



SANE AUSTRALIA

Call for submissions -
Artist in residence program
The Dax Centre

Supported by The Vizard Foundation

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THE **DAX** CENTRE
30 Royal Parade
The Kenneth Myer Building
University of Melbourne
Parkville VIC 3010

T +61 3 9035 6258
www.daxcentre.org
ABN 147 566 792

Call for submissions

Artist in residence program – Gallery Studio and Exhibition

At The Dax Centre, Parkville

February-April 2019 (5 weeks residency + 3 weeks exhibition)

Applications open 19th Oct – 30 Nov, 2018

About The Dax Centre:

The Dax Centre is a leader in the use of art to raise awareness and reduce stigma towards mental illness. Through our exhibitions and educational programs we seek to engage, inform and encourage community connections and conversations about mental health.

The Dax Centre houses the Cunningham Dax Collection, which is the largest collection of its kind in the southern hemisphere, and one of only three collections of this type in the world. The Cunningham Dax Collection consists of more than 16,000 artworks created by people who have experienced mental illness or psychological trauma. The Collection includes works on paper, canvases, photographs, textiles, sculptures, installations, artists' books and diaries, digital media and films. The Dax Centre conducts programs that utilise the Cunningham Dax Collection for students at all levels, as well as for the community at large.

The Dax Centre is named after Dr Eric Cunningham Dax (1908-2008). Dr Dax was a pioneer in the introduction of art programs into Victorian psychiatric hospitals for patients living with mental illness. This revolutionary idea resulted in the development of a wide and multifaceted approach using the creative arts to understand mental illness and promote mental health awareness.

Through the exhibition on the topic of Stigma and Mental Illness, we hope to provide artists with lived experience with an important opportunity to have their work exhibited, while advancing the Centre's guiding purpose to reduce stigma towards mental illness and increase awareness.

About the Residency:

At The Dax Centre we believe the opportunity to exhibit work and be involved in public programs supporting their work has a real and ongoing impact for artists with lived experience. For this reason, the main objective is to provide an opportunity for four to five artists to present artwork around the theme of stigma for our exhibition, which will run for approximately eight weeks from mid February until Mid

April 2019 (exact dates TBC), and will be the centre point of our education program during this time.

This exhibition has been made possible through the generous support of the Vizard Foundation.

About the Studio:

The studio space will be within our exhibition space at The Dax Centre, which is located on the ground floor of the Kenneth Myer Building at the University of Melbourne Parkville Campus.

The studio is a three-sided part of the gallery space, with a size of approximately: 7 x 7m (see map attached). There are three double power points available in the studio space.

Floors are timber, with double plaster-lined walls. A small part of the area has double height ceilings. There is a separate carpeted seating/contemplation area, which can also be used to store art materials and tools. Other facilities include a small library, and a communal kitchenette that will be shared with Dax Centre staff. Care should be taken by the artist to not damage the Gallery floors or permanent fixtures during their practice. Basic studio furniture and drop sheets will be provided for the space.

The resident is encouraged to also utilise access to the Cunningham Dax Collection for information and inspiration.

The University of Melbourne campus also has a range of facilities including (ticketed) parking, cafes, parks and garden spaces.

Residency guidelines:

Some guidelines around the residency are:

- The artwork can be an entirely new construction or be part of an existing incomplete series that has not yet been exhibited.
- The artwork to be created can be one large piece or a series of smaller artworks.
- It can be an ephemeral (non-permanent) installation created directly on our gallery walls, or it can be made on a support (eg. canvas, paper, board) and returned to the artist at the end of the exhibition.
- The artwork should ideally be two-dimensional, however some 3D art, or works that contain a 3D component could be considered providing they can be made and housed safely within our gallery space.
- The artwork must be completed and installed at the end of the five-week period for display for the remaining duration of the exhibition. The Dax Centre is open Wednesday-Friday 12-5pm, so the artist must be available during this period to work on their piece. If more time is required, access to the gallery can be arranged outside of these times depending on staff availability.

- The artist will have access to the Cunningham Dax Collection for inspiration if they wish to do so.

As part of the residency, The Dax Centre will take installation photographs of the in-progress and completed artwork/s for archival purposes. These images may be used for promotional purposes and to encourage dialogue and understanding of stigma and mental health both during and after the residency, however the copyright will remain with the artist.

Desired Outcomes:

The aim of this residency program is to provide an artist with lived experience an opportunity to explore and exhibit their practice in an open and supportive environment.

Our ideal outcomes will include providing both the resident and visitors to the gallery with:

- reduced feelings of stigma/self stigma,
- increased knowledge and awareness of complex mental illness,
- connection with others of similar lived experience,
- increased confidence and capacity to seek help.

Dates:

The residency program will commence in mid-February of 2019, to coincide with the launch of our upcoming exhibition about stigma and mental illness, and run for five weeks until late March. The artwork/s produced as part of the residency will then be on display as part of this concurrent exhibition for the remaining duration (approximately three weeks) until mid-April. The artwork can then be collected or sent back to the artist after de-installation.

Stipend:

A total stipend of \$5,000 for the duration of the residency will be awarded to the residency recipient. This will be to accommodate any artist fees, materials, travel and living costs incurred by the artist for the five-week residency period. No further remuneration will be offered for any costs above the total stipend. The Dax Centre will provide essential studio furniture such as tables, chairs and easels for the studio space, but not materials for the artwork.

Eligibility criteria:

- Artists must be people who have lived experience of mental illness
- Artists must reside in Victoria, and be able to travel to Parkville, Victoria on a weekly basis for the duration of the residency program (at least 3 days per week for 5 weeks),
- Artists must practice primarily in 2D, non-digital media. Some 3D artwork may become part of the installation depending on feasibility,

- Artists must have an understanding and willingness to share their lived experience journey and story behind the artwork to facilitate the development and provision of the Education and Public programs
- Staff and family of staff members of The Dax Centre and Sane Australia are not eligible to apply.

Application process:

To apply please email the Collections Manager, Julia Young, at julia.young@daxcentre.org for an application form. When submitting your application, please include some images or examples of your current art practice and a brief description. All attachments should be in .docx, .pdf, or .jpg format only.

As the residency is for a gallery studio, where people can observe and engage with your art-making, we *strongly recommend* that you visit our gallery space or contact us for more information about any size/logistical limitations or other concerns prior to submitting your application.

All submissions will be treated confidentially and be covered by Sane Australia's Privacy Policy

Application Deadline: Submissions will be accepted from 19th October, until 5pm 30th November, 2018

Selection Process:

Applications will be shortlisted by The Dax Centre curatorial team. Those shortlisted will be contacted for a brief interview and discussion at The Dax Centre in Parkville. The successful applicant will be notified by phone and formal letter of offer. Applicants who are shortlisted but not ultimately successful will be notified by email as early as reasonably possible.

Gallery Map:

The Dax Centre Gallery Floor Plan

