

Live Art in Scotland: Building a Better Residency, 26th May 2022

These are 'live notes' taken by Bryony White during the first part of the *Building the Better Residency* session, lightly edited by Steve Greer. Rather than offering a transcript of what was said, they reflect an effort of active listening – that is, an attempt to pay attention to the topics which were raised, how those topics were being framed, and how they might relate to each other.

Frame for the event

- Live art and interdisciplinary sector
- The role that residencies are playing as a support structure

Elaine

- Works through movement and dance, works with people with dementia
- Looking back over residency applications, patterns in her 20s, applied for lots of residencies, this then thinned out as she got older
- Work itself fitted into the residencies available at the time
- Now her work is situated within care environments, and so aligns less with those structures
- What would Elaine really like from a residency? (A month-ish length residency in a care home)
- Residency through The Work Room, applied there because she wanted to work with her dad, she needed some 'knowns', knew the space, familiar with the café etc, it's possible to take risks with boundaries of a known context

Gillian

- Working across different forms, residencies thus become quite important
- Being commissioned to write music for a theatre, opened lots of new spaces
- Project X's 'residency opportunities' mailing list
- Accessing funding to record and create music
- Process is decolonial and anti-capitalist, doesn't need to be an outcome. How can we centre black intersectional experiences?
- Reaching out to people who have studio space
- Following BLM, George Floyd, institutions more aware of how POC people navigate institutional structures, power structures (what does care look like? What does a caring residency look like?)
- Everything that surrounds the residency, language used etc, sets the tone for the residency
- What happens before the residency really sets the scene

Craig

- Experience of Buzzcut residency
- Approaching people *for* residencies
- Specifically emailing people and asking for what you want, asking for space
- Research and development, a lot freer

- Leith Arts Centre residency—being in actual residence, where you sleep/eat etc, versus doing a residency at Tramway, working then leaving etc
- Prompt: a residency of what it would look like to invite someone into your house for a week?
- Not wanting to do residencies alone
- If we want to make bigger, grander, more risk-taking work, it can't happen on your own!

Laura, The Work Room

- The heart of The Work Room's offer is a studio residency
- Artist Research Bursary—during the pandemic when there is no studio space, trying to support artists who couldn't work in the studio
- Bursaries allowed a flexible approach to work
- Rural artists who didn't have to travel to the central belt
- Challenges about going forward—stretched capacity, with such a growing membership, how do you ensure everyone feels secure?

Annie, CCA

- Creative Lab residencies not there to support making a specific work but to facilitate more open-ended exploration
- Artists' flat as space in which visiting folk can stay, on the premises
- Open source programming – CCA's public programme (beyond its visual arts exhibitions) are developed in collaboration with other groups and organisations
- In the absence of having a public programme from 2020 to early this year, we have seen a massive demand for using the space (tech, lots of space in kind). Public programme starting again means less space being available?
- New call for Creative Lab residencies going live very soon!

Karl and Amy, Take Me Somewhere

- Different residency opportunities as being responsive to the needs of artists
- Artist development as also having an eye on the festival (though not always leading there)
- Centered on access ability, disability justice and anti-racism. What does this look like in the application process?
- How do people do residencies if they can't travel?
- Understanding the local scene before the beginning of the residency
- Burnout and the problem of filling out multiple applications
- How can international residencies be authentically embedded in a local context?
- Rest and wellbeing activities—what would these look like?
- Care and support in residencies
- If you could design a residency for yourself, what would it look like?
- Questions of location and authentic location
- Access/notion of the offer