

EXPERIMENT!

Sculpture Award

The LAB Gallery and Fire Station Artist's Studios in partnership with Sculpture Dublin

THE AWARD

As part of Sculpture Dublin, Dublin City Council is delighted to announce the Experiment! Sculpture Award, a developmental award open to artists resident in Ireland who use sculpture as a primary medium. The Award will provide a range of practical supports to an artist seeking to take creative risks within their practice, allowing them to further develop and refine their own sculptural language while pursuing new lines of enquiry.

Experiment! is a unique opportunity for the selected artist to realise a piece of sculpture with support from Fire Station Artists' Studios (FSAS) and Dublin City Council Arts Office. The artist will be awarded:

- €12,000 for fees and materials for the production of new work
- A two week residency at Fire Station Artists' Studios workshop facility*
- A spotlight exhibition in the Cube at the LAB Gallery during Sculpture Dublin, in late 2021*
- Mentorship by an established artist (to be agreed in consultation with the winning artist)
- A commissioned written response to the work
- Photographic documentation of the work installed at The LAB Gallery

*Please note that, due to ongoing restrictions around the operation of shared workspaces, cultural institutions and venues as a result of COVID-19, dates agreed with Sculpture Dublin and partners for the workshop residency and exhibition are subject to change.

The Experiment! Sculpture Award seeks to reward an artist who demonstrates an interest in sculptural process and materials, keeping Sculpture Dublin's key values in mind. These include:

- Courage and creative ambition;
- Open mindedness – curiosity and wonder;
- Clarity, transparency and integrity;
- Cooperation, co-creation and unity that respects diversity

THE COMMISSIONERS

Sculpture Dublin is pleased to be championing the production and exhibition of new work in Dublin, and to draw on the long-established expertise of our award partners. Fire Station Artists' Studios has offered a range of practical supports to artists through its live / work spaces and sculpture workshop for nearly three decades, while through the development of The LAB Gallery over the past 15 years, Dublin City Council has facilitated the public display of exciting, engaging and challenging new work.

Both FSAS and the LAB Gallery have a tradition of providing critical infrastructure for artists and audiences – from making to viewing – and are deeply embedded in their local community. They provide a platform for experimental thinking, imagining, and making. By supporting access to their production and exhibition spaces, as well as mentoring and curatorial resources, Sculpture Dublin hopes, through this award, to create a legacy that celebrates sculptural talent in Ireland and deepens our understanding of what sculpture is or can be.

Fire Station Artists' Studios provides live / work accommodation for artists, along with a large scale Sculpture Workshop and Digital Media resources. FSAS also has a strong curatorial programme. Based in the heart of Dublin 1, FSAS has a commitment to socially engaged art, having supported many commissions in Dublin 1 throughout its history.

Established by Dublin City Council Arts Office in 2005, The LAB Gallery supports artists at critical points in the development of their work, providing a platform for arts practice in Ireland from its home in the heart of Dublin's historic Monto. The LAB values experimentation and scaffolds risk taking. Through collaboration and partnership, The LAB develops innovative education and learning programmes with partners including Central Model Senior School, Erasmus+ and the Institute of Art, Design & Technology (IADT).

Sculpture Dublin is an initiative of DCC Parks, Biodiversity & Landscape Services and the City Arts Office. It aims to raise awareness of Dublin's sculptural heritage and to commission new works in parks and public spaces city-wide. Artistic excellence and meaningful public engagement are the core principles of the programme.

ELIGIBILITY

This Award endorses the Arts Council's policy on Equality, Human Rights and Diversity, and promotes equality of opportunity for all.

- Artists must be resident in the Republic of Ireland.
- Artists who have previously submitted an application for one of Sculpture Dublin's five open-call commissioning opportunities, DCC Art Office's Arts Grants or Bursary Awards 2021 and/or Awards offered by Fire Station Artists' Studios are eligible to apply.
- Artists currently in undergraduate or postgraduate education, or who will be during the period for which the Award is offered, are not eligible to apply.

SELECTION PROCESS

The closing date for the award is **5pm on Friday 26 March 2021**. Any incomplete submissions or entries received after this time will not be considered.

All submissions will be checked to ensure completeness before progressing for review by the Selection Panel. If a high volume of submissions is received, a Shortlisting Panel (comprising staff from the three Award partners and an external expert) will be convened to select a shortlist of up to twenty proposals.

The Selection Panel will evaluate submissions against the Selection Criteria (see below) and make a final decision.

SELECTION PANEL

The Selection Panel for the award will consist of some or all of the following:

1. International Curator
2. Representative of Dublin City Arts Office / The LAB Gallery Curator
3. Artist
4. Representative of Fire Station Artists' Studios
5. Representative of Sculpture Dublin

SELECTION CRITERIA

The assessment criteria relate to all submissions. Proposals will be assessed by the Selection Panel using the following four key criteria:

- Quality and originality of artistic ideas;
- Relevance and timeliness of proposal to the development of your practice;
- Concept and relevance to the ethos of the Award, i.e. experimentation, risk taking, development
- The practical, technical and financial feasibility of the proposal

QUERIES

Artists are welcome to submit queries about the Experiment! Sculpture Award by **5pm** on **Friday 5 March 2021**. Please email any enquiries to Sabina Mac Mahon at sabina@sculpturedublin.ie with 'Experiment! Sculpture Award' as a reference in the subject line.

SUBMISSIONS

This award is open to artists resident in the Republic of Ireland seeking to explore new directions in their practice through sculpture with either: A) dedicated sculptural practices; or B) practices that incorporate sculptural elements. Applicants' contact details and applications should be submitted via the form available on Sculpture Dublin's website here:

<https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/experiment-sculpture-award/>

Please provide the following information as part of your submission in a single PDF document (maximum file size 25MB).

1. **CV:** Please submit an up-to-date artist's CV (maximum 3 pages)
2. **Documentation of work:** Please submit up to 10 images of relevant previous work, including written descriptions, and where relevant, links to videos and/or audio works hosted on Vimeo.
3. **Statement of interest:** Outlining how the Award would benefit your practice and enable you to e.g. experiment with processes, materials and ideas; develop new lines of enquiry; take creative risks (maximum 1,000 words)
4. **Outline project plan, timeline and budget:** Giving an overview of your proposed project and including details of artist's fee, cost of materials, etc., where possible.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Applications for this opportunity will ONLY be accepted via the Sculpture Dublin website: <http://www.sculpturedublin.ie>
- **All 4 parts of the application must be submitted:** CV, Documentation, Statement of Interest and Outline project plan, timeline and budget.
- Any incomplete submissions or late entries will not be considered.
- The maximum file size is 25MB.

The deadline for applications is **5pm** on **26 March 2021**.

The successful artist will be announced on International Sculpture Day, 24 April 2021.

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

An Online Information Session will take place in late February 2021. This is an opportunity for artists interested in applying for the Award to find out more about Experiment!, Sculpture Dublin, The LAB and Fire Station Artists' Studios. Speakers will also talk through the application form and answer any questions you may have.

Speakers include:

- Sheena Barrett, Curator, The LAB Gallery
- Helen Carey, Director, Fire Station Artists' Studios
- Karen Downey, Programme Director, Sculpture Dublin

25 February 2021, 11am to 12 noon.

Venue: Online

General admission - Free

[BOOK HERE](#)

SCULPTURE DUBLIN

Sculpture Dublin is a Dublin City Council initiative that aims to raise awareness of Dublin's sculptural heritage and to commission a series of new public artworks through open and invited competitions. In 2021, six new sculptures will be created for the city – in Ballyfermot, Finglas, Raheny, Terenure, Smithfield Square Lower and at City Hall.

All of the new commissions will benefit from public engagement programmes designed to raise awareness of the commissioning process; to promote interest and engagement with existing works; and to involve more people in shaping and animating the spaces created for public art.

<https://www.sculpturedublin.ie>

FIRE STATION ARTISTS' STUDIOS

Located in north-east inner city Dublin, Fire Station Artists' Studios was established in 1993 to provide support for professional visual artists. Fire Station Artists' Studios (FSAS) provides subsidised combined living and working studios for Irish and international artists, large scale sculpture workshop facilities and training opportunities for artists. Fire Station Artists' Studios training programme has expanded to include digital and film training and it continues to host technical training and master classes, which incorporate critical reflection. A key policy of FSAS is to contribute to the debate on collaborative and socially engaged arts practice through a commissioning process that incorporates critique.

<http://www.firestation.ie/>

THE LAB GALLERY

The Lab Gallery is a platform for arts practice in Ireland, showcasing emerging artists, encouraging risk taking and collaboration while developing innovative learning and research programmes. The LAB and the LAB Gallery are programmes of Dublin City Arts Office, a section of Dublin City Council providing a citywide service developing the arts in Dublin through partnership and collaboration. The LAB Gallery and Dublin City Arts Office are supported by the Arts Council.

<http://www.dublincityartsoffice.ie/>

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- Artists can submit ONE proposal only for the Experiment! Sculpture Award.
- Late submissions will not be considered under any circumstances.
- Artists must be resident in the Republic of Ireland.
- Artists who previously submitted an application for one of Sculpture Dublin's five open-call commissioning opportunities, DCC Art Office's Arts Grants or Bursary Awards 2021, and/or Awards offered by Fire Station Artists' Studios are eligible to apply.
- Artists currently in undergraduate or postgraduate education, or who will be during the period for which the Award is offered, are not eligible to apply.
- No fees will be paid for submissions.
- No feedback will be given on proposals.
- The Selection Panel's decision is final, and it reserves the right to contact applicants in order to clarify any issue which may arise in the course of the selection process.
- Dublin City Council reserves the right not to make this award and reserves the right to pursue other selection processes.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The successful artist will be issued with a contract.
- The final artwork must comply with Health and Safety standards. The successful submission will be subject to Health and Safety checks.
- Artists will be expected to have the appropriate insurance in place for the work they undertake, to be decided in consultation with the partner organisations.
- Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection: The selected artist/team will be required to follow national policy with regard to commissions involving interaction with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults and, where applicable, to undergo Garda vetting or training in this area, as per national requirements.
- The appointed artist will have to supply a current Tax Clearance Certificate prior to signing of contract and for the duration of the project.
- Dublin City Council is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 1997, 2003. If you consider that any of the information supplied by you is either commercially sensitive or confidential in nature, this should be highlighted in your submission and the reasons for the sensitivity specified. In such cases, the relevant material will, in response to a FOI request, be examined in the light of the exemptions provided for in the Acts.

GDPR COMPLIANCE

The purpose for processing the data you provide is for the selection of the Experiment! Sculpture Award. The information you provide will be accessed by the staff of Sculpture Dublin, Dublin City Parks & Landscape Services, the Arts Office, Fire Station Artists' Studios and invited external specialists, and may be shared with other relevant Dublin City Council staff. Your information will be retained for 6 years if successful and 1 year if unsuccessful with your application. This process is being undertaken in accordance with the Arts Act 2003.

If you do not furnish the personal data requested, Dublin City Council will not be able to process your application. You have the following rights, in certain circumstances and subject to applicable exemptions, in relation to your personal data:

- The right to access the personal data that we hold about you, together with other information about our processing of that personal data
- The right to require us to rectify any inaccuracies in your personal data.
- The right to require us to erase your personal data.
- The right to request that we no longer process your personal data for particular purposes.
- The right to object to our use of your personal data or the way in which we process it.

Please note that to help protect your privacy we take steps to verify your identity before granting access to personal data. If you would like to exercise any of these rights, please submit a request to Dublin City Council's Data Protection Officer outlining the specific details of the request:

Email: dataprotection@dublincity.ie | Tel: 01 2223775.

All valid requests will be processed without undue delay and in any event within one month of receipt of the request. This period may be extended by up to two further months where necessary.