



4 Year Application Form

Background

Backwater Artists Group was founded in 1990 by graduates of the Crawford College of Art & Design. The aim of the group was to pool resources in the search for safe and secure studio space. This led to the temporary successive occupancies of two other premises before finally securing a home for the group on Wandesford Quay in 1999.

Our studio facility consists of 28 studios in total comprising of 6 sculpture bays and 22 painting/mixed media studios, a darkroom, a digital suite/meeting room, a woodwork area and the Studio 12 exhibition/project space. Since our inception Backwater have provided studio spaces and access to facilities for over 400 artists. Our aim is to provide a stable and supportive environment for artists, for the production of visual art and for the establishment of a professional art practice, in the heart of Cork city.

Other facilities, initiatives and supports available to artists include an invitation to take part in the activities of the Backwater Artists Network, opportunities to partake in exhibitions, professional development training opportunities, access to curators and access to equipment including a computer/scanner; darkroom facilities; digital and video cameras; mitre press and underpinner, woodwork area; slide projector/data projector and monitor; slide copier; camera and tripod.

The organisation's policy around studio usage is to ensure that the facilities are made available to as many artists as possible. Long-term studios are made available for periods of 4, 8 and 12 years. A number of short-term studios and Bursary awards are also available.

There is a high demand for studios in the Cork area and as such the application process for studios at Backwater is very competitive. The process is designed to ensure that studios are awarded to productive and ambitious artists most in need of a studio space. It also ensures that a selection of artists from different stages in their career can gain access to the facilities.

In return for the opportunity to become a member of Backwater, we ask that members do what they can to work with Backwater to raise the profile of the organisation and to

generate new resources and opportunities for its members. Backwater Artists Group originated from an ethos of shared skills and ideas for the promotion of visual arts. In order to fulfil this, members were required to give some of their time and participate in the activities of the group. This ethos has now been adapted to ensure that any such exchange is done in the context of a reciprocal professional exchange between the organisation and its members.

Backwater Artists Group are now inviting submissions for 4 available 4-year studio spaces (3 x painting/mixed media studios in the main building and 1 sculpture studio).

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed by a sub-committee made up of the Studio Director, a member of the Board and an independent external adjudicator.

The criteria used to assess applications for membership are as follows:

- The artist displays talent and ambition in their practice
- Quality of work as indicated by portfolio
- The artist must be willing to contribute to the studio group (see section 5)
- Overall quality of application
- Proven need for a studio space

1. PERSONAL DETAILS

Contact name:

Contact address:

Contact email address:

Contact phone number:

Website (if any):

Social media/blog links (if any):

Please submit an up to date CV and portfolio with your application. Further details in section 5.

2. ART PRACTICE

Artist Statement (max 300 words): Clear, well written communication of what your art practice is about.

Artist Biography (max 200 words):

What are you currently working on? (max 150 words).

3. ACHIEVEMENTS

What do you want to achieve as a professional artist in the next 4 years? (max 150 words):

4. STUDIO USE/NEED FOR STUDIO

What type of studio you require? (sculpture, painting/mixed media, closed doors, communal studio in the attic)

Please outline how you would use the studio? (max 200 words). What aspects of your practice require the use of a studio, how many hours can you realistically spend in the studio per week and how do you think you would organise your time? e.g. mornings, evenings, 2 full days per week etc

Statement of need for subsidised studio space in Cork city centre (max 50 words).

Do you at present or have you had active use of studio space in the past five years. If so where, when and for how long?

5. CRITERIA

It is expected that artists applying for space will be professional artists. To establish your eligibility for this opportunity, please indicate to us that you can satisfy at least three of the following criteria (traditionally used by artists' associations in Ireland to establish professional status of artists)

CRITERIA

Tick

I have had a one-person exhibition or event in a recognised art gallery or exhibition venue.

I have been selected for participation in an exhibition or other visual arts event by a panel of qualified jurors, other professional artist(s) or professional curator(s) of artwork.

I hold a degree or diploma from a reputable art college.

I have sold work (whether by commission or otherwise) to a government department, local or statutory body, museum open to the public, established corporate collector or other major body or institution.

I have been awarded a bursary, residency, prize or grant by the Arts Council or other art-funding body.

I have had work critically acclaimed by a published art writer or critic.

I have been awarded tax exemption status by the Revenue commissioners

6. CONTRIBUTIONS

Listed below are a number of appropriate ways a 4 year member can contribute during their time at Backwater. Please let us know the ways in which you would be willing to contribute by ticking the boxes below.

Tick

Name Backwater Artists Group in your artist biography and/or CV:

Name and advocate for Backwater Artists Group when given an opportunity to do so :

Provide Backwater staff with details of any upcoming events or exhibitions in which you are involved:

Invigilation of the Studio 12 exhibition/project space:

Helping out serving drinks and cleaning up at exhibition openings:

Attend Backwater events and exhibition openings:

Sign up for one or our committees:

If you have any particular skills or experience that are especially relevant to any of the items you have ticked above please provide details here (max 100 words):

7. SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Required fields in bold and marked with a *

Tick

Completed Application form in .doc or .pdf format *

Up to date CV in .doc or .pdf format *

Portfolio: Up to 10 good quality images clearly captioned to include Title, Medium, Dimensions, Year *. These can be included on additional pages in this word document (and/or converted to .pdf), sent as attachments in an email or sent via online file transfer (Wetransfer/Dropbox)

Videos where applicable can be included as video links (e.g. Vimeo/YouTube) or sent via online file transfer (Wetransfer/Dropbox) – provide details/titles below:

Catalogues & Book: Scans of pages you are featured in or post/deliver a hardcopy to the office (address below):

Reviews: Scanned copies of reviews or links to reviews online:

Additional material/information (Please specify below):

Details of additional material/information submitted:

8. GOVERNANCE

Please note your information will be stored in compliance with GDPR requirements and will only be used to assess your eligibility for the available 4 year Studio at Backwater Artists Group in 2022. By submitting your application you are authorising Backwater Artists Group to contact you about the open call.

Signed:

Date:

Please submit application form and supporting material by email or online file transfer (dropbox or wetransfer) to **michelle@backwaterartists.ie** by **Monday 28th February 2022**. Interviews will be held on Tuesday the 8th March 2022 and studios will be available to take up on the 1st April 2022 and the 1st July 2022.

If you have any further queries please contact:



Backwater Artists Group, Wandesford Quay, Cork Tel: 021-4961002

Email: michelle@backwaterartists.ie Web: www.backwaterartists.ie

Directors: Helen O’Keeffe, Sean Hanrahan, Clare O’Sullivan, Helen Farrell, Padraig Spillane, Cassandra Eustace.

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