

Crafting Futures Mexico 2019 Scotland Residency DESIGNER BRIEF



1. INTRODUCTION

Crafting Futures is a global British Council programme spanning over 10 countries in Asia, Middle East – North Africa and Latin America. For further information visit: <https://design.britishcouncil.org/projects/crafting-futures/>. The **Crafting Futures Mexico** programme started in 2017. In 2019, it will be expanded to include a Scotland-based residency delivered in partnership with Applied Arts Scotland.

The British Council and Applied Arts Scotland are inviting proposals from Scottish designer/makers to take part in a textiles-focused residency in Scotland during 18th-26th September 2019. This residency will incorporate studio visits and workshop developmental time to work on a collaborative co-creation project. The Mexican designers and artisans have been selected by Applied Arts Scotland and the British Council based on their textile-related experience, and have participated in Crafting Futures Mexico in previous years.

A separate call will be issued for participants in the Mexico 2019 residency (taking place in Oaxaca, Mexico during November 2019), and you are welcome to apply to take part in one or both residencies. Selection for each residency will take place separately, and applicants may be selected for one or both opportunities.

2. OBJECTIVES

Crafting Futures Mexico: Scotland 2019 is an experimental collaboration developed by the British Council in collaboration with Applied Arts Scotland and facilitated by Oax-i-fornia. It brings together two designer/makers practicing in Scotland with a Mexican designer, design graduate and artisan from Oaxaca, Mexico. The goal of the Scotland residency, and the Crafting Futures Mexico programme, is to investigate collaborative design and creativity as tools for social change and cultural engagement. This first Scotland residency will focus on textiles, and applicants should be able to demonstrate an interest in textiles practice.

As a creative exchange, the Crafting Futures Mexico programme proposes a unique strategy that moves away from the typical designer/producer relationship found in Mexico (in which the designers design, and the artisans make the finished pieces) towards a shared space of interaction and creative making in which the goals are established collaboratively. The residency's intention is not to supplant the traditional visual language of any craft but to enrich it by co-creating an alternative to what already exists.

Crafting Futures Mexico residencies take the existing bodies of work of all residents as a starting point for creative dialogue. The idea is to re-think form, material and technique through experiment and play, leading to the collaborative design and creation of new work. The Scotland residency will provide a forum in which to share expertise and ideas between countries/cultures and across the Crafting Futures Mexico programme, enabling the development of plans for the co-creation of object(s) beyond the residency. The intention is that these objects will form part of a travelling "Crafting Futures" exhibition in 2020 (subject to separate funding).

The main objectives of the Scotland 2019 residency include:

- **the development of a rich cross-cultural collaboration** in which all residents participate as equals;
- **the continued development and exploration of experience and knowledge** gained from previous Crafting Futures Mexico Projects in relation to traditional and contemporary textile design and creation;
- **providing a space for design exploration and creative freedom** while pushing the boundaries of the materials and techniques at hand;
- **the generation of new ideas for co-creation of objects**, designed in collaboration between Scottish and Mexican residents;

3. CONTEXT

With a history of thousands of years of traditional craft and artistic production, Oaxaca's cultural wealth is unparalleled in almost all the world. The variety and quality of its crafts, including weaving, ceramics, wood carving, and a vast multitude of others, are internationally famous. Also remarkable is that all layers of its artistic history—ancient, colonial, and modern—remain alive and in constant relation to one another. Alongside its traditional crafts, the city of Oaxaca is home to a sophisticated contemporary arts and design community. Furthermore, Oaxaca is the most culturally diverse state of Mexico, home to 16 indigenous groups, all of whom maintain their distinct languages, dress, gastronomy, and traditional ways of producing craft, by some of the best artisans in Mexico today.

Scotland also has an international reputation of outstanding craftsmanship in textile design and production, contemporary arts, traditional crafts and gastronomy, spread across rural and urban geographies. The differences in climate and cultures between Scotland and Mexico are considerable. It is the exposure to the extremity of contrast that will lead to the participants of this residency being inspired to collaboratively create new work.

4. PROJECT STRUCTURE

ELIGIBILITY:

In order to be selected, you must be eligible for full membership of Applied Arts Scotland. For details, see <https://www.appliedartsscotland.org.uk/members/membership-information/>.

PARTICIPANTS:

2 Scotland-based designer/makers and three previous Crafting Futures Mexico participants (1 designer/maker; 1 design graduate; 1 artisan) – assembled in two teams:

A- Scotland-based designer/maker with Mexican designer/maker.

B- Scotland-based designer/maker with Mexican design graduate and artisan.

DURATION:

Nine days, 18th-26th September 2019.

PROGRAMME:

The residency will be split across two sites in Scotland: Ness on the Isle of Lewis in the Western Isles; and Braemar in Royal Deeside, north east Scotland. Residents will live and work together throughout the residency, providing an opportunity to explore each other's cultures and modes of living and working. At both sites, residents will be able to interact with the local culture through guided visits to cultural sites and studios of Scottish textile designer/makers. The aim of these visits is to provide inspiration for the development of new creative work and opportunities to consider new ways of working. Half of the time will be allocated to studio working, during which teams can begin to develop ideas for collaborative co-creation of object(s) for exhibition as part of the "Crafting Futures" exhibition in June 2020. The residency will end with a critical feedback session before the residents return to their own homes to further develop ideas and create objects.

DELIVERABLES/OBJECTIVES:

The aim of this residency is for creative exploration, first and foremost, achieved through co-creation of object(s). To this end, each team will be responsible for collaboratively developing the ideas for at least one object during the residency, and creating object(s) inspired by the residency before 30th April 2020.

5. THE RESIDENCY

The residency support for the Scottish designer/makers will consist of:

1. **local transportation** between your home and the residency sites in Scotland;
2. **shared accommodation** in Ness and Braemar with the Mexican residents, translator and facilitator;
3. **subsistence** during the residency (meals and local transportation for site visits);
4. **advice, contacts and support** from Applied Arts Scotland;
5. **materials and production costs** covered during the residency; and
6. **maker's bursary** to support post-residency production of object(s).

Please note that you will need to arrange your own travel insurance for this trip, if required.

The designer/makers are expected to

1. **be able to travel to Ness and Braemar** for the residency between **18th and 26th September 2019** (inclusive);
2. **commit time before the project** for preparation and research, including briefing/prep sessions with British Council and Applied Arts Scotland (via Skype or video conference);
3. **be available for the duration of the residency**, and actively engage with all activities;
4. **create collaboratively-designed objects** after the residency, including ongoing discussion with other team members;
5. **participate in the documentation, wrap-up and evaluation** of the programme;
6. **comprehensively document their observations during and after the residency**, to be published via British Council and Applied Arts Scotland websites and social media channels.

6. HOW TO APPLY

Submissions are accepted via email only and must be sent in a single .zip archive folder no larger than 5MB in total. Please format all written material as a single PDF document.

Completed applications should be sent to **hello@appliedartsscotland.org.uk** by **4pm (GMT) on 24th July 2019**. Successful applicants will be notified by **31st July 2019**.

The following materials should be included in your application:

1. **Statement:**
Please provide a brief description (maximum one page) of (1) your current practice and the broader context of your work, research, and/or interests, and (2) how you expect this residency will impact on your practice in the short- and long-term.
2. **Curriculum Vitae:**
Describe your background to a maximum length of three pages. Please include all relevant contact information, including links to website and social media, if applicable.
3. **Supporting material:**
If necessary, please submit up to fifteen pieces of additional support material, including digital images, videos, or audio clips or links to video and audio work hosted online with a corresponding numbered image list. The panel will review up to a maximum of five minutes of time-based work.

7. SELECTION

Final selection will be made by the project team:

- **Lynne Mennie**, Applied Arts Scotland
- **Netty Sopata**, Applied Arts Scotland
- **María García Holley**, Head of Arts, British Council Mexico

8. PRESS AND PUBLICITY

The selected designer/makers are expected to agree to any reasonable requests for press or media, and to discuss media coverage with the British Council and Applied Arts Scotland. Press information will be agreed upon and released by the British Council and Applied Arts Scotland.

9. NOTES

Partner information:

British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We are on the ground in six continents and over 100 countries, bringing international opportunity to life, every day. The programmes we initiate to do this are wide-ranging and cover the Arts, Education & Society, and English & Exams.

The British Council's Architecture Design Fashion (ADF) department creates links between designers and cultural institutions around the world, through a diverse range of projects across the three disciplines. Recent projects include the *International Fashion Showcase*, the *Maker Library Network* and *New British Inventors: Inside Heatherwick Studio*. For more information on our work in architecture, design and fashion please visit:

<http://design.britishcouncil.org/>

The British Council Mexico's arts programme centres around fostering links between the cultural sectors in the UK and Mexico, with emphasis on entrepreneurship, innovation and social inclusion, in addition to presenting the best of UK arts and culture to Mexican audiences. For more information, visit <https://www.britishcouncil.org.mx/en/programmes/arts>.

Oax-i-fornia

Oax-i-fornia is a project founded in 2005 using play as a catalyst for collaboration and exchange between artisans, designers, and artists. Directed by designer Raul Cabra, the project is based at the Ex-Hacienda de Guadalupe in San Jerónimo Tlacoahuaya, fifteen miles from Oaxaca city centre. The Ex-Hacienda is a 300-year-old stone house in close proximity to the artisan communities with whom we work, to the shifting histories of the Valley of Oaxaca, and to the dramatic natural landscape that has shaped human culture in Oaxaca for millennia. Long-standing relationships have been developed with many artisan families in the neighbouring towns help facilitate a productive and respectful opportunity for collaboration with visiting designers and residents.

A primary goal for Oax-i-fornia and all of the projects endorsed by the Ex-Hacienda Guadalupe is to create social benefit and have a positive impact in the communities with which they work. This residency in collaboration with the British Council is an important component of that goal.

<http://www.oaxifornia.org/>

Applied Arts Scotland

Applied Arts Scotland is a membership organisation run by makers for makers giving an authentic, collective and professional voice for the sector and delivering tangible benefits to the professional maker community in Scotland. We nurture the creative heart and soul of making practice, celebrate expertise, and facilitate practical opportunities for creative and professional development.

<https://www.appliedartsscotland.org.uk/>

For further information or enquiries please contact:

Lynne Mennie and Netty Sopata

Applied Arts Scotland

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