

## **Curatorial Bursary Callout**

Two Queens is seeking to award two curatorial bursaries to emerging Midlands based curators who are Black, Asian or from a Minority Ethnicity (Global Majority) background.

### **Opportunity**

These bursaries will allow two curators a six month period of research, mentoring and project planning to each curate a group exhibition.

Each bursary carries a fixed fee of £2500, (indicative of approximately 25 days work at £125/day, but recipients may scale this workload to a degree they feel is appropriate to their level of experience). Projects can be newly developed for this programme or part of a continuing body of research and practice.

Recipients will be supported by Two Queens staff through the development, production, administration and marketing of the exhibition, as well as related events and learning programme. Recipients will also have the option to access Serendipity's archive in Leicester for the purposes of research, which encompasses the history of African and Caribbean communities in the East Midlands.

Two Queens will not prescribe the nature of recipients' projects, but will work to collaboratively develop the project, ensuring benefit to participating artists and audiences. Each exhibition will carry additional budgets of £2500 for artist fees and £4000 for production, plus marketing and technical support. We envision that these exhibitions will include up to four emerging artists.

### **Background**

These bursaries are part of a programme aiming to increase agency and create quality, meaningful opportunities for artists, curators and audiences from groups that have been historically under-represented in contemporary visual art spaces.

Discourse emerging from Black Lives Matter's activities throughout 2020 highlighted for us the importance of creating positions of power and agency within visual arts organisations in order to enact sustained anti-racist practices in our programmes. We worked together as a team and with our community of studio holders and associate members to draft a Social Justice and Anti-Racism commitment, identifying additional measures we needed to implement in our work going forwards. Through this programme we are working to implement some of these measures, specifically developing our approaches to ensuring diverse representation and building the agency of practitioners and audiences from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity (Global Majority) backgrounds within our programmes.

This will be our first time working with and supporting external curators within our programmes. Two Queens is a small organisation and this project is part of working towards creating additional, secure staff positions - this project's curatorial bursaries will provide paid work and experience for practitioners, enhancing their ability to access secure employment in future, to undertake development of their professional skills, and lay the foundations for more permanent posts at Two Queens in the future.

## **Application Process**

We are keen to run this open call in a manner which acknowledges the excess labour of applications and minimises input required from applicants.

The first stage of applications is a call for expressions of interest. Ideally we would like to receive these by email, but other formats are possible with prior agreement.

Your expression of interest should include:

- A CV detailing your curatorial and/or artistic experience, preferably attached as a PDF.
- Links to websites and/or social media showing past projects you feel are relevant. This could also be formatted as a PDF portfolio if you would prefer.
- A short covering statement (no more than 250 words, or up to 10 minutes voice recording/video), explaining how you feel the bursary would be of benefit to you and your practice. This can be in the email or a separate document.

Emails should be sent to [info@2queens.com](mailto:info@2queens.com) with 'Curatorial Bursary' in the subject heading. Initial pre-application enquiries should be made to the same email address. A floorplan and indicative images of our gallery can be downloaded at <https://2queens.com/faq>

Please also complete our recruitment questionnaire at: <https://forms.gle/TviUX9xv1RzbyigH6>

**Deadline for expressions of interest is 11.59pm, Sunday 21 November.**

From this first round, we will invite up to four applicants to develop a short proposal for their project, each receiving a fee of £125 for this work and to attend a meeting.

Throughout this programme we are working with R.I.P Germain as an embedded artist and advisor, also assisting with the selection of curatorial bursary recipients.

## **Eligibility**

- For the purposes of this opportunity, we are defining 'emerging' as within the first ten years of curatorial practice. You might have an additional practice (for example as an

artist), but we are primarily looking for those who have some previous curatorial experience.

- Recipients should be primarily living and/or working in the UK Midlands (East and West Midlands counties included).
- This opportunity is for those who identify as Black, Asian or from a Minority Ethnicity (Global Majority) background.
- We particularly encourage applications from those who feel that intersecting socio-economic factors have negatively impacted their progression as a curator (for example, but not limited to; social class, disability, neurodivergence, sexual orientation, gender identity, age and caring responsibilities).

### **Timescales**

Expression of Interest Deadline	21st November 2021
Second Round applications invited	w/b 22nd November
Second Round proposals presented	w/b 6th December
Bursaries awarded	w/b 13th December

Exhibition one	late May - early July 2022
Exhibition two	late July - early September 2022

**Please note:** The Curatorial Bursary will be paid in instalments throughout the project. Recipients will be contracted on a freelance basis and will be responsible for their own income tax and national insurance contributions in relation to project fees.

It is anticipated that the majority of the project will take place working remotely, but hotdesking space at Two Queens is available if needed.

### **About Two Queens**

Two Queens is an artist-run Gallery and Studio complex based in Leicester. We provide 52 affordable studio spaces for emerging artists and an associate membership scheme for a wider community of over 120 artists. We have been programming contemporary visual art exhibitions and events since 2011 and have held over 50 exhibitions and worked with over 250 artists. Our exhibition programme has an emphasis on working with artists who are at a pivotal point in establishing their practice, and we seek to provide a supportive and nurturing environment for artist development.

Alongside our exhibitions we also offer an art-based learning programme, focusing on free family art activities and artist development workshops for east midlands-based practicing artists. We work in partnership with prominent local venues on initiatives to share local audiences, such as Leicester Art Week and Cultural Quarter Earlies/Lates.

[www.2queens.com](http://www.2queens.com)