

Artist Opportunity: *mac*-lab
Monday 5th April until Saturday 10th April 2010



BACKGROUND

mac is an exciting arts centre based less than 2 miles from Birmingham city centre in the magnificent surroundings of Cannon Hill Park. *mac*'s mission is to '*promote innovative, creative arts activities in ways which help to establish them as an important part of people's lives*'.

mac will re-open in late Spring 2010 after a £15m makeover, with renewed and new facilities including a purpose-designed gallery and performing arts and media studios. Ongoing is *mac*'s commitment to support and invest in artists, from commissioning and production to professional development opportunities. Our remit embraces regional, national and international artists and makers, collaborators and producers, recognising those at varying stages of their creative career.

ARTIST BRIEF

mac invites applications from **artists in all disciplines** to apply for an intensive lab based residency at our new facilities in Birmingham. We want to hear from artists **that are interested in working outside of their normal practice or 'safe' area**. Open to any form of practice - we want applications from musicians, film-makers, visual artists, performers, live artists, photographers, digital media practitioners and anyone working across media.

mac-lab will be led by artist **Simon Poulter** and features an opportunity to be involved with the opening exhibition, entitled '*plug in!*'. The week long lab will include a final presentation day on Saturday 10th April 2010, with an invited audience where artists will have the opportunity to show work in progress and network.

Successful applicants will have a supported opportunity to make new work within *mac*'s new studios. They will have access to digital media equipment, space and first rate artist facilitators, providing a challenging and supportive environment. Selected projects may be developed after the lab and considered within our opening exhibition if appropriate, and we remain open to consider all ideas developed as part of our ongoing programme.

PLACES

There will be eight places available to artists resident or working in the West Midlands region and two places for artists located in other UK regions. International applications can be made but you will be required to fund your own inbound and outward travel to the UK and ensure that you have adequate VISA arrangements.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

The residency gives a range of access and availability to our studio and technical base during the lab time. We will provide facilitation and a work space for artists. For West Midlands based artists we will provide lunch and an evening meal but no accommodation. Artists attending from outside of the West Midlands region will be offered accommodation in Birmingham. You may choose to bring your own technical equipment, such as cameras and laptops but please ensure you have adequate insurance for it while on or off site.

Midlands Arts Centre

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Registered company no.
718349
Registered charity no. 528979
VAT no. 818 2851 16

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TO APPLY

Send us a short proposal no longer than two sides of A4. Within the proposal indicate a suggested research area or project. This may be something that you have not previously developed or been able to consider. For example, visual artists may wish to explore use of digital video, musicians may wish to explore online projects, and live artists may wish to look at alternative methods of production or distribution. We want you to think beyond your normal practice. We are not looking for post-production projects, DVD show-reels or promotional projects but new work.

There are no themes or restrictions on applications but successful applicants will be expected to achieve a pilot project within five days.

The opening show '*plug in*' will deal with globalisation and Birmingham's changing role as an industrial city. Artists may address issues of migration, economic change, post-industrialisation or narratives on changes in the city if they wish, but this is not a formal requirement of *mac*-lab.

Also send a current CV detailing recent work and landmarks in your practice (2 sides maximum).

You may submit an electronic application in which case ensure that proposal and CV are in Word or PDF format. Electronic submissions should submit web addresses as supporting evidence or files no greater than 10mb. You may send supporting media in digital format (mac or pc) but do not send any original works.

The closing date is **5pm on Monday 15 February 2010**. Selected applicants will be notified by Friday 19 February.

Applications can be emailed to craig.ashley@macarts.co.uk or posted to Craig Ashley, Producer (Visual Arts), *mac*, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham B12 9QH.

Due to the high number of applications anticipated we are not able to offer feedback to applications made but *mac* will be offering more opportunities to connect with our work in the near future, so please check our website for more details.

mac-lab: Supplementary Information

SELECTION PANEL

Craig Ashley, Producer (Visual Arts and Media), *mac*
Simon Poulter, Artist and *mac*-lab facilitator
Clayton Shaw, Operations Manager, SAMPAD
Paul Warwick, Co-director, China Plate Theatre

AVAILABILITY

If you are successful please ensure that you are available to attend **for the full period of the residency** (Monday 5th until Saturday 10th April 2010) and that you have no other commitments. *mac*-lab is an intensive environment that is best used as a respite from regular work.

ACCESS

mac is a fully accessible space with ramps and lifts to all locations. Successful artists will be asked to identify any specific support requirements to *mac* in advance of attending, in order to ensure quality facilitation and participation.