

Press Release

6th September 2023

REFLECTOR

Launch of a new professional development programme and residency for emerging artists from diverse backgrounds, supported by Art Fund's Reimagine programme

GRAIN Projects and The New Art Gallery Walsall are delighted to announce the launch of REFLECTOR, a programme for and led by diverse artists, designed to empower artists and create new opportunities for collaboration and career development.

The programme will be holistic, based on need and will include mentoring, masterclasses, gallery tours, portfolio reviews, networking and bursaries to create new work. The activities will provide opportunities for participants to take their career and creativity to the next level, learning directly from inspiring artists, mentors, projects and events. Participants will also receive support in developing CVs, statements, portfolios and creating new work for exhibition.

As part of REFLECTOR, the organisations will provide an inclusive Professional Development Residency that is open to emerging artists, curators and producers working with photography, that contributes to their career development, skills, knowledge and opportunities for the future.

The programme will be of the highest quality building on GRAIN and The New Art Gallery Walsall's excellent work over the last eight years, supporting and developing artists through activities that include masterclasses, mentoring, internships, bursaries, residencies, portfolio reviews and advice sessions.

Up to 20 participants will be recruited to take part in the 10-month programme via a national Open Call Applications will open in September 2023 and will be promoted widely. All the participants will be awarded a £1000 bursary to support their involvement.

REFLECTOR is a partnership between GRAIN Projects and The New Art Gallery Walsall, supported by Art Fund's Reimagine programme.

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For more information on the project and images please contact Nicola.shipley@grainphotographyhub.co.uk or on 07791 074108.

About GRAIN Projects

GRAIN Projects is an arts organisation specialising in contemporary photography. GRAIN provides a platform, hub and network for photography and delivers a range of visual arts opportunities and activities regionally, nationally and internationally. GRAIN commissions new ambitious work, facilitates engaging and high quality projects, curates exhibitions and events, supports artists and engages with communities and audiences. GRAIN deliver an extensive Professional Development Programme for artists including masterclasses, bursaries, internships, artist talks, mentoring and advice sessions. The programme is collaborative and provides new ways to engage with photography for everyone. GRAIN are supported by Arts Council England and Birmingham City University.
www.grainphotographyhub.co.uk

About The New Art Gallery Walsall

The New Art Gallery Walsall presents, collects and interprets historic, modern and contemporary art in innovative and challenging ways, welcoming visitors from all over the globe as well as our immediate locality. They aim to increase the understanding and enjoyment of arts and culture through a dynamic exhibition, education and events programme. The Gallery supports artists at every stage of their career. During REFLECTOR, they will present *The World That Belongs To Us*, a major international exhibition developed with Pakistani curator Aziz Sohil, which will bring together a constellation of intergenerational artists from the South Asian diasporas of the UK, USA and Canada. The exhibition will provide significant context for the residency.

The New Art Gallery Walsall is funded by revenue support from Walsall Council and Arts Council England. The New Art Gallery Walsall is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

Open: Tuesday – Saturday 10am-5pm; Sundays 12-4pm.

Closed Mondays and Bank Holidays.

Free admission

www.thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk

About Art Fund

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. It provides millions of pounds every year to help museums to acquire and share works of art across the UK, further the professional development of their curators, and inspire more people to visit and enjoy their public programmes. Art Fund is independently funded, supported by Art Partners, donors, trusts and foundations and the 135,000 members who buy the National Art Pass, who enjoy free or discounted entry to over 850 museums, galleries and historic places, 50% off major exhibitions, and receive Art Quarterly magazine. Art Fund also supports museums through its annual prize, Art Fund Museum of the Year. The winner of Art Fund Museum of the Year 2023 is The Burrell Collection. www.artfund.org

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The New
Art Gallery
Walsall