

# Bank Street Residency Artists 2016

**Sustainability** is crucial in any profession; this is no different for an artist. In a world where being an artist is ill perceived at times one must be resourceful and find ways of making 'things' happen. One of the 'things' that has become evident is becoming involved in a residency where artists can spend time gathering research and resource materials. This naturally leads to discourse with the other residency artists to connect with each other's work and ideas.

One such residency has recently been completed at Canary Wharf by a group of artists, a number were from University of the Arts London (UAL) MFA Fine Arts course at Wimbledon College of Arts.

The residency ran from 4 July to 30 September 2016 with workspace within the Bank Street project site accommodation. This was made possible by the Associate Director in charge of the project, whose only criteria were that artists respond to Canary Wharf. In addition, after a really exciting meeting, Canary Wharf Arts & Events enthusiastically offered to help and become involved in certain aspects of the residency.

The residency was organised by team-leader Andrea Coltman, supported by Antony Dixon, a fellow student at UAL, who, armed with determination and a pragmatic approach embraced the golden opportunity presented by Canary Wharf to build the residency. Taking advice from artists that have participated in residencies, leaders of an established residency and staff at UAL Wimbledon was important to setting up a structured residency that benefitted all participants.

An application process was established by Andrea and Antony that, amongst other factors, required artists submitting a proposal for their time on the residency.

The artists invited to participate were diverse in their practices and disciplines.



Andrea Coltman  
Project Leader



One of the Bank Street Residency Spaces



Group discussions in the Residency Spaces with invited external guest artists

As part of the residency programme weekly discussions were held for all artists. On the last Wednesday of the month external speakers were invited to create a vibrant critique and discourse with a chance to socialize thrown in, for good measure, afterwards.

At the end of the residency some of the initial ideas in response to Canary Wharf were shown. These pieces reflected the research and gathering of resources and were not fully resolved but merely gave an insight into the thought process of the participating artists.

All the artists involved have built a good rapport with Canary Wharf Contractors both at Bank Street and Wood Wharf as well as with Canary Wharf Arts & Events. Andrea and Antony are keen to develop this model and for it to become more vibrant with each year for the benefit of all concerned.

Going forward the goal is to put on a professional exhibition around September/October next year, giving the artists time to develop their ideas further - just like a good building, good art cannot be created instantly.

The residency has been extremely successful, helped by everyone's support and generosity.

Furthermore Andrea and Antony have demonstrated how, as artists, they have a wealth of experience and skill sets which can be brought to Canary Wharf through the Residency.



Some of the artists at Health and Safety Inductions arranged through Bank Street Construction site.



Residency artists engaging within The Marketing Suite, learning about Canary Wharf Estate.

**Bank Street  
Residency Artists  
2016**

6th July - 30th September

For more information:  
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