



RMIT LINK ARTS & CULTURE FIRST SITE GALLERY MENTORSHIP PROGRAM 2015

RMIT Link Arts & Culture are proud to announce the continuation of the First Site Gallery Arts Mentorship. Students and a chosen mentor will share in \$5000 of funding to develop work over one month, using First Site Gallery as a creative laboratory/studio during the mid-semester downtime, culminating in an exhibition at the gallery.

Key dates:

Monday 25 May: mentorship applications due to RMIT Link Arts & Culture, 5pm.

Tuesday 30 June: artist and mentor are inducted into gallery and have access thereafter.

28 July–9 August: public exhibition at First Site Gallery.

9 August: Artists talk/forum in conjunction with the RMIT Open Day.

Budget:

\$1000 honorarium to the student artist(s)

\$2500 honorarium to the mentor

\$1000 equitable materials budget

In-Kind: opening drinks and food + gallery rental fee waived + printed invites for show @ no extra cost.

Project Outline:

- One exhibition in the first fortnight of Semester 2 that runs as part of the First Site Gallery program.
- The successful mentorship is selected via an application process and judged by a panel of contemporary Arts practitioners and staff of RMIT Link Arts & Culture.
- An RMIT student and the targeted mentor/professional artist co-author the mentorship application. The proposal must clearly demonstrate how the mentor and student mentee will work together to achieve a cohesive outcome.
- The mentorship program is open to all RMIT students. Groups and collectives are encouraged to apply. Groups and collectives must consist of at least 50% RMIT students at the time of the show.
- All art forms are encouraged: installation, live art, new media, painting, drawing, sound, film, animation and dance.
- Students applying must be enrolled at RMIT in 2015 and the Professional Artist must have at least 5 years professional practice and/or relevant academic qualifications.
- RMIT staff are not eligible to apply.
- Student/s participating in the Mentorship, will not be eligible for a subsequent First Site show in 2015.
- Mentoring in person is a requirement. The mentor must be available for a required number of face-to-face hours working with the student mentee.
- Artists and Mentor must be available for select media opportunities and to present a presentation/workshop of 1 hour in length that is open to the general public.

Rationale:

The mentorship program is designed to support the professional development of current RMIT students in a number of ways.

Through the application process, all applicants gain:

- awareness of professional local artists' practices
- skills in contacting artists and seeking information
- conceptual skills in exhibition development
- professional relationship building and extension of networks

Successful applicants receive:

- recognition for their prestigious talents
- opportunity to identify, seek out, work with and learn from a professional mentor,

in a hands on manner

- opportunity to work collaboratively in a highly focused and uniquely memorable way
- funding and support to achieve artistic outcomes
- opportunity for skill share and learning beyond the classroom environment
- a platform for greater recognition amongst external galleries and the broader arts industry

The Mentor will benefit by:

- having financial aid and assistance in realising the project at a potentially crucial time in their own career and practice
- being given the opportunity to teach/skill share and 'give back' to future artists
- the potential of being inspired by working with the mentoree whilst also working to raise their profiles
- another exhibition opportunity.

Through the mentorship program, First Site Gallery / RMIT Link Arts & Culture aim to:

- raise the profile of the gallery by encouraging a more dynamic audience and extend our generated community
- continue to encourage the making of quality work
- facilitate development and educative opportunities for students through dialogue and artists talks
- create a potential space for professional artists show & create work
- Through the mentorship program we aim to assist in making an artist more desirable for commercial galleries and other future professional outcomes and to provide an experience to be exceptionally proud of.

Terms and Conditions:

- You will need to write the application with your chosen mentor. The proposal must clearly demonstrate how you will work together.
- Your mentor must be available to work with you in person during the project.
- A panel, made up of contemporary arts practitioners and RMIT Link Arts & Culture staff, will select the successful applicants.
- The two week mentorship exhibition is held in First Site Gallery at the start of Semester 2.
- All art forms are encouraged.
- RMIT staff are not eligible to apply.
- Student applicants must be enrolled at RMIT. Groups must consist of at least 50% RMIT students.
- The mentor must have at least five years professional practice and/or relevant academic qualifications.
- Student/s participating in the mentorship will not be eligible for a subsequent First Site show in the same year.
- All participants must be available for media opportunities and to present a public talk/workshop in the gallery.
- The gallery may be open to the public on selected key dates during the manufacture and install of the show.