**ARTIST IN RESIDENCE AT THE URBAN CRAFTS FOUNDATION**

[**https://www.urbancraftsfoundation.co.uk/**](https://www.urbancraftsfoundation.co.uk/)

**OPEN CALL**

The Urban Crafts Foundation is a Community Interest Company committed to providing hands-on experience of heritage metalwork.

Our forge is located at Lambourne End Centre for Outdoor Education, in Essex. Lambourne End Centre is a registered charity that teaches agricultural skills to children with alternative educational needs. We offer classes in heritage metalwork to members of the public that we try to keep affordable, and these, in turn, subsidise the work we do with young people needing a step up in life. We also work on commissions making bespoke work for designers, artists and members of the public.

Supported by the Radcliffe Trust, we are pleased to be announcing an open call for two UK based Artists in Residence.

**About the Residency**

The two residencies will take place concurrently from 19 to 28 September. The successful applicants will receive comprehensive tuition in blacksmithing and coppersmithing and then go on to use the techniques they have learned to practice, experiment, and push the boundaries of traditional metalworking. There is no expectation for a specific creative outcome. Whilst sculptures or other artwork could be made during the time, this is not a requirement.

**Purpose of the Residency**

We are passionate about keeping heritage metalworking techniques alive and want to achieve this by making them relevant and understood by the public, consumers, and people working in the creative industries. To do this we want to pass on our specialist knowledge to people who will use it to develop innovative work that will reach and inspire a wide audience. As a team, our backgrounds as artists, engineers, and heritage restorers put us in a unique position to be welcoming and open to creatives from a broad range of disciplines who can benefit from our resources.

The residency will help our organisation connect with people who might benefit from our skills and resources. It will also help us to understand what we can aim to provide to fill the needs of artists.

**What the Residency will provide**

· Ten days of access to our workshop

· Tuition in blacksmithing, coppersmithing and other related metalworking techniques

· Time to practice these techniques and/or develop work

· A reasonable amount of materials including steel and copper

· A fee of £750 to each of the artists

· The residency does not include accommodation but basic subsidised accommodation is available onsite at a cost to the artists of £20 per night (camping onsite is also an option). Lambourne End is not easily accessible by public transport. The nearest train station is Grange Hill (on the Central Line) which is 2.5 miles from the site. Taxies can be taken from the station.

**Expectations for the Residency**

We do expect the artists to commit to ten consecutive working days in our forge. Working with metal can be physically challenging and we would expect some of that time to be taken up planning, drawing, researching etc.

We have a gas forge, a coke forge, hand tools including hammers, punches, chisels etc welding equipment and power tools including drills, grinders. We are looking for artists who want to fully engage with what our workshop offers, learn new skills and experiment with technique and form.

Bearing in mind the special nature of our home at Lambourne End Centre for Outdoor Education, we do expect the resident artists to be sensitive to their surroundings and engage with staff and users of the site appropriately.

The residency will run concurrently with [The London Harvest Festival](https://londonharvestfestival.org.uk/2022-london-harvest-festival/) which will take place on 24 September at Lambourne End. This is an annual event where volunteers from London City Farms come together to celebrate their year. We do expect the artists to be present and we would like them to lead a public engagement project during the event.

**Who is selecting and running the residency?**

The Residency will be selected by Richard Pace and Lizzie Hughes the Directors of UCF.

Richard served as a Royal Engineer for over twelve years. After he left the army he worked in engineering and eventually discovered his love of blacksmithing whilst volunteering at Stepney City Farm. He has been teaching blacksmithing for over a decade and has specialist knowledge of heritage restoration. One of his most significant projects was restoring and remaking the 19th Century lanterns that can be seen outside White’s Club on St James’s Street in central London.

Lizzie Hughes is an artist who works across many different media including sound, video, text and sculpture. She has completed residencies at Murry’s Cottage, NS Wales, Australia, The National Memorial Arboretum and The Art House, Wakefield. Lizzie became interested in working with metal after she took an evening class in Blacksmithing. She has an interest in working with sheet metal and the use of historic craft techniques in contemporary design.

**Who can apply**

The opportunity is open to artists based in the UK only. We cannot accept applications from current students.

For the resident artists to get the most value out of the opportunity we are looking for someone with no significant prior experience in working with metal. If you have some experience of working with metal or have previously had a go at blacksmithing, that’s fine, but we’re not looking for someone who already feels comfortable working in a metalsmithing workshop.

Unfortunately, our workshop is not yet fully accessible for wheelchairs, we do hope to address this in the future. However, if you have a disability that you feel might prevent you from accessing this residency we would strongly encourage you to contact us to see if we can make it work. We do have experience working with people with additional needs and strive to do everything we can to be inclusive.

Similarly, we realise that there are lots of reasons that prevent artists from attending residencies that might be valuable to their careers. If what we are proposing is restrictive, we would be happy to answer queries and see if we can address this. We are a very small team, if you do contact us, please be patient while we reply.

Due to the nature of the site, the selected artists will need to provide an enhanced DBS check no less than two years old. If you don’t already have one we will arrange this. Having a conviction does not automatically exclude you from this opportunity.

**Application process**

To apply for this opportunity please complete the application form below. The deadline is midnight on 3 July 2022.

After reviewing the applications a shortlist will be made for an online interview that we expect to take place during w/c 18 July.

We will notify unsuccessful applicants by the end of July.

**Application Form - Artist in Residence, Urban Crafts Foundation**

**Deadline 3 July 2022**

1. Name:

2. Email address

3. Please provide a brief biography (200 words).

4. Briefly give an overview of your work to date (200 words).

5. Please outline any experience you have of working with metal. This doesn’t necessarily have to relate to your artwork. For example, you might have made jewellery, restored a car, or helped in a workshop. If you have never worked with metal please use the space to tell us about any other making techniques you are familiar with (100 words).

6. Why are you applying for this residency and what do you hope to achieve from it? (200 words)

7. Additional Material:

Please provide - a portfolio of past work in pdf format that is no more than 8 pages

 - a current CV

- the additional diversity monitoring form that can be found on our website.

**Please send completed applications by email to** **ucf.residency@gmail.com** **to arrive no later than midnight 3 July 2022**

**If you have been shortlisted for an interview we hope to advise you of the date by 17 July.**

**We will notify unsuccessful applicants but we are unable to provide feedback.**