



PLATFORM: EARLY CAREER ARTIST RESIDENCIES 2026/2027 — INFO PACK

2 Paid Residencies for Early-Career Artists

EAF (Edinburgh Art Festival) is excited to **relaunch PLATFORM**. This updated version offers **two long-term paid residencies** for early career artists. One of these residency spaces will be **reserved for a BPOC artist**, reflecting the underrepresentation of BPOC artists in solo exhibitions and shows in Scotland, as well as the ways race often intersects with class and gender marginalisation in the arts. Each residency lasts **1.5 years (equivalent of ~3 days per month)** and culminates in a showcase as part of **EAF27**.

The residency addresses the lack of long-term creative development opportunities available to artists in Scotland, particularly at critical stages of their careers. Designed to provide artists with **freedom and security to explore**, the residency structure will be guided by the selected artists' lived experiences and personal interests, with sufficient flexibility to accommodate existing practice, other work and commitments, and rest.

The artists will be selected by EAF Programming team, and Dr Maggie Matić, a curator, writer, researcher with a specialism in contemporary feminist, crip and queer visual culture. They are currently Director of Auto Italia, London, and have previously worked at Studio Voltaire, Somerset House Studios, Tate, FACT (Foundation for Art & Creative Technology) and The University of Liverpool.

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1. ABOUT EAF

EAF (Edinburgh Art Festival) is the platform for visual art during Edinburgh's Festival season. Every August, we present the UK's largest visual art festival, bringing together Festival commissions with our city-wide network of partner galleries and year-round Civic programme.

EAF's programme engages with Scotland's thriving cultural community, connecting with international collaboration. The festival breaks away from the crowds to enliven unexpected corners of Edinburgh with world-class visual art, and live events on the cutting edge. Founded in 2004, EAF uses art to give an alternative perspective on the festival city: hidden histories, transformative venues, and radical artistic voices. Our ambitious Civic programme cultivates local connections, embedding artistic access in the city year-round.

No two events are the same: EAF prioritises artist-driven programming with a politically engaged focus on queer, feminist, decolonial, and environmentalist perspectives, bringing experimental and challenging work to the fore.

EAF is directed by Kim McAleese, and curated by Eleanor Taylor (Programme) and Elle Haswell (Civic). Since 2004, it has presented 21 editions, with 45+ partner galleries and venues.

2. WHO PLATFORM IS FOR

This residency is aimed at artists who fit the following criteria.

- Artists must be **living and working in Scotland** for 2+ years

- Artists must be early-career (see expanded definition below). While we generally define early career as having graduated within the last 5 years, you **do not need to have attended art school** to apply. Artists who graduated more than 5 years ago **may still be considered early-career** if breaks or changes in circumstances have affected their trajectory and their practice aligns with the description below.
- Artists should be creating work that feels in line with **EAF's values and programming**. We welcome applications from practitioners working across all areas of the visual arts — **including sculpture, installation, moving image, sound, publishing, performance, and dance** — and are particularly interested in practices that engage critically and imaginatively with contemporary life. To find out more about the kinds of work EAF presents, you can read more about our programme on our online archive.
- We are reserving **one residency space for a BPOC artist**, as part of our commitment to supporting artists from underrepresented communities. If you would like to be considered for this opportunity, you can note this in your application.
- Current students, including postgraduate **students, are not eligible**.

We particularly encourage applications from:

- **BPOC** artists
- **d/Deaf, Disabled, and Neurodivergent** artists
- Artists of **marginalised genders**, including women, trans, and non-binary artists
- **Queer** artists
- Artists who are **working class** or come from socio-economically marginalised backgrounds
- Artists from **rural areas**

Early Career: We understand that the term 'early-career' is slippery and can depend on a range of factors such as access routes to the arts, career breaks and personal circumstances. For this residency, 'early career' means:

- **4+ years of commitment** to developing your art practice shown in your CV, either in a formal educational route or otherwise.
- Has **not yet had a solo presentation within a publicly funded institution**, or been **represented by a commercial gallery**.

3. ABOUT THE RESIDENCY

Each selected artist will:

- Be in residence with EAF for **1.5 years, from April 2026—Sept 2027**
- Commit the equivalent of **~3 days/month** during this period to this residency
- Take part in a **workshop/event during EAF26** to share ongoing work/research.
- **Showcase new work in August 2027** for EAF27
- **Collaborate with Civic partners** rooted in communities that reflect your lived experience. This could include workshops, access-focused presentations, sharings, collaborative events, or more.

Each selected artist will receive:

- A total of **£10,000 in artist fees**, with additional mentorship and production fees broken down below:
 - £10,000 artist fee (as above)
 - £6,000 production fee for development of work
 - £1,500 civic fee for development of community participatory practice
 - £200 travel bursary
 - £1,400 artist fee as part of Hugo Burge Foundation residency
- **Mentorship** from an external creative practitioner connected to EAF. Both artists will be paired with a suitable mentor, with the BPOC artist matched to someone experienced in navigating the specific barriers faced by BPOC artists.
- Ongoing **support** from the EAF Team
- 1-month in-person residency at Hugo Burge Foundation, Borders. Can be split into shorter periods for accessibility or other work commitments
- Personal **access + wellbeing support budget**, for travel accommodations, art therapist sessions, physical therapy sessions, interpreters or similar.

Each artist is responsible for managing their own project's structure, including schedule and budget, with support from the EAF team.

4. HOW TO APPLY AND TIMELINE:

Please include the following in your application:

1. Up-to-date CV (maximum 1 page)

- File format: PDF
- Suggested naming format: [ArtistName_CV_2025.pdf](#)

2. Images or videos of your work (6–8 files)

- Suggested naming format: [ArtistName_1of8.jpg](#), [ArtistName_2of8.jpg](#), etc.
- Videos should be no more than 5 minutes in length.
- Images should clearly represent your current practice.

Submission Details:

- Completed applications should be emailed to: programme@edinburghartfestival.com
- For attachments larger than 5MB, please provide a Google Drive link.
- Applicants are encouraged to submit an access support document if required; this will be treated confidentially and used only to ensure a supportive working relationship if you are selected.
- Deadline for Applications: **Midnight, Sunday 11 January 2025**
 - Successful applicants will be invited to a short interview w/c 19th January (online)

Timeline:

- **13 November 2025:** Applications Open
- **11 January 2026:** Application Deadline
- **19 January 2026:** Interviews for Shortlisted Applicants
- **March 2026:** PLATFORM Artists Announcement
- **August 2026:** Workshop/Event during EAF26
- **August 2027:** PLATFORM Exhibition 2027