will contribute in some way to the artist's creative practice and thinking during the residency.

Mary Watts & our Ceramic History

Watts Gallery – Artists' Village was founded by Mary Watts and her husband, the Victorian painter G F Watts OM RA. The site now comprises our historic Arts & Crafts gallery, the house where they lived, artist studios, Watts Chapel and estate.

Mary Watts was a pioneering artist and designer. In 1895, she began to run evening classes in ceramics, teaching local villagers how to model tiles in terracotta clay, used later for the building and decoration of the Watts Chapel. The Chapel, now a Grade I listed building, is widely considered an Arts & Crafts masterpiece. In 1901, Mary went on to establish the Compton Pottery on site, training local apprentices in ceramics and selling wares to prestigious companies

including Liberty & Co. The Guild operated as a successful commercial business until 1956.

Today, we continue the Watts' ethos of Art for All, engaging more than 30,000 participants each year with our exhibitions, residencies, workshops and open studios. This includes regular courses and workshops in ceramics, as well as commercial ceramic exhibitions in Watts Contemporary Gallery.

Outcomes

We will support the selected artist by:

- Ensuring full access to the museum collections and exhibitions.
- Provide a purpose-built studio from which to work and engage the public.
- Promotion of work through website, social media channels and blogs to include a webpage, blog post and at least 4 social media posts across the residency
- Providing digital and/or physical avenues to exhibit final work and other outputs of the residency.
- A budget of £1000.00 for materials and technical assistance.

Timescale

The residency will take place between 4 October 2021 and 28 February 2022. We seek to appoint artists in August to allow time for scheduling any site visits or planning meetings prior to the start of the residency.

Studio

The selected artist will be given our purpose-built Artist in Residence Studio on site as a base for their creative practice. We will also provide clay tools, access to a small kiln and a supply of terracotta clay.

Members of the public will be able to visit the studio during gallery opening hours. It will be the responsibility of the selected artist to ensure that the studio is a participatory space and can remain open even when they are not on site.

The Studio is at ground level and is fully accessible.

Budget

The fee for the residency is £5000.00. Please note that the fee doesn't include travel expenses or accommodation.

Selection Criteria

We are seeking a ceramicist:

- Who is interested in exploring the legacy of Mary Watts in new and contemporary ways
- Who uses clay as a central part of their practice
- Who is confident in engaging with members of the public and has some experience of participatory practice
- Who is able to commit to at least three on-site days a week during the residency

All selected artists must have Professional Indemnity and Public Liability insurance in place prior to accepting the residency.

Watts Gallery Trust is committed to addressing inequality in the arts and ensuring equality of opportunity in employment. We consider diversity a strength and are keen to make our workforce more representative of different backgrounds and experiences. We strongly encourage applications from people who identify as Black, Asian or minority ethnic, young, disabled, LGBTQI+, working class, or living or working in areas of socioeconomic deprivation in our region.

How to Apply

Selection of the successful artist will be based on the strength of the artist's work and written statement. Your application should include:

1. Your name, contact details (phone, email and address) and where you saw the role advertised
2. A completed online monitoring form:
<https://forms.gle/mTnkoscaA3CufpdK6>
3. An artist statement of up to 250 words, which should include reference to the art form(s) you work in
4. A short statement of up to 250 words about how you would like to engage with our collections and ceramic heritage
5. Images of recent works (maximum of 5). Please ensure these are at least 2MB and in jpeg format.

Application Submission

Please email your completed application to recruitment@wattsgallery.org.uk for the attention of Nerissa Taysom, Programme Curator. In your email, please include where you saw the role advertised.

Applications should reach us no later than **5pm on Tuesday 10 August 2021**.

We aim to contact shortlisted applicants by Friday 13 August 2021. Interviews (including virtual/digital interviews) will be held shortly afterwards.

Watts Gallery – Artists’ Village

Watts Gallery - Artists’ Village is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation, located in Compton, near Guildford, in the Surrey Hills. Founded in 1904, Watts Gallery Trust promotes the enjoyment and understanding of the art of George Frederic Watts (1817-904) and Mary Watts (1849-1938) who established a home and studios here in the 1890s. Watts Gallery - Artists’ Village encompasses a unique group of Arts & Crafts buildings: Watts Gallery, Watts Studios, Watts Chapel and the Pottery Buildings. At the centre of all our work is a commitment to an **Art for All** ethos – opening up the collections and creative opportunities for everyone, regardless of background, disability or challenging circumstances.

To read our most recent Annual Report or find out more about our vision, mission and social impact, visit wattsgallery.org.uk/our-charity/our-vision.