‘Our Shared Future’

**Artist Residency - Refugee Week 2017**

**Deadline: 21 May 2017**

**Please send questions and applications to:** huanjen.guo@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk

**Successful candidates will be notified by 31 May**

**The residency will run from 19 to 23 June**

**We invite applications from artists and creative practitioners working in any art form or discipline for a Refugee Week project. We particularly welcome applications from those with specific refugee or asylum seeker experience, be it as a personal experience or having worked with the refugee community.**

**About Refugee Week**

Refugee Week takes place every year across the world in the week around World Refugee Day on 20 June. In the UK, Refugee Week is a nationwide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK, and encourage a better understanding between communities.

Refugee Week started in 1998 as a direct reaction to hostility in the media and society in general towards refugees and asylum seekers. An established part of the UK’s cultural calendar, Refugee Week is now one of the leading national initiatives working to counter this negative climate, defending the importance of sanctuary and the benefits it can bring to both refugees and host communities. This year Refugee Week runs from 19 to 25 June. (<http://refugeeweek.org.uk/about-us/>)

**About Us & Our Project**

Our mission is to share the stories of refugees, focusing on communities within Manchester; to celebrate our shared futures and explore the paths that brought us here. Our key theme is ‘Home is…’, using the notion of home as a framework to make the topic of migration more accessible and to explore the complexity of the issues surrounding refugees and asylum seekers. We are running a week long exhibition and a series of events at Z-arts focussing on these themes. The main event, on 23rd June is the Refugee Week Cultural Festival, an event co-produced with Manchester Refugee Support Network (MRSN). This event will be where you showcase your work. The aims of the Cultural Festival are to:

* Bring together the different communities involved with MRSN, Z-arts, and the University of Manchester
* Raise awareness of the cultural contribution of the refugee community to Manchester through showcasing the culture, talents, and skills of the local refugee community
* Promote and raise awareness of the work of MRSN and other refugee organisations in Manchester, and encourage people to get involved or volunteer with them
* Promote a positive image of refugees
* Create a light-hearted celebratory atmosphere where members of the community come together to share and celebrate the different cultures and identities that form part of the refugee community in Manchester and the Manchester community as a whole
* Promote the idea that refugees in Manchester are part of the wider community and to promote inclusion, whilst acknowledging their individual backgrounds, experiences, histories, and cultures
* Create greater feelings of integration and inclusion amongst refugee communities in Manchester

**About the Residency**

This is a sprint residency where you will be asked to create a piece of art in a short period of time. There are spots available, which will run simultaneously. The residency will begin on the 19th of June with attendance at the launch event for the exhibition, and will run through 23rd June when the work produced will be presented at the Refugee Week Cultural Festival. The work can either be developed individually or in collaboration with the other sprint resident.

Residency holders will each receive:

* £300 (this fee covers expenses)
* Workspace in the Z-arts atrium, an open space which can be viewed by the public (<http://www.z-arts.org/hire-spaces/atrium/>)
* Support from the exhibition and event programme team
* Access to information from MRSN
* The opportunity to collaborate with another artist

Requirements:

* You must be over 18
* Performances and rehearsals will be recorded and used by us and MRSN for marketing and archival purposes. If you are not comfortable with this then please specify in your application
* You must be available for the dates specified and willing to take part in interviews for marketing purposes.
* You should also be sensitive to the challenges and issues that the refugee community faces.
* Please be aware that the workspace we are offering in Z-arts is an open space which can be viewed from the main entrance by all visitors to the venue. If you wish to make use this of space to develop your work you must be comfortable with working in this open environment.

‘Our Shared Future’ Application Form

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| Why are you interested in this project? (max 250 words) |
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| What is your refugee experience/what previous experience do you have working with refugees? (max 250 words) |
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| What art forms would you want to use and can you provide your own materials? |
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| Can you provide links to your previous work or any performances? |
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| **Artist Details** |
| Title |  |
| First Name/ Last Name |  |
| Age |  |
| Email |  |
| Phone Number |  |
| Address |  |

By signing this application form, I accept all of the terms and conditions of entry listed above.
Sign

Signed:

Date: