**SWISS CHURCH RESIDENCY PROGRAMME 2019/20**

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.

**RESIDENCIES 2019/20**

The Swiss Church invites artists to apply for two three-month residencies from August to October 2019, and from April to June 2020. The artists will have access to the Church over this period and a workspace can be arranged if wished. 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**

**UNDER ATTACK**

Increasingly in recent years acts of terror are fanning hate and sparking the desire for retaliation, and crimes are committed in the name of one god or another. In recent years cultural identity as well as religious beliefs have been debated in many forums. Communities find themselves associated with world views which often have little to do with how they perceive and understand themselves and the world around them. What happens to us if places within which we feel recognized, which imbue us with a sense of solidarity, which stimulate and foster contemplation – places within which we feel safe – are under attack?

Both residencies are linked to a theme chosen by Reverend Carla Maurer, and we invite applicants to take the chosen topic into consideration. In her own words:

“A few weeks ago during Sunday service I wondered how it would feel if a gunman opened fire or a bomb detonated in the midst of our church. I thought of the many worshippers who fell victim in recent terrorist attacks in Christchurch, Sri Lanka and San Diego who had experienced exactly this. King Solomon said to his people*, I have built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever (1 Kings 8:13)*. Yet the Temple of Jerusalem was destroyed twice and places of worship of all religious beliefs have become targets for extremists in recent times. Places of worship are supposed to be safe spaces and provide communities with an opportunity to worship and gather in mutual respect. Safe space is a fundamental human need and key for our mental and physical health, to function well and to live in peace with ourselves and with others. But spaces which provide just that are increasingly under threat. What happens to us if our safe spaces are under attack?”

**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: 9 June 2019**

Successful applicants will be contacted by 14 June 2019. 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.

We take good care of your personal information. For details of our data privacy policy, **please click here (LINK SCL GDPR statement).**

## Project Submission to the Swiss Church London

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| **Applicant**  Name(s) of applicant  Full Address  Tel  Email  Website |  |
| **Please state your preferred residency period**  (August to October 2019  or April to June 2020) |  |
| **Name(s) of other artist(s) involved in the project**  (please submit short biographies and web links) |  |
| **Project Title** |  |
| **Short summary of project and use of space**  (max. 500 words) |  |
| **Please state how your project relates to the theme or the space**  (max. 500 words) |  |
| **Please state how you will use the stipend**  (e.g. living costs, material for installation/body of work, artist fees etc.) |  |
| **Please give an indication about how you will share the result of your residency with the public of the Swiss Church London**  (e.g. reading, exhibition, digital, public sharing/performance etc.) |  |
| **Communication**  (please state how you will grant the Church visibility after the residency is finished, use of Swiss Church logo and your engagement in social media and further communication etc.) |  |
| **Other project partners** |  |
| **Other financial partners/sponsors/ contributors**  (incl. support in kind, outstanding sponsorship proposals to third parties and confirmed support) |  |

**Date:** **Signed by the applicant:**

**Please send your application, enclosing any supporting documentation e.g. professional biographies, further research,**

preferably by email to: art@swisschurchlondon.org.uk