



Open Call: Artist in Residence Ecologies of Migration



Dill seed head

Photo by Helena Simmons

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Introduction

Forgan Arts Centre invites applications for two funded residencies in 2026-27, embedding our philosophy of **An Arts Centre as a Garden** and our annual theme of **Ecologies of Migration**. Our awarded residencies offer time, space, and support to artists working with communities in meaningful and imaginative ways.

Taking place over 35 days in Summer or Winter, this opportunity is ideal for artists looking to develop a new project in collaboration with our human and more-than-human communities. Supported by Creative Scotland's Multi-Year Fund.

We're seeking artists with:

- A collaborative and socially engaged practice
- Experience working creatively with communities
- Interest in environmental and ecological themes

For this opportunity, we explicitly invite proposals from artists, duos or collaborators who have lived experience of migration, who are from a refugee background or who have experienced forcible displacement.

Our intention is to ground discussions of migration in the communities who are the most affected, and to amplify perspectives which are often overlooked, misrepresented or ignored.

Artists do not have to explore their own personal history – we invite you to respond to the themes in ways that develop your own creativity, thinking and practice.

While the residency does not require a final outcome, artists are welcome to contribute an artwork to The Gardener's Cottage and/or Garden, and to consider how their project contributes to the living fabric of Forgan Arts Centre.

Deadline: Monday 6 April 2026, 12noon



The studio at The Gardener's Cottage.

Photo by Kevin Linnet



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Ecologies of Migration

Our communities are changing. As the climate crisis deepens and global instability continues, more people are crossing borders and building new lives — some settling here in Fife. According to the UN Refugee Agency, by mid-2025, 117.3 million people worldwide had been forced to flee their homes because of persecution, conflict and violence. Today, 1 in every 70 people on Earth has been displaced.

At the same time, the natural world around us is shifting too. All over Scotland, some animals and plants struggle to adapt to climate disruption, while others move, settle, and flourish in new environments. Some are even returning, like beavers. In doing so, they create new worlds where life can continue to grow and thrive, in new ways.

What if we began to see movement not as an exception, but as a natural part of life on a changing planet? As writer Sonia Shah reflects: “We’ve constructed a story about our past, our bodies, and the natural world in which migration is the anomaly. It’s an illusion. And once it falls, the entire world shifts.”

At Forgan Arts Centre, we’re exploring what this perspective could mean for us. Healthy ecosystems are often the most diverse: when one part is under pressure, another can step in, helping to repair and rebuild. We believe communities work in much the same way. By exploring and embracing Fife’s migration stories – past and present, human and more-than human – we can build more resilient, creative and just communities.





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About the Residency

Role title:	Artist in Residence (Ecologies of Migration)
Status:	This is a self-employed / freelance role.
Fee:	The total fee is £12,600. This is a fixed flat fee, whether you apply as a group or individual. The fee is equivalent to 35 days of work at Scottish Artist Union advised rates of pay.
Budget:	This position includes a project budget of up to £7,000, to encompass all material, delivery and engagement activities. This budget should be prioritised for socially engaged activities, such as working with groups and collaborators, rather than personal equipment and materials. The budget is fixed, must include all project expenditure and will be managed and agreed by the Curator and Artist(s).
Access:	There is a separate access budget which is designed for the artist(s)'s personal access costs. This could include costs such as: translation, language support, access-related travel, a support worker. Access costs for participants and audiences should be included in the main project budget.
Location:	The Gardener's Cottage, at Forgan Art Centre. This residency is place based so you must be able and willing to work on site.
Duration:	35 days, to be completed within one of two blocks: Summer (May 2026 – September 2026) or Winter (October 2026 – March 2027). This can be divided across two or more periods of residence.
Flexibility:	Dates and hours of work are flexible according to the project's needs and the Artist(s) other commitments. Depending on the nature of the proposed project, this could include evening and weekend working. The project must be completed by the end of the block (either end of September 2026 or March 2027).
Facilities:	By agreement and arrangement, Artist(s) are welcome to use the centre's facilities including our open-plan administrative office, studio classrooms, ceramics studio, garden and grounds.
Eligibility:	Artists must be based in the UK and Ireland, have the right to work in the UK, and be practicing art outside of full-time education.
Deadline:	Deadline for applications: Monday 6 April, 12noon



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Application Process

We invite applicants to submit a proposal for their residency project. We welcome both written and video submissions, with guidelines detailed below and overleaf.

If you're interested in this role and would like more information, or would like to apply but feel there are barriers limiting your ability to do so, please get in touch with Rowan Lear at curator@forganartscentre.co.uk. Conversations about your application will not impact how it is assessed and will be confidential.

How to apply

To apply, please send the following via email to curator@forganartscentre.co.uk:

Compiled into one PDF:

- **Proposal** (we suggest between 800 - 1200 words), answering the following:
 - a) Tell us about your background as an artist (or collective)? Consider: how has your practice developed and what are your core interests or values?
 - b) What is your proposed residency project? Consider: what are you curious about, how does it connect with the theme of Ecologies of Migration and how might you engage with different communities?
 - c) What attracts you to this residency opportunity? Consider: how do the themes intersect with your interests, what might you bring to the programme, and in what ways will you benefit from this residency?
- **Budget:** a preliminary production budget detailing anticipated costs
- **Access budget & requirements:** indication of personal access provisions and any costs required to support your residency
- **Preferred block:** Let us know if you have a preference for either the Summer or Winter residency period (or if you can do either)
- **Portfolio / documentation of previous work:** ideally 10-20 images or links to up to 10 minutes of video.

You are welcome to write your application in a style and format that works for you. We are not assessing your writing skill or proficiency.

Equalities monitoring form: please also complete [this online form](#) to help us check the accessibility of our opportunities. It is anonymous and will not be assessed.



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Video applications

You are welcome and encouraged to submit a video application. A video application should include all the elements of the proposal. A budget and portfolio would still be required, as a PDF. We recommend a five-minute-long recording using your phone, webcam or platform such as Zoom. Recording in a quiet space will ensure good sound quality. Upload your video to Vimeo or YouTube as 'unlisted' but viewable by anyone with the link. Include the link to your video in your application.

Selection Process

Applications will be assessed by a panel including Forgan Arts Centre's Director, Curator, and an independent artist or curator. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to present their proposal to the panel and asked questions about their project idea, practice, and motivation for applying for the role. These informal interviews can be held online or at Forgan Arts Centre. Financial support for travel will be provided.

Key Dates

Applications open:	Friday 27 February 2026
Online Q&A:	Wednesday 11 March, 10am-11am Friday 20 March, 1pm-2pm
Deadline:	Monday 6 April, 12noon
Invitation to interview:	By Monday 27 April
Interviews:	Expected w/b 4 May

There are two opportunities to join an online Q&A about the residency:

Online Q&A	Online Q&A
Wednesday 11 March, 10am-11am	Friday 20 March, 1pm-2pm
Teams meeting link: Join here	Teams meeting link: Join here
Meeting ID: 394 046 036 820 58	Meeting ID: 399 988 586 936 94
Passcode: Uq3tT2aT	Passcode: U72Ph3S8



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About Forgan Arts Centre

Forgan Arts Centre is a vibrant hub for artistic creation, experimentation, and learning, located on the edge of Newport-on-Tay in North East Fife. Community-led and rooted in collaboration, we offer a wide range of creative opportunities for people across Fife and beyond.

Our programme includes art and craft classes, workshops, artist-led projects shaped by community needs, as well as artist commissions, residencies, placements, and public events. We host allotments, artist studios, and professional making facilities, along with on-site accommodation for residents in The Gardener's Cottage.

Through diverse creative practices, we work closely with artists and our communities to explore both personal and shared challenges – those that resonate locally and globally. We offer a space for expression, connection, and exploring our relationship and responsibilities to the natural ecology of which we are part.

Niall Moorjani at Beltane 2025.

Photo by Kevin Linnett





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An Arts Centre as a Garden

In 2024, Forgan Arts Centre developed a strategic plan to guide us from 2025 to 2028. At the heart of this plan is a new way of thinking: **An Arts Centre as a Garden**.

This is a creative experiment – imagining the centre not just as a venue, but as a living, breathing ecosystem. Like a garden, it's a place where people, plants, and other creatures coexist, connect, and support one another through mutual care, reciprocity and creativity.

An Arts Centre as a Garden is inspired by the principles of social permaculture, which takes cues from nature to shape healthier, more collaborative human systems. In addition, we are committed to embedding climate-conscious practices and environmental sustainability in everything we do.

Art activities at Lughnasadh 2024.

Photo by Kevin Linnett.





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The Gardener's Cottage

The Gardener's Cottage is a recently-renovated, two floor cottage on the grounds of Forgan Arts Centre. The ground floor comprises a kitchen, living/dining room, WC and a studio. On the upper floor there are two double bedrooms and a bathroom with bath and shower. Residencies at The Gardener's Cottage are self-catered.

The small studio in the cottage has a height adjustable desk, an easel and shelving. The two bedrooms each have a double bed, chest of drawers and clothes rail. The living/dining room has a small sofa, dining table and chairs for four. The small kitchen has cooking facilities and a fridge. There are no laundry facilities on site, but laundry collection and drop-off can be arranged. Telephone signal is good and there is good wifi in the cottage and the main building.

Accessibility

Unfortunately, The Gardener's Cottage is not suitable for those requiring level access due to the age and nature of the building. Bedrooms are only accessible via stairs and both entrances have one step into the building.

Artists are welcome to bring family members or support workers at no extra cost if this enables you to practice and participate in the residency. There is an access budget available, separate to the project budget. Please include in your application any access requirements that we may be able to support you with.



The Gardener's Cottage

Photo by Kevin Linnett



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Further Information

Website

You can find out more about Forgan Arts Centre via our website. Key pages:

[Who we are](#)

[Art programme](#)

[What's on](#)

[What we do](#)

Social Media

Our website doesn't capture everything we do. You can find out more on our social media sites:

Instagram: [forgan_arts_centre](#)

Facebook: [forganartscentre](#)

Contact us

The main point of contact for this opportunity is Rowan Lear, Curator. Please email curator@forganartscentre.co.uk if you have a question which is not answered in this Residency Pack.

Equal Opportunities

At Forgan Arts Centre it is our policy and commitment that there shall be no discrimination on the grounds of class, gender, race, ethnic origin, marital status, religious belief, sexual orientation, disability, age, nationality or national origin.

For this opportunity, artists must have the right to work in the UK. We recognise this legal requirement excludes many people. If you are interested in this role, but cannot apply because of this stipulation, please get in touch with us by email to arrange an informal chat about your practice and how it connects to our work and themes.

