

Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards: *Aberdeenshire*

In partnership with Creative Scotland

2018/19 GUIDELINES

Aberdeenshire Council is committed to supporting the work of its resident artists and encouraging innovative professional practice in contemporary arts and crafts.

In a partnership with Creative Scotland, the local authority has established this award scheme as a means of supporting visual artists and craft makers in their creative professional development. Funds can help towards activities that are integral to the practitioner's personal and professional development, such as the immediate costs of researching, creating and presenting new work or advancing skills, technical ability and ideas.

Awards

The **Visual Artist & Craft Maker Awards Scheme** is aimed at practitioners at all stages of their careers who have demonstrated a commitment to their work and in developing their practice to produce a body of work over time.

This could include Visual artists in the fields of drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, moving image and film making. We are also interested in contemporary creative work conceived, designed and made by individual practitioners in media including ceramics, furniture and wood, glass, jewellery and metalwork, lettering, musical instruments, textiles and basket-making.

Funds Available:

Awards: A total of £7,500 is available.

The maximum award is £1,500 however, the panel may offer an amount other than that requested, based on how well the application meets key criteria, value for money and in context of demand for funds.

Deadline

Submissions must be received no later than:

Round 1: 5pm, Tuesday 2nd October 2018

Round 2: 5pm, Tuesday 5th February 2019

The awarding Panel will meet within four weeks of the deadline date. All applicants will receive notification of the panel's decision by email within 6 weeks of the deadline.

Who Can Apply

Artists working in contemporary visual arts and crafts who are residents of Aberdeenshire. The award schemes are intended to support practitioners who can demonstrate progression and development of practice and an ongoing commitment to their work. Previous recipients should give a clear case as to how this builds on previous support.

Exclusions

- Artists undertaking full time study.
- Applications submitted after the deadline date.
- Applications for projects already started or planned to start before the notification dates. Awards cannot be funded retrospectively.
- Previous recipients who have had two or more awards previously.
- Anyone directly involved in the Awards administration or selection process is automatically excluded from the scheme.
- Successful applicants must complete their project and submit a final report before applying to the scheme again.

Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following:

- The expected impact of support on the applicant's creative development.
- A level of commitment to developing skills and ideas and achieving a body of work out with formal education.
- The clarity of purpose behind the submission and the reasons given for applying for an award.
- The quality of information and material supplied in support of the application.

Given the high demand for the limited sums available, applicants should ensure that their submissions include a detailed budget and a clearly presented case for an Award.

How to Apply

Applications should be made by email using the Application Form to vacma@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

The supporting 6 images of visual material should be provided as either:

- Quality digital images or PowerPoint saved as Jpeg files, no more than 300kb per image. Please include titles.
- Digital Video lasting in total no more than 7 minutes, which may include edited pieces covering a variety of works

Aberdeenshire Council and Creative Scotland cannot accept responsibility for the delivery of submissions, or the potential damage or loss of submitted material by post. Original artwork will not be accepted in support of an application.

Applicants will receive an acknowledgement of receipt of application within 5 days of submission. If you do not receive an acknowledgement please contact council officers to ensure your application has been received.

The Assessment Process

Applications will be considered by an independent panel made up of members selected for their relevant experience in visual art and craft.

Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will be notified by mail and email. As a condition of accepting an award, successful applicants will be expected to:

- provide a detailed report on completion of the project, including visuals and marketing material (if applicable), such as catalogue, poster or media exposure.
- credit the scheme and its funders on any print or online publicity produced in support of the work.
- share preview invitations with the scheme funders.
- participate in any award scheme publicity generated by the funders.
- make the work available for exhibition in an Aberdeenshire venue at a future date, if appropriate.

Awards may be withheld or recalled for the following reasons:

- the application form is subsequently found to contain false or misleading information.
- the project cannot proceed, be completed or is cancelled prior to completion.
- if any of the conditions in the guidelines are not met.

For further information

For an informal discussion about the application procedure prior to making a submission, please contact vacma@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Details of all the VACMA schemes and further guidance can be found at: www.creativescotland.com/vacma

Additional Information: Helpful Hints

Written Application

- The information provided in your 30 word summary is used for reports to Creative Scotland, Council Committees and for the media. Think carefully about how you want you, your work and your project summarised and represented.
- Bear in mind that members of the awards panel may not know you or your work. This is your opportunity to introduce and contextualise your work.
- The term project is used to describe the work that you are applying for funding for.
- Please include a start and completion date with your project details. The project should ideally take place within a year from receipt of payment, although longer periods of time can be negotiated on an individual basis for exceptional circumstances.

Proposal

The award panel will consider key criteria that applicants should take into account to ensure that the submission presents clear and relevant information.

Quality: consider how you can best demonstrate the quality of your work. Clearly outline the philosophy behind your work and ensure that examples of previous work are presented in the highest possible quality and are reflective of your current artistic practice.

Innovation: the panel will be looking to allocate awards for work which is innovative. Include within your application what you feel is challenging, developmental or interesting about your work.

Development: the panel will carefully consider the level of development an artist will gain from any award. Consider to what extent will the proposed project further your creative and professional development and how can you clearly illustrate this within the application.

Future plans: it is important that you outline your plans beyond this award. Along with your detail on the level of development that would be gained from the award you should include details on how you propose to apply this development in the future.

Structure: your application should clearly demonstrate how you intend to use the award practically. While exact details such as material costs may be difficult to present you should include a structure for how any award will be used.

Commitment: the panel will consider from your overall application your commitment to your artistic practice. This consideration will draw upon the detail within your application on your creative development thus far and your plans for the future.

CV / Work History

- Start with your most recent qualification (don't include school achievements).
- Only include relevant arts-related work experience or jobs.
- Start your listings with your most recent exhibition / commission / project / publication and work back. List solo exhibitions and group exhibitions separately.
- Always include information on the venue you have held exhibitions at, the title and the month/year of the exhibition or project.
- Include membership of arts related organisations if applicable, and any position held within those groups.

Supporting Visual Material

- In order to be fair to all applicants the Panel will look at only 6 examples of work, whether or not you include more. Be selective and make sure you include the most relevant work to the written application.
- Please ensure that material is clearly labelled with your name, title of work and date.
- The photographic quality of the visuals that you provide should be as professionally presented as you can achieve.

Project Budget

The budget should list everything you need to realise your project, and how you propose to pay for the different aspects of it.

Expenditure should give details of what you need to make your project happen. Include everything involved from start to finish. These might include:

- Price of equipment that you are planning to purchase
- Materials required
- Studio costs
- Mentoring, master class or residency fees
- Cost of travel and/or accommodation for research purposes

Income should include the award scheme, any sponsorship, and other funding or financial support. It should also include in-kind costs – defined as something for which you need make no financial payment, such as technical support, donated materials, free access to specialist advice etc. Any of your own labour / time contributed is viewed as in-kind contribution and should also be recorded.

The total expenditure should equal the total cost. Applicants are not automatically expected to raise additional funds, sponsorship or secure in-kind support. However, evidence that an applicant has managed to do this further demonstrates a commitment to the project.