

SWISS CHURCH RESIDENCY PROGRAMME 2021



Throughout its history, the Swiss Church London has fostered a dialogue between art and faith, between parishioners and cultural practitioners coming to the space. Therefore, the Swiss Church continues to contribute towards current and broad socio-political conversations within an increasingly secular society.

RESIDENCY 2021

The Swiss Church invites artists to apply for a three-month residency from March to May 2020. The artists will have access to the Church over this period and a workspace can be arranged if wished. An opportunity to be mentored by an appropriate Swiss Church committee member can also be requested. Artists from all artistic disciplines as well as curators are encouraged to apply. The artist in residence is asked to share extracts of their work with the public at the end of the residency.

The chosen artist in residence will receive a stipend of £1,500.

THEME

In recent years we have invited artists to respond to a specific theme. For 2021 we would like to broaden the criteria and allow artists the opportunity to creatively respond to the history, architecture, location and community of the Swiss Church.

The building has recently been renovated by the Swiss architects Christ and Gantenbein, architects currently involved in the extension of the Kunstmuseum Basel and recommended to the Swiss Church by Herzog and De Meuron, architects of Tate Modern. Their brief was to blend a modern space for the showing of contemporary art with the old structure, highlighting the 19th Century elements of this listed building.

This seamless blend of the cultural and the sacred we believe creates a unique and transformative space, offering artists across the spectrum a new perspective in these bleak and pessimistic times.

WHO WE ARE

The Swiss Church in London is an open, creative and accessible space in a beautiful Grade II listed building set in the heart of London's vibrant Covent Garden. As a Church, we are rooted in the Swiss Reformation, welcoming people from all paths of life and from all church traditions or none regardless of age, race, gender or sexual orientation. We recognise the importance of offering hospitality in a city that can be isolating and impersonal. People often talk about the feeling of serenity they experience when walking through the doors of the Swiss Church. It is a light and spacious place of calm in the busyness of London life and a troubled world. Our community outreach and cultural programme creates a melting pot of people who would not usually meet.

Arts and music connect to the story of our society and culture. We create a threshold between the sacred and secular worlds, exploring the common ground and what Christianity means to us today.

Application deadline: 26 November 2020, at midnight GMT

Successful applicants will be contacted by 15 December 2020. Unsuccessful shortlisted artists will be able to request feedback. Please note that the Swiss Church Arts Committee is unable to enter into any correspondence about decisions taken in committee meetings concerning the selection of projects.

THE PROJECT MUST:

1. Demonstrate a high standard of artistic quality or specialist skill
2. Be considerate of the place in subject and professional in implementation
3. Be accessible to the public
4. Promote sustainability and be socially inclusive
5. Be submitted in ENGLISH
6. Be submitted by the relevant deadline (see dates listed above). Applications submitted at a later stage cannot be considered
7. The successful applicant will be required to work at the Swiss Church in London for a minimum of two days per week.