

# designers in residence

Call for entries - Designers in Residence 2019

---

Designers in Residence is an annual programme that promotes new and emerging design talent. Each year four designers are given a unique opportunity to develop a new body of work, which at the end of the residency, is exhibited to the public in a free showcase. The residents are encouraged to draw on the varied resources of the Design Museum, including the use of a designated studio located in the centre of the museum.

The following document provides further information about the programme and the application process for 2019

1. What is the Designers in Residence programme
2. Designers in Residence 2019 brief
3. Application Process
4. Entry requirements
5. Timeline and key dates
6. Designers in Residence 2018
7. Previous Designers in Residence exhibitions
8. About the Design Museum

# 1.

## what is the designers in residence programme?

Designers in Residence is a core part of the museum's programme. It has two main aims: to provide designers in the early stages of their careers, time and space away from their regular environment to develop their practice and produce new work, and to offer museum visitors an opportunity to engage with live design projects.

Each year the residency accommodates four designers, working in different disciplines, to further develop their individual responses to the theme and brief. Although they will be working independently, they are encouraged to come together and share skills and ideas.

The programme is relatively flexible, taking the needs of individuals and project specifics into account. Typically, however, residents would begin by refining their initial responses to the brief before a period of detailed research, development and testing. This programme culminates with a showcase in the Designers in Residence studio, exhibiting not only the finished works but the residents' process and research. This showcase is accompanied by a catalogue, which promotes the work of each designer, and raises their profile within the design community and the wider public.

Each resident is provided with a commissioning budget of £6,000, which goes directly towards producing the work that will be presented at the end of the residency. A bursary of £8,000 is also offered to support the development of their career and to fund their practice. This will be issued in agreed stages on appointment. The Design Museum manages the production costs associated with the showcase and the presentation of the work to the public.

The Designers in Residence Studio provides a place for the residents to work as well as a space to exhibit their finished projects. The studio will be managed in a way to ensure it is a productive space for the designers to work. As the residency is a public facing part of the museum's programme, there are regular 'open studio' sessions, where visitors are able to directly engage with the residents and their projects. We encourage proposals that make the most of this participatory engagement.

The museum draws on its contacts to connect the residents with external organisations, experts and established designers who may have knowledge and expertise relevant to each project. These conversations aim to promote critical dialogue, clarify intent and to resolve issues. Alongside these exchanges, they consult with the Design Museum's legal, commercial, development, learning and curatorial teams in order to gain a greater understanding of how their work fits within the museum's wider context.

To gain one of the coveted places on the programme, applicants must respond to an open submission and brief, set by the Design Museum. Previous briefs have covered site-specific interaction, collecting, community, thrift, the pursuit of imperfection, identity, disruption, migration and support. To be eligible, residents must live and work in the UK, have graduated within the last five years, and must have been working professionally (or voluntarily) in some form of design practice for at least a year.

## 2.

# the designers in residence theme 2019

For Designers in Residence 2019 the Design Museum invites designers and architects to respond to the theme '**COSMIC**'

Today designers are engaged in shaping life at every scale, from the micro to the macro. At one end of the spectrum, they use gene editing software and synthetic biology to develop biological parts and systems. At the other end, designers also collaborate with scientists and engineers to address planetary scale problems, such as designing for the Anthropocene – or, indeed, inter-planetary ones, such as space travel. The growing ambition to reach Mars – explored in our upcoming Mars exhibition – has opened a debate about the human colonisation of untouched planets. This cosmic scale of activity brings design into contact with science, ecology and the supernatural, and raises questions about what it means to be human. There are issues of under-representation here, with movements like afro-futurism imagining a more inclusive future. Meanwhile, the use of astrology, crystals, and meditation highlight our spiritual desire to believe in something 'bigger' than ourselves.

We encourage designers to interpret the brief as openly as possible.

# 3.

## application process

Now in its 12th year, the residency demonstrates the museum's commitment to showcasing and supporting the next generation of design talent. The residency is open to all designers who have graduated from Higher Education within the last five years (in the academic year 2013/14 or more recently) and who have been working professionally (either paid or voluntarily) in some form of design or architecture practice for a minimum of one year.

**Deadline for all applications, including their proposals based on the theme of 'Cosmic' is 9am, on Monday 11 February 2019. Entries received after this deadline will not be accepted.**

Designers must provide:

- a) A completed application form
- b) Accompanying visual material

The application form can be found here:

Please direct any queries about the application process or the Designers in Residence programme to the Design Museum email address:  
[residence2019@designmuseum.org](mailto:residence2019@designmuseum.org)

A shortlist of applicants will be invited for an interview in London on **w/c Monday 11 March 2019** to discuss their proposals with a panel of experts before the final group of four residents is selected. Please keep this day free in case you are selected.

It may be possible, given exceptional circumstances, for the interview to be conducted via Skype or conference calling.

## 4.

# entry requirements

- Designers in Residence is only open to designers who live and are eligible to work in the UK.
- Designers in Residence is only open to designers who have graduated from Higher Education within the last 5 years (within the 2013/14 academic year or more recently) and have been working professionally, either paid, or voluntarily in some form of design practice for at least one year.
- Applications can be submitted on behalf of design collectives/studios as well as individual designers.
- Only one application will be accepted per designer(s).
- Design Museum employees are not eligible to apply.
- Applications must be in response to the brief and feature new work or the development of an existing project. If an application is based on existing work the development of the work in response to the brief should be clear.
- Only applications submitted via email will be considered.
- If you are unable to attend the interview day, the museum may be unable to progress your application unless exceptional circumstances.
- In addition, the selected designers will be asked to participate in other activities in support of the launch and promotion of the programme.
- The selected designers will be asked to participate in events which engage with the Design Museum's audiences via networking, press interviews, events, online resources and the public and learning programme. Details of these events are tbc but may include attendance and participation in events in the lead up to, and during, the showcase. These will be discussed in more detail on appointment.
- Designers in Residence may be asked to record their residency by supplying information and visual content on the development of the commission for press, marketing and online content. As part of this they must be prepared to share their process and design thinking as part of the display of their work.

We strongly encourage designers from all protected classes to apply.

Further details and full terms and conditions can be found on our website.

## 5.

# timeline and key dates

9am 11 February 2019	Deadline for applications
27 February 2019	Designers shortlisted for next stage and interview day will be notified
w/c 11 March 2019	Interview day for shortlisted applicants
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	The final selected designers will be notified
late March/ early April 2019 *	Public announcement of the four successful residents.
Late April – November 2019	Project development phase (includes the initial research, design development and production of final pieces)  Designers are expected to be available for meetings and updates throughout this period and throughout the development phase.
November – March 2020*	Presentation of the output in response to the theme

**\*Exact days to be confirmed on appointment**

## 6.

# designers in residence 2018

The current showcase of work from this year's cohort of Designers in Residence opened on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and runs until 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The theme for 2018 was 'Dwelling' and the featured residents are Hester Buck, Ella Bulley, Legrand Jäger and Helga Schmid. You can learn more about the exhibition and their commissions here:

<https://designmuseum.org/exhibitions/designers-in-residence-2018-dwelling>

# 7.

## designers in residence alumni

We are extremely proud of the designers that have been part of the residency programme over the 11 years many of whom have progressed and forged successful careers within their field. Some alumni from the residency include: Asif Khan, Bethan Laura Wood, Giles Miller, Sarah van Gameren, Tomas Alonso, Yuri Suzuki, Adrian Westaway.

Information on the designers and the work commissioned can be found on here: <https://designmuseum.org/designers>



Benchmark, Freddie Yauner, 2008.



Harvest, Asif Khan, 2009



Farm Factory, Farm, 2010



Uno Lampshades, Jade Folawiyo, In Pursuit of Imperfection, 2011



2012 Designers in Residence exhibition – Thrift



2013 Designers in Residence exhibition – Identity



Nook, Torsten Sherwood, Disruption, 2014

## 8.

# about the design museum

The **Design Museum** is the world's leading museum of architecture and design. Since it opened its doors in 1989 the museum has displayed everything from an AK-47 to high heels designed by Christian Louboutin and its critically acclaimed exhibition programme has toured to more than 85 venues in 20 countries. The Design Museum's home on Kensington High Street plays host to a vibrant and engaging exhibition programme that champions design using multiple perspectives – cultural, social, economic and technological. It acts as a catalyst, a must-visit destination, a think tank and a debating chamber. A wide-ranging learning programme offers transformative learning experiences about design as an active force for change, delivering the museum's mission, that everybody understands the value of design.

[www.designmuseum.org](http://www.designmuseum.org)

#designersinresidence

The DESIGN MUSEUM,

224-238 Kensington High Street, London W8 6AG

OPENING: 10.00 -18.00 daily.



Designers in Residence studio, and showcase 2016.