

# Art and Science Residence: Skye Fossils

## Call for Applicants

*We welcome applications for an artist's residency inspired by the fossil discoveries of the Isle of Skye, Scotland. We seek applications from emerging to mid-career artists, writers, and musicians to work as part of an art-science collaboration exploring the relationship between palaeontology and cultural and natural heritage. We will work with the artist to obtain funding to complete the residency. This public engagement project will produce a body of work for exhibition at local and national venues, with online content to reach an international audience.*

**Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

### Background

Palaeontologists from the Universities of Oxford and Birmingham and National Museums Scotland are discovering new fossils from the Jurassic rocks of the Isle of Skye. Their ongoing fieldwork takes place against the stunning backdrop of one of the UK's most impressive natural landscapes, in a region with a rich cultural heritage. This place where heritage and science meet provides the perfect setting for this multidisciplinary artist's residency.

We are looking for an artist to work with the scientists to create work inspired by Skye's fossils. Collaborations between artists and scientists are recognised as an innovative way to break down disciplinary boundaries and reach a wider audience. Approaching scientific topics from a creative perspective enriches scientific practice. For the artist, scientific research into the natural world provides inspiration for the creative process.

Our palaeontological team studies Skye's fossils using visualisation technologies like micro-CT scanning and digital reconstruction, utilising the latest technological science to understand extinct worlds. This dichotomy between rock-saws and digital technology, between ancient ecosystems and an island now bursting with life and culture, provides a rich canvas for artistic exploration.

### The Residency

We will work with the successful applicant to secure funding for the duration of the project, for example from Creative Scotland, the National Lottery and similar. Please note: *this residency is dependent upon successfully obtaining funding*. By applying, you will be agreeing to work with the researchers to secure funds and complete the project.

This residency will include the following:

- Accompanying the fieldwork team working in the Elgol area on Skye for up to 1 week (Spring 2021). This will include staying in the fieldwork cottage with the scientific team, hiking to the field site each day (approx. 2km each way across rough terrain), and working with the team to search for and collect fossil material. Meals are eaten together, providing an opportunity to talk about the project. A space can be provided for creative work during the week if needed.
- Three to six months to produce art inspired by the fieldwork, and wider themes of the project.
- Working closely with scientists researching Scotland's fossils using cutting edge technology such as micro-CT scanning. This involved communicating with the research team, and potentially visiting them in the lab.
- Creation of a body of work for an exhibition, installation, public event or similar (medium dependant), to share the results of the project with local communities on Skye, and further afield.

Artworks produced will have shared copyright between the artist and the Artist in Residence Skye Fossils Project. This means that both parties can share images of the artwork, but must credit the other party. This is a standard IPR approach used in such collaborations, and is also the simplest. All applicants must be willing to sign a document to this effect before accepting the Residency position.

## Aims of the Residency

- Explore themes including deep time, cultural and natural heritage, and the place of modern palaeontological science in rural Scotland and beyond.
- Produce a body of work for a small exhibition at local and national venues such as community centres, galleries and museums.
- Create a dialogue with local communities about ongoing work on Skye.
- Engage a wider, more diverse audience through the combination of art and science – including those seldom engaged by traditional science outreach.
- Encourage collaboration between scientists and artists.

## Who can Apply

We are looking for applications from emerging to mid-career artists, but will consider applications from any career stage. We are looking for enthusiastic people who would enjoy the fieldwork experience, who are good communicators, and who share a passion for the themes of the residency. The applicant should showcase how they would bring together the

work of the scientists with their own flair and creativity, to create something unique that speaks to a wider audience.

Applications are open to people from any background (see Eligibility Criteria). We will consider applicants working in any creative medium, as long as they are able to demonstrate a track record of producing work. We also expect applicants to include an initial outline of how they envision their work will proceed over the course of the residency, and how this will meet the aims of the residency. We will work with the applicant to secure funding from the relevant funding bodies, and although a background of successful funding applications is helpful, it is not essential.

## Eligibility Criteria

- The applicant must have a proven track record of producing work in a creative medium, including: written (prose or poetry); visual (fine art, sculpture, film, textile, etc); music, or other creative arts.
- Applicants should be willing to participate in one week of fieldwork on the Isle of Skye in 2021. This includes hiking to the field site each day, spending full days outside, and sharing cottage accommodation with the fieldwork team. (If you have questions about this, please get in touch.)
- Applicants must be able to attend fieldwork on set dates (tbc, Spring 2021).
- Applicants can be from any part of the UK, and must be willing to travel to join fieldwork on the Isle of Skye, and potentially to visit a research lab.
- Applicants should provide two references, who will be contacted prior to interview.
- Applicants should be good communicators, who show an interest in exploring the themes of the residency. They should enjoy teamwork, and be enthusiastic about the unique blend of science, art and culture that this residency provides.

**Diversity Statement:** applicants will not be discriminated against on grounds of gender, race, socio-economic background.

## How to Apply

Applications will be by written application form in the first instance, accompanied by CV and examples of previous work. Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed. Interviews will preferably be conducted in-person, but can be online if necessary. Applicants should show an interest in exploring the themes proposed in this Residency, and give an indication of how they might plan their residency and carry out the work.

For more information, please get in touch with Dr Elsa Panciroli:  
[elsa.panciroli@earth.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elsa.panciroli@earth.ox.ac.uk)

# Art and Science Residence: Skye Fossils Application Form

*Please complete the following to apply for this residency. Send your completed forms to [elsa.panciroli@earth.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elsa.panciroli@earth.ox.ac.uk) by the 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2020. Applications send after this date may not be considered. Applicants will be shortlisted and invited to an informal interview at the end of March 2020.*

Name:

Address:

Telephone/mobile:

Email address:

What type of artist are you?:

What career stage would you describe yourself as:

Have you successfully obtained funding for other residencies, projects or other relevant funding?

If yes, please give details:

**Personal Statement** - *please tell us a bit about yourself, your background as an artist, and how you meet the criteria for this residency, including team working and communication (500 words)*

**What interests you about the Skye Fossils Art and Science Residence?** *(200 words)*

**How will the Skye Fossils Art and Science Residence inspire you to produce new work?** *(200 words)*

**Please outline a possible concept/work you wish to pursue if you application is successful (200 words)**

Please provide contact details for two references:

**Reference 1**

Name:

Address:

What is your relationship to this person?:

Email:

Telephone:

**Reference 2**

Name:

Address:

What is your relationship to this person?:

Email:

Telephone:

*Please attach a CV (no more than 1 A4 page), and examples of previous work (this should not exceed 2 A4 pages, and can include links to online content as required).*