

PROJECT PROPOSAL INFORMATION PACK



Right: Hackford Road by an unknown artist in the 19th century showing Van Gogh House (left) flanked by three terrace houses that did not survive the Second World War

Right: The kitchen at Van Gogh House



Van Gogh House is a Georgian terraced house in Stockwell, where Vincent lodged during his formative stay in London. Sensitively conserved by architect and Creative Director Livia Wang, the house tells its story through the fabric of its walls, the letters Van Gogh wrote from its top bedroom and the myriad of objects former occupants have lost or hidden beneath its floorboards since the 1820s.

Now a site for exhibitions, artist residencies, performances and other events, Van Gogh House aims to support artists in their lifetimes. We stage ambitious commissions alongside thoughtful live-in residencies that respond to the house and its history. We see heritage as generative and the house as a site of production as much as exhibition.

This information pack for artists and writers aims to provide you with the information needed to submit an Expression of Interest for our residency and public programmes. We do not accept proposals for exhibitions.



Van Gogh House Residency and Public Programme

At Van Gogh House, the months between January - August of each year are dedicated to residencies and public programme.

All projects involve a period of residency at the house. Some are straight forward periods of artist development that contain moments of public interaction.

Others produce a more concrete final outcome in the form of performance, writing, participation, dinners, permanent commissions or other modes of expression outside the formal exhibition format.

All projects respond in some way to the house and its history, allowing us to tell its story in new ways and draw parallels with the world today.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Across April 2025, we will open a window for artists to propose potential residency and public programme projects for the first time, in the form of an Expression of Interest.

This is not an Open Call, and projects are not destined for a specific time-frame, although we are in planning phase for our 2026 programme.

Overall, we would like to widen our community, develop longer-term relationships with artists and provide those outside our network the opportunity to propose ideas and share their practice with us.

We also want to share the history of the house and our programme aims with artists, so that when we do get proposals, they are in line with what we are looking to commission.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- Ideas that respond to the house, its history and residents or the themes listed on page 9
- Projects that respond to site
- Connection to our audiences and local community
- Artists who are at least 5 years out of their BA, or first 5 years of practice, if self-taught.

As the house has two bedrooms, we are particularly interested in duos or pairs of creative collaborators.

WHAT ARE WE NOT LOOKING FOR?

We love to look at the Van Gogh history in the house through a sideways angle, which means we're not necessarily looking for figurative painters working in a Van Gogh tradition or investigating the later, more well-known chapters of his life. There are many fantastic residencies and organisations that are doing this so well already. What's special about us is the ability to see Vincent's earlier life and our material heritage through the lens of a broader contemporary practice.

SHORT STORY OF VAN GOGH HOUSE

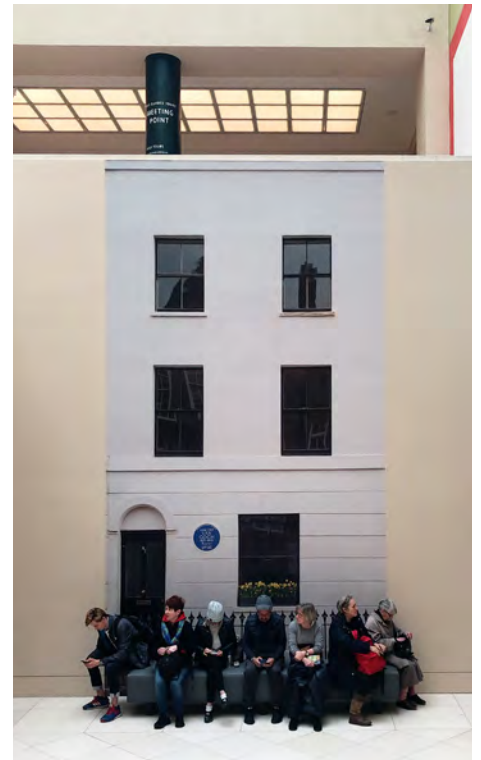
Van Gogh was only 20 years old when he lived at 87 Hackford Road and worked for Goupil & Cie art dealers in Covent Garden.

His landlady Ursula Loyer and her daughter Eugenie rented the rooms out to lodgers and seamstresses, and ran a dame school from the front room. Earning a decent wage (£90 a year), Vincent took the top bedroom.

The young Vincent wrote many letters home from the house, detailing his time in London and the art and nature he was seeing in the Victorian capital. Reading Dickens and discovering Gustave Doré's *London: A Pilgrimage*, it is here that he matures his social conscience.

His sister Anna joined him in London, lodging in the adjacent room, and it is rumoured that he falls in love with Eugenie, an attraction which is unrequited and precipitates his first known depression.

His time in the house ends abruptly for a reason lost to history, but after a brief stint in Paris Vincent returns to England as a teacher in Ramsgate, later visiting Ursula at the house along the route of one of his legendary long walks.



Above: A 1:1 image of Van Gogh House at Tate Britain, installed for the Van Gogh and Britain exhibition in 2019.

Right: Work by Jasmin Bhanji in collaboration with local primary school children snakes around door frames in the house as part of a Schools Residency in 2024.



The house was in a derelict state when the Wang family bought it in 2012 at auction, and would go on to be meticulously brought back to life by a team of conservation architects using historic and natural materials.

During the extensive building works many fascinating objects were found in the infrastructure of the building, from Ursula's insurance documents (in which she adds an 's' to the typed 'Mr'. It would be another decade before women could own property in England) to a handmade slide projector.

Most touching of all was cache of toys and handwriting samples hidden under the floorboards in Vincent's room by a small boy called James Wigmore living in the 1850s.

The house is not a time capsule of Vincent's time there but a social history that extends prior to and beyond his stay, including the discovery of his presence by a postman on strike in the 1970s to the amazement of its 20th century owners.

However in Vincent's spirit, the house is now a place for artists to live, work and share ideas, something he searched for in another house in Arles.

For more information do come on one our guided tours or purchase a virtual tour [here](#).



Above: Toys found beneath the floorboards, conserved and returned to their place of discovery.

Right: Resident artist, Wei Zhen from China, working on the kitchen table during a residency organised with the Royal Drawing School in 2019



ARTIST RESIDENCIES

Live-in residencies at Van Gogh House are a unique and privileged experience. The house can host two residents at a time and is closed to the public during their stay, although there are shared spaces with the Van Gogh House team who occupy the gallery and share the kitchen during work hours. The two upper floors remain the resident's private space.

Resident artists have the unique opportunity to live and work in the house, sleeping in Vincent or Anna's former bedroom and working in the purpose built studio in the garden or the first floor salon. Many of our residents also love working in our beautiful open plan kitchen!

Our residencies do not require a fully-fledged final exhibition but generally have the following outputs:

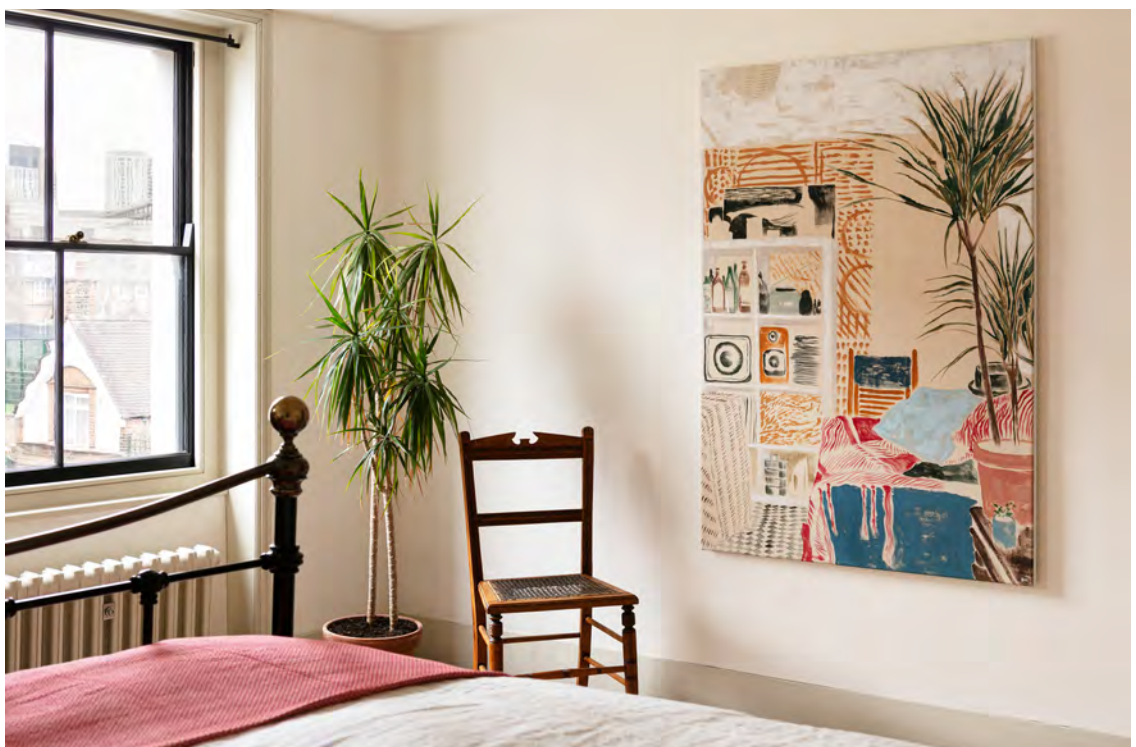
- A public event (ex. talk, dinner, performance)
- A workshop with one of our community partners
- 'Traces' left in the house during the public tour weekend (drawings, poems, found objects, small sculptural interventions)

Some residencies encompass a larger commission. For example, the residency will serve as a space to develop a performance, which will be rehearsed and performed at the house at a later date. Other residencies act as space for larger participation projects involving schools or community groups.



Above: French artist Clémentine Bedos in front of the blue plaque

Right: Van Gogh's bedroom



VAN GOGH HOUSE RESIDENCY, LONDON

Residency includes:

- Project management and on-site support
- Lodging in Van Gogh or his sister's bedroom
- Access to the garden studio at Van Gogh House
- Access to the Van Gogh House collection and archive
- Technical and curatorial support
- Support in staging residency-related events
- Opportunity to work with our community partners
- Opportunity to stage dinners in the house
- Access to our London-based industry network
- Promotion to our audiences, press contacts and support from our marketing team



Length

Residencies are 4 or 6 weeks long and are followed by a public tour weekend during which artists may show work. 6 week residencies should include a weekend outside of the house to accommodate the monthly tour weekend. For international residents this manifests as an out of London trip that furthers their research or network.

Facilities

- Double room (king-size bed)
- Single bedroom (single bed)
- Bathroom and downstairs toilet
- Modern kitchen with oven, hob, fridge-freezer, dishwasher, washing machine/dryer
- Reading salon
- 9m² Studio
- Central and underfloor heating
- Garden
- Linen, bath towels
- Cleaner
- Seating for 25
- AV equipment
- Own key



Above: UK Resident Lily Holder in the bath at Van Gogh House
Right: Performance and meal by Jyothidas K.V. and Ayesha Singh from India in the Van Gogh House kitchen

ARTISTS & WRITERS

We are interested in building relationships with artists and writers with research-based practices who engage with themes intersecting the house and its history, architecture and residents as well as the wider context of its location in multicultural Brixton.

These include:

- Domestic space and families
- Archives and collections
- Social and women's/feminist histories
- Letter writing, Van Gogh's letters
- The London chapter of his life
- Nature and social justice (topics on which Van Gogh wrote while in London)
- Migration
- Mental health

Artists responding to the house have, for example, put Vincent in dialogue with local activist Olive Morris, reflected on personal lived experiences of mental health, drawn connections with the school Ursula ran and community education today.

We also have a particular interest in artist duos or creative collaborators, and collaboration is a wider research interest for our residency programme.

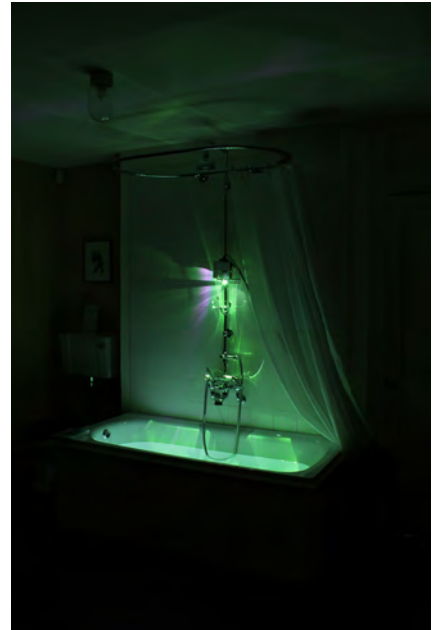


Above: We Came Here by Harold Offeh Photo: Liz Gorman
Right: The studio at Van Gogh House, overlooking the garden



1.

2.



1. Artists Nina Glockner and Sachi Miyachi, explored the notion of time whilst they were balancing work and childcare at Van Gogh House with their young daughter. They delved into Vincent's London letters, thinking about how he was referencing and using his time. Above are a series of fortune telling cards using advice doled out to Theo by a 20-year-old Vincent in his letters, left behind as one of a series of traces in the house.

2. Clémentine Bedos illuminates the bath with sound and light. This project centred on a transgenerational dialogue between Clémentine and their grandmother, the 'outsider' artist Jeanne Durand. An in-patient in a mental health facility, Jeanne frequently communicated with her family through thousands of letters and daily flower drawings. As part of their residency, Clémentine developed a text, performance and temporary installation in the house and nearby Durand Gardens exploring this relationship.

3. Actor PK Taylor performing in Ian Giles' A Clear Comfort at Van Gogh House. A Clear Comfort was a performance that drew on artist Ian Giles' research into national and international homes of LGBTQ+ artists and their families, having originally drawn inspiration from the non-traditional family set-up Vincent found in Ursula's boarding house. Presented as a promenade performance, the audience were taken beyond the physical walls of the house and into the spaces of pioneering queer artistic voices before eating a communal meal together in the garden, cooked by local social enterprise Cafe van Gogh.

3.



PROPOSALS PROCESS

Please apply via [this Google Form](#), which can also be found on our website. You will need to include:

- A 500 word description of your project
- Any images you would like to upload to support your proposal (max 5)
- Your website, please make sure it is up to date
- An up-to-date CV
- Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form (found [here](#))

FAQS

Are there any residency fees / do you have funding in place?

We do not run a fee-based residency programme. This said, we are not in receipt of any ongoing public funding, nor do we have a set annual programming budget. We fundraise for each project, to include both organisational and artist costs, if we do not meet those costs we cannot stage the project.

Do we accept proposals from internationally-based artists?

We're happy to accept proposals from artists around the world. If you have an idea of international funding related to your country that might support your residency/project do include this in your application.

Is this an Open Call?

This is not an Open Call, there is no fee for entry and projects are not destined for a specific time-frame, although we are in planning phase for our 2026 programme. We are looking to connect with artists and potential projects for future programming.

When/will you get back to me?

We will contact everyone to acknowledge their submission and to let them know if we would like to take their ideas further. We will do this by the end of May 2025.

Is there a timeline?

We are looking to work at least one year ahead to accommodate fundraising schedules.

Do I have to live in the house?

No, a live-in residency does not have to be part of your project. You can use the house as workspace or travel back and forth from it over a period of time.

Visit:

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