

UAL x Italian Cultural Institute Artist in Residence Call-out 2026

Exploring Place through painting and its expanded field
November 2026



Ubuntu Exhibition Opening - 2025. Images by Dien Berziga

A four-week residency for an early career Italian artist in the heart of Camberwell, London. Offering the opportunity to develop a new body of work that responds to the locality and theme of Place in a studio setting, with time to focus on developing their practice.

Artist in Residence Brief

We are excited to announce a new international collaboration between Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts London and the Italian Cultural Institute in London.

We would like to invite you to be the first artist to take part in this artist residency that begins in 2026, providing the opportunity for an Italian national, living and working in Italy, to spend 4 weeks in London at Camberwell College of Arts from Monday 2 November to Friday 27 November 2026.

This opportunity is open to early career Italian artists under the age of 40, with an expanded painting practice, which may incorporate mediums such as film, performance, installation, print, technology. This is an opportunity to work with the local community to develop work at scale. We hope this will offer valuable space, time and resource to develop work that responds to the theme of 'Place.'

Place is a key concern for our work in Camberwell Space. At Camberwell College of Arts, we think about social responsibility and have strong connections with the local neighbourhood and arts ecosystem. Camberwell and nearby Peckham are diverse and culturally rich. Peckham is home to one of the largest Nigerian diaspora communities in the UK and down the road, Elephant and Castle hosts London's second largest Latin American communities. In the borough more widely over 120 languages are spoken.

We ask you to respond to, critically engage with and explore Place broadly. You might want to think about the following themes: people, relationships, culture, shared local and global histories and traditions, identity, belonging and transnational exchange within the city. We encourage you to consider:

- How place can be a site of struggle where different groups negotiate power versus a melting pot where diverse people and cultures mix.
- How language shapes cultural identity.
- Oral histories, stories and collective memories.
- Regeneration (a holistic process of improving a neighbourhood's physical, economic, and social conditions) versus gentrification (a specific, often negative, outcome of regeneration where new, wealthier residents move in, displacing lower-income residents, leading to cultural shifts, increased costs and changing the area's character.)
- What it means to be an international artist coming into a community for a short-term period. How might that shape interactions and encounters with the people there.

- Community engagement and the importance of relationship building.

Please refer to the appendix for more information about Camberwell Space, the local area, population and history which will support you to respond to the theme of place.

You will be supported to engage with Camberwell College of Arts' student and academic community, as well as working with the university's public engagement team to engage the wider local community (see further details in Tables A and B).

The residency is led and supported by members of the university's Fine Art and Public Engagement teams.

A) The successful applicant will be offered the following residency support:

Artist fee:	£2,000 (this fee includes travel, visa costs and subsistence, 1 x student focused delivery e.g. artist talk and 1 x public activities/workshop.)
Flights:	£600 (round trip flights)
Accommodation:	2-bedroom flat with kitchen in central Pimlico location of Chelsea College of Arts UAL (in kind value of £2,500 based on Airbnb research, 30 min bus ride from Camberwell and 5 min walk from tube station)
Free studio space:	Free studio at Camberwell Space for 4-weeks (approximately 98m ² , in kind value of £1-1,750 based on UAL room hire rates)
Production:	£1,400 (to cover material and production costs resulting from the residency)
Public events & activity costs:	£3,400 (to cover workshop/event materials, refreshments, event staffing, photography and final event/open studio/work-in-progress show)
Mentoring and Resources:	Curatorial and networking support from the Fine Art team within UAL and London; opportunity to engage with UAL

PhD and researchers, practitioners and students; access to UAL Library

Support from the Public Engagement team:

To include regular check ins and mentoring sessions to support you with the 'Place' brief and engagement with public audiences and the local community

B) What we expect from you?

Create a new body of work that responds to the theme of **Place**

Use Camberwell Space at least 3 days a week as a working studio – we want you to feel comfortable and able to experiment and work with materials, process, scale etc. (*Please note, Camberwell College of Arts is open from Monday to Friday: 8am to 9pm, Saturday: 10am to 6pm and Sunday: Closed*)

Engage with students, academics and artists at the college through one or more artist talks in collaboration with the Fine Art team

Work with the university's public engagement team to identify appropriate opportunities to work with local community audiences

Run at least one practical workshop or exchange with local young people living in Camberwell/Peckham

Present the work through a final event or open studio or work-in-progress show at **Camberwell Space** during the residency period

Participate in evaluation of the residency

Application and Residency Timeline

Activity

Date

Applications open

Monday 20 April
2026

Deadline for residency submissions

Monday 18 May
2026, 9am

Shortlisted applicants contacted	Week of 25 May 2026
Shortlisted applicants invited to online informal interview / meeting with the team	Week of 1 June 2026
Residency Artist selected and applicants informed	Week of 8 June 2026
Onboarding – administration including contracting, finance and accommodation	July – October 2026
Residency starts	2 November 2026
Residency ends	27 November 2026

Person Specification

UAL are committed to creating opportunities that are accessible to all. We particularly welcome applicants from diverse backgrounds, including race, disability, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion and belief, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, and those with caring responsibilities.

Essential:

- Artists who make paintings or work with 'expanded painting' in their practice (e.g. artworks that might push the medium of painting beyond its traditional boundaries and could incorporate other mediums such as film, performance, installation, print, technology, social engagement, and those working at scale).
- Proficient in the English Language.
- Practising for at least 5 years. For example, 5 years since graduating art school or equivalent.
- Experience of planning and delivering events with public audiences.
- Awareness of issues facing communities that inhibit or prevent their access to art and/or design.

- Good communication, interpersonal and facilitation skills (experience of working with children and young people to deliver creative activity.)
- Ability to think and plan creatively and critically.

Eligibility

Applicants must be able to demonstrate they are an Italian national, based in Italy, 18-40 years old.

Applications will not be accepted from any current employee of the promoting institutions, nor from those that have taken part in drafting or issuing this open-call or, more generally, in organising the project.

The selected artist must not be in any situation of legal incapacity and not have any criminal convictions, nor any pending charges established in accordance with the law.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

- The quality of the applicant's creative outputs/portfolio
- The extent to which the applicant's proposal reflects the purpose and concept of the award, its theme of 'Place' and requirements
- The extent to which the proposal responds to, critically engages and connects with the local area and population.
- The viability of the proposal as a project to be carried out at Camberwell College of Arts.

Application Procedure

Please send your application in written form. Maximum 1000 word covering letter and 2-page CV.

This should include:

- Project title
- Outline of proposed project and response to the theme of 'Place'

UAL x Italian Cultural Institute Artist in Residence

- How would you approach engaging with the local community?
- Why are you applying for this residency in London and how do you think it will benefit your art practice?
- What you think you will gain from the creative community at Camberwell College of Arts? What do you think you could offer?
- A short statement about your practice
- How do you plan to use the studio during your award?
- Have you already visited London?
- Images of previous works, with titles, maximum 12 (links to your website or social media accounts if relevant)
- A maximum two-page CV including summary of Higher/Further Education; Exhibitions; Awards, Prizes and Publications; other professional experience; indication of whether you can speak/read English and two referees.

Formats:

Title any files with your full name, followed by 'Italian Artist Residency'.

Written: 1 x PDF file of no more than 20MB in size, including contact information for two referees.

Please do not send additional physical and electronic materials in support of your application, as it cannot be reviewed. It is also not possible to return any such materials to you.

Submit your application via email to: community.engagement@arts.ac.uk

with the subject line: 'Italian Artist Residency'. Please use the email above for any questions relating to the application.

Deadline for applications: 9am - Mon 18 May 2026

Online informal interviews / meetings will be held week commencing 1st June 2026.

ual:



Appendix

The Italian Cultural Institute in London, part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, is the official Italian government body promoting Italian language and culture in England and Wales. It organises cultural events, exhibitions, and language courses, fosters academic, scientific, and artistic collaboration between Italy and the UK, and supports initiatives that strengthen cultural ties. The Institute also provides information on Italian cultural life and works with local institutions and communities to deepen understanding and appreciation of Italy's heritage.

Facebook: Italian Cultural Institute London

Instagram: @iiclondra

LinkedIn: Italian Cultural Institute London

X: @iiclondra

About Camberwell Space:

Camberwell Space first opened in 2018 and has taken on a variety of uses, from public gallery to additional studio space for students and bookable space. Since the university's Public Engagement team relaunched it in January 2024, Camberwell Space is public facing, with a multidisciplinary, community led approach, free and open to all. The space has been an exciting and experimental testing ground, offering professional expertise and connections to outside cultural networks, and providing moments to share ideas and bring people together through a variety of formats including artist residencies, exhibitions and festivals.

The Camberwell College of Arts public programme explores contemporary culture and creative practice in all its forms, grounded in the research strengths of the college. Bringing together a diverse range of creatives, academics and external partners, the programme provides a platform to test, exchange, and collaborate with people beyond academia, to generate and share knowledge. Camberwell Space is a workshop for our socially engaged practice. Deeply connected to the neighbourhood and local arts ecosystem.

Camberwell College of Arts: www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/camberwell-college-of-arts

Camberwell Space website: www.arts.ac.uk/camberwell-space

Instagram: @camberwellspace

About the Local Community:

Camberwell College of Arts and Camberwell Space are based in the borough ('*comune*' or '*quartiere*') of Southwark, which is diverse and culturally rich. Over 120 languages are spoken with Spanish being 2nd after English. It is one of the most deprived boroughs nationally, ranked 40th out of 326, with neighbourhoods in 10-15% most deprived according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation¹.

More specifically, Camberwell and Peckham (which are in the borough of Southwark) have 51.6% and 71% non-White populations respectively. In Peckham, 50% of residents are Black. 34% of dependent children under the age of 20 are living in low-income households. Southwark is one of the largest local authority landlords in the UK (40% homes are socially rented – '*case popolari*') and recently led on a joint letter as an unprecedented coalition to the government.

Websites with current local information:

[Peckham Peculiar](#)

[Peckham Vision](#)

[Southwark News](#)

[SE5 Forum](#)

Local Art Sector and Relevant Past Exhibitions

Camberwell, Peckham and Southwark more broadly have a wealth of cultural institutions. Below are links to those in the local area and past projects and exhibitions relevant to the theme of 'Place'.

[Bold Tendencies](#)

[Camberwell Arts](#)

[Copeland Park](#)

[Culture in Southwark \(Southwark Council website\)](#)

[Hannah Barry Gallery](#)

[The Hub](#)

[Livesey Exchange](#)

[Mountview](#)

[Peckham Levels](#)

[Peckham Platform – Memories for the Future](#)

¹Official measures in the UK ranking small areas by relative deprivation, combining indicators from seven domains: **Income, Employment, Education/Skills, Health/Disability, Crime, Barriers to Housing/Services, and Living Environment**, with lower ranks indicating greater deprivation.

South London Gallery – Lagos, Peckham, Repeat: Pilgrimage to the Lakes and The Pioneer Health Centre
Staffordshire Street – Festival of Community 2025
Theatre Peckham

Local History

A Brief History of Camberwell, Camberwell Society
Camberwell Black History Walk
Gentrification and Black Urban Removal Walk, Dr Charmaine Brown
Peckham Heritage
Peckham Heritage and Local History
The Local Area Past and Present
SE1 Community Newspaper, (1975-1991), access [here](#)
SLG Archive and Local History
Southwark – Local History and Heritage

About Camberwell College of Arts

Camberwell College of Arts is a renowned art and design college. Our courses make students think about their social responsibility, as well as develop their critical and making skills.

We give students the space to explore their creativity. Staff support and challenge them to rethink current practices. Our facilities embrace both traditional craftsmanship and digital technology.

Many of our students live near Camberwell College of Arts. We have 5 halls of residence within walking distance. Our southeast London location is also home to a thriving arts scene. The area hosts a variety of galleries, project spaces and studios that our students, staff and graduates work and exhibit in. These include on-site gallery Camberwell Space, Work Form, Garudio Studiage and DKUK.

Our international partnerships, projects and exchanges provide opportunities for our students and staff to broaden perspectives and knowledge. They also explore how art and design can support communities in a global context.

Fine Art Painting at Camberwell

Fine Art Painting at Camberwell College of Arts encourages students to explore the medium. They are invited to embrace possibilities for its continued reinvention and consider its connection with social, cultural and political change. As such we respond to the territory and practice of

contemporary painting in its broadest sense, treating painting as a context for discussion and exploring its sphere of influence, rather than defining it as a medium specific debate. Research in painting across the University is regularly published in the Journal of Contemporary Painting

Public Engagement Team

Established in 2023, the Public Engagement team for Chelsea, Camberwell and Wimbledon Colleges of Arts (CCW) has a remit to develop and implement a strategy for long-term, evidence-based public engagement across CCW, as well as deliver a programme of inclusive public engagement.

At CCW, public engagement

- Is driven by our Research, Knowledge Exchange and social purpose strategies
- Focuses on a public and community audience
- Takes a cross-college approach, embracing unique identities based on local context
- Is grounded in values of equity, diversity and inclusion
- Supports students through paid work experience, in curriculum training and external connections.

Selected Current and Past Activity

Chelsea Space

Community Exchanges (which includes working with local partners like Spring Community Hub)

Ubuntu – I am because we are

Festival for Community Organising

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:

We are committed to creating a fairer and more inclusive institution for all staff, students, visitors and our university community.

Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) are integral parts of our university's strategy, values and activities. We support protected characteristics including age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, and sexual orientation.