



Ruthin Craft Centre and Safle A Stiwdio Safle Project

Applied Art Residencies at Ruthin Craft Centre, Denbighshire, Wales

Introduction

The new Ruthin Craft Centre, designed by architects Sergison Bates, is arguably the most important recent development in Applied Arts in the UK, in that it not only provides over 350 sq metres of exhibition space, but creates a stimulating working environment with a programme that is committed to exploring all aspects of the applied arts.

The architects Sergison Bates, who represent Britain in the Venice Architecture Biennale in 2008, have created a building in its own landscaped site that architecturally reflects the rhythms of the surrounding Clwydian hills. Included in this contemporary building complex is a courtyard with workshops for artists working in the applied arts and two purpose-built artist-in-residence studios.

In this initiative Ruthin Craft Centre are partnered by Safle, the organisation for public art in Wales, to develop a series of residencies in the studio spaces. The partnership has been developed as part of Safle's Stiwdio Safle research and engagement programme.

It is hoped that these opportunities will work on a number of levels including promoting links between art in the public realm and the applied arts, aiding research and development for artists and the Craft Centre and contributing to the cultural synergy of the complex as a whole and its wider audience.

The Project

In the first instance we are inviting artists to apply for a 3-month residency to research and take forward their practice in any discipline informed by the applied arts. A focus on the application of the arts in the public realm will be encouraged. The objective of the residencies is to give the artists as much opportunity to practice their art as possible.

It is imperative that the artist is able to work freely and confidently and there is a hope that having once established a working pattern and context that the artist will feel able to set aside time to interact with the staff, visitors, arts students and other professionals on an appropriate level and timescale.

Each residency studio is 45m² with modern facilities etc. They are not equipped for a specific artform as it is envisaged that there will be a wide range of disciplines represented in the studios and specific equipment for the studios will be discussed with the artists prior to the start date.

It is expected that the artists will have the opportunity to contribute to the overall exhibition programme of the Centre or to convert their studio into an exhibition space at the end of the residency.

Budgets

Each 3 month residency carries an artist's budget in the region of £7000 plus other print, publicity and exhibition costs.

Ruthin Craft Centre will assist in finding accommodation in Ruthin town as there is no accommodation on site.

Timescale

Two opportunities are offered for residencies of 3 month duration commencing in November 2008 and January 2009.

Selection process

There are no restrictions as to where the artists currently work, be it local or international. Submissions can be from a wide range of disciplines from within the applied arts, and related activity such as time-based media or work for the built environment etc.

The artists will be selected from an open submission by a steering group drawn from Ruthin Craft Centre, Safle and other partners.

Please send:

- 1) A CD or DVD of images or other visuals, saved as a powerpoint presentation or similar – a maximum of 10 images or 10 minutes of video.
- 2) A letter of no more than two pages outlining why a residency in Ruthin will be beneficial to your practice, how you will ensure that any outcomes are recorded or presented and how your work relates to the focus outlined above.
- 3) A CV of no more than 3 pages.

To:

Ruthin Applied Art Residencies

Safle

Unit 4,

Sovereign Quay

Havannah Street

Cardiff

CF10 5SF

Application Deadline: 29th September 2008

info@safle.com

www.safle.com

www.ruthincraftcentre.org.uk

Ruthin Craft Centre – Artistic Programme Vision

Ruthin Craft Centre is recognised by the Arts Council of Wales as the most important Contemporary Craft gallery in Wales, and a central plank of its quality applied arts provision. It explores and presents all aspects of contemporary craft, applied art and design through an exhibition programme showing the very best applied artists from Wales, the UK and internationally.

Ruthin Craft Centre show a wide spectrum of the very best of 21st century Applied Arts practice, covering the vast field of many artform activities that constitute innovative contemporary craft:

- Textiles – constructed, woven and printed including 3D fiber art and baskets, embroidery and installation work;
- Jewellery in both precious and experimental materials, including wearable art objects;
- Metals – including silver, hollowware, sculptural and decorative pieces, encompassing both Goldsmithing, and experimental work in non-precious metals;
- Ceramics – thrown, hand-built, cast, functional, sculptural and more site-specific installation type work;
- Furniture – bespoke and batch produced in wood and other materials;
- Wood – turned, carved and constructed (including woodcut printmaking);
- Lettering and calligraphy;
- Glass – blown, kiln formed and architectural;
- Bookbinding and Paper-art;
- Fashion accessories;
- Mixed media work that is material and making driven; at times this will examine the points where applied art meets sculpture, fine art, product design, interior architecture and fashion.

Education in its broadest sense will be developed in an integrated way with exhibitions, reflecting both the Centre's artistic vision and the needs of local and wider audiences. This has long been an essential complement to exhibitions, offering fresh insight and different levels of access to a variety of applied arts experiences.

These range from introductory talks and practical workshops and curricular programmes for schools, to masterclasses and continuing professional development support for early and mid-career makers. Extensive new facilities will enable the relaunch of this popular area, with a 125m² room where classes and small scale seminars can take place, and two residency studios 92m² that will offer applied artists opportunity to explore new work and contribute to the Centre's artistic programme.

Exhibitions and educational programmes will occasionally explore the connection between the applied arts and other art forms, such as music and literature.