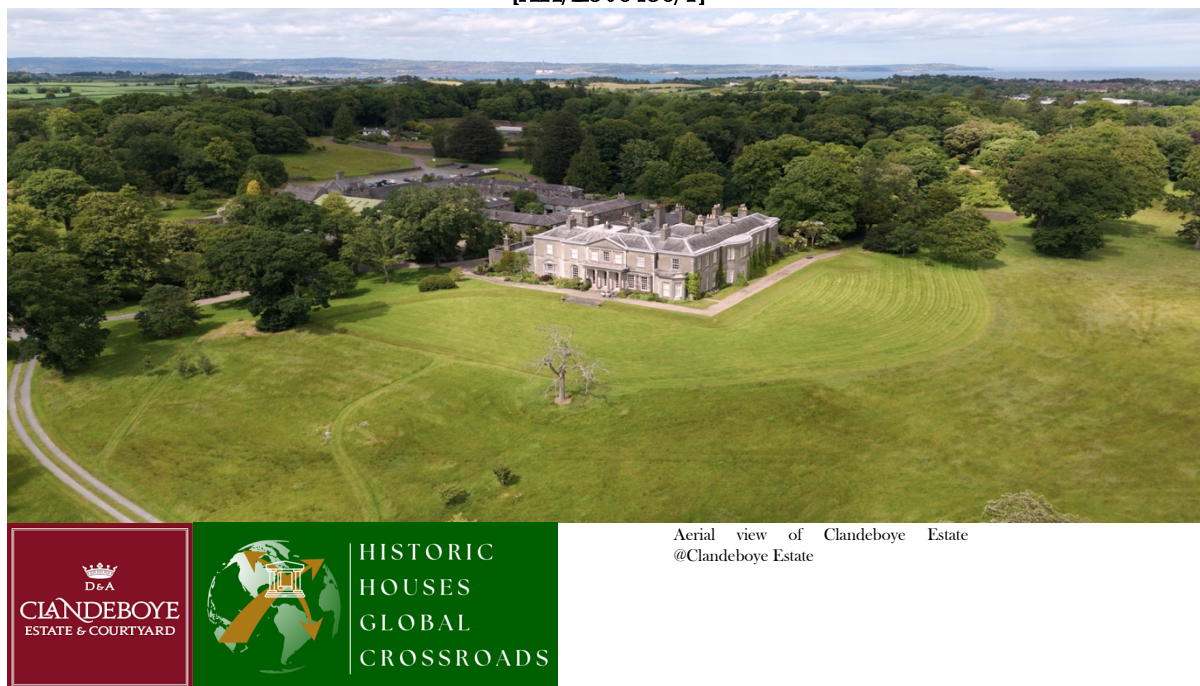


Creative Artist Residency Brief, Clondeboy Estate, 2026
Historic Houses, Global Crossroads, UKRI Standard Research Grant
[AH/Z506436/1]



Budget/Fee: £10,000, in two instalments, paid to the artist to cover all aspects of the residency (including personal liability insurance whilst at Clondeboy, should this be deemed necessary, any other fees arising, materials costs, all travel, accommodation and subsistence, and production/removal of the artistic output and supporting materials).

Deadline for applications: Monday 29 September 2025

Creative Residency Duration: May to June 2026

The Opportunity

The '[Historic Houses, Global Crossroads](#)' (HHGC) project is working to reposition two of Northern Ireland's most significant historic houses and grounds at Clondeboy Estate and Mount Stewart, County Down as significant sites of intercultural and environmental exchange. The project is funded by UK Research & Innovation (Arts & Humanities Research Council) and managed by the University of Birmingham (PL Porter) in collaboration with the University of Newcastle, Queen's University Belfast, University of Toronto, National University of Singapore and the National Trust. This Creative Residency operates in parallel with a similar opportunity based with HHGC project partner Mount Stewart.

As a key part of the project's work, we invite proposals for a six-week creative artist residency in May to June 2026 at Clondeboy, a privately owned estate set within 2000 acres of woodlands, formal gardens, lawns, farmland and lakes, in County Down, Northern Ireland.

The residency will explore the Clondeboy Estate's textured histories of global interconnection, rooted in the travels of the 5th Lord Dufferin who made numerous excursions to the north Atlantic and Arctic, was Governor General of Canada (1872-78), Ambassador to Russia (1879-81) and the Ottoman Empire (1881-84), and Viceroy of India (1884-88). Through engaging with this historic transnational network of alliances, aided by the researchers involved, the selected artist/creative is invited to reimagine Clondeboy as a site of global interconnection.

It is intended that this creative residency will connect meaningfully to the legacy of the late Lady Lindy Dufferin, 5th Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, who, for nearly 60 years, welcomed artists and creatives to Clondeboy from visual artist David Hockney to musical genius Van Morrison. An artist herself, Lindy passionately hoped that Clondeboy continue as a site that develops creative talent, a modern iteration of the globally

interconnected diplomatic and other work of the 5th Lord Dufferin. Clandeboye has strong ancestral links to the Anglo-Irish playwright, writer, and Whig politician Richard Brinsley Butler Sheridan (1751-1816), author of *The School for Scandal*, amongst the wittiest comedies of intrigue in the English language.

The selected creative resident will be supported to develop a site-specific body of work that responds meaningfully to Clandeboye's global connections. Their work will incorporate research, aspects of community co-production including an opportunity for visitor interactivity, so as to create meaningful connections between Clandeboye's heritage and modern audiences. A Residency Interactive Workshop designed to engage the public will be separately funded by the HHGC grant and co-produced and costed by agreement with the Clandeboye Estate and the artists selected.

This residency offers a platform for an artist/creative/curatorial creative to engage with Clandeboye's rich history and diplomatic significance, contributing new perspectives that illuminate the nexus of identities and cultural exchange embedded within the site.

The Clandeboye Estate recognises the importance of reflecting and representing the diversity of the communities and audiences it serves. Therefore, applications from artists of all backgrounds are encouraged.

The Commission

About Clandeboye

The Clandeboye Estate sits within 2000 acres of woodlands, formal gardens, lawns, farmland and lakes. It is home to the largest area of broadleaved woodland in Northern Ireland. First settled in 1674, Clandeboye was originally named Ballyleidy, after the town in which it lay. The current Clandeboye House was built for the 2nd Baron Dufferin in 1801-1804 to a design by Robert Woodgate, apprentice to the eminent architect Sir John Soane (1753-1837). The house was named after the Gaelic Irish territory of Clandeboye (Clannaboy, the Clan of Yellow Hugh), which covered large parts of north County Down and south County Antrim. Clandeboye is one of the few landed estates in Northern Ireland that has been in the same family ownership since the seventeenth century.

Aims and objectives

The Creative Residency at Clandeboye will:

1. Generate new, engaging, site-specific work/s exploring the heritage and global narratives tied to Clandeboye, focusing on one or more of the core concepts and themes (specified below) linked to identities and global connections. This work will yield digital likenesses of physical/digital outputs produced by the artist, who will grant license to the University of Birmingham for their non-commercial use and dissemination regionally and globally. The artist will retain ownership and intellectual property rights to the artistic output produced. Publications and other forms of media communication produced must acknowledge the support received from UKRI, quoting the funding agency in full (Arts & Humanities Research Council), project title (Historic Houses, Global Crossroads: Revisioning Two Northern Ireland Historic Houses and Estates) and grant reference number [AH/Z506436/1].
2. Promote public awareness and discussion of the themes of the project, including via the appointed artist's reasonable participation in media and social media content organised by HHGC and the Clandeboye Estate.
3. Empower substantive community co-production through a workshop facilitated by project partner ArtsEkta, in which participants will engage with and respond to the project themes.
4. Support visitor creativity and engagement by providing opportunities for online or onsite visitor interactivity.

Themes for Artistic Response

The artwork/s should be site specific to Clandeboye and directly connected to its histories and landscape.

The artwork/s should be original, creative works engaging with **all of** the following core concepts:

- **Global Crossroads:** Clandeboye's historical connections to the wider world;
- **Community and Heritage:** Community diversity and global cultural heritage;
- **Global Identities:** Historical transnational alliances connecting Clandeboye to the wider world, the global communities to which the estate is linked and its role in international diplomacy.

Within the concept of global identities, artists should respond to one or more of the following project themes that aim to revision historic houses as:

- Entangled locales of diplomacy;
- Generators and reflectors of identity;
- Webs connecting people, goods, and ideas;
- Belonging to multiple global publics.

Audience

Our intended audience includes visitors, local and global communities, and those interested in global histories and agricultural and ecological conservation. In line with our commitment to inclusion and diversity, artists may need to make adjustments to ensure accessibility (e.g. step-free access, subtitled videos etc). Read more about the University of Birmingham's commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion [here](#).

Artist

Opportunity

We seek a resident creative artist in any medium. The appointed creative resident will engage in a six-week residency from May to June 2026 based at Clandeboye Estate. The artist should be physically located at or around Clandeboye for as much as possible of that period, taking into account the personal circumstances of the appointed artist.

During the residency, the creative resident should work to develop benefits for their practice and research, which may include creating new site-specific works that reflect and interpret the complex histories of Clandeboye, engaging with the themes for artistic response specified below. The resident should also work collaboratively with the HHGC project's community engagement plans as specified below.

Outputs and Deliverables

1. **Creative Works:** The primary outputs will be new site-specific artworks inspired by Clandeboye, realized through the artist's chosen medium, and aligned with the Themes for Artistic Response set out below. The works will incorporate community co-production and facilitate visitor interaction. All access to Clandeboye Estate and staff is strictly by prior agreement.
2. **Media Content:** Artists will contribute to reasonable media and social content to engage wider audiences (e.g., podcasts, video documentation, interactive digital exhibitions).
3. **Residency:** Artists will be based at Clandeboye for a period of 6 weeks or as practicable for the appointed artist. A statement of residency intent and of proposed activities during the residency should be included in the application.
4. **Community Engagement:** To support the community co-production element, the commissioned artist will engage directly with community participants at one or more workshops facilitated by ArtsEkta. These interactions should meaningfully inform the creative process and final works.
5. **Final Presentation:** Artists will, in collaboration with HHGC and the Clandeboye Estate, prepare a showcase of the results of their residency highlighting the collaborative nature of their work with community participants. The form of this will be agreed with the appointed artist after appointment, taking into account the proposed vision, format and medium of the residency.

Timescale

Before interview/recruitment (September-December 2025):

- Contact the project team with enquiries on practicalities/ideas and resources.

Post-recruitment (January-April 2026):

- Further co-develop the proposed residency plan with the project team.
- Meet the project, ArtsEkta and Clandeboye teams (if possible, through a site visit).
- Map out the workshop activity and establish dates/timelines for those.

During the residency (May-June 2026):

- By the mid-point of the residency, the project aims to have completed the workshop and community collaboration work, to enable time for evaluation and integration into the creative work.

Creative Resident Description

The appointed creative resident should:

- Be at any career stage, including emerging artist;
- Work in any artistic medium suitable to the aims and outputs of the residency, including painting in any style, poetry, creative writing, sculpture, etc...
- Come from any practice background, including those with non-traditional artist backgrounds, such as practitioners of crafts;
- Be passionate about engaging the public through inspirational artistic work;
- Bring that passion into community co-production and visitor interactivity;
- Be committed to sharing community cultural stories and inclusive histories;
- Work collaboratively with the HHGC team and Clandeboye team to ensure the artwork produced engages with and responds to the themes of the project;
- Respect the precious nature of Clandeboye's collections, buildings and landscapes, and work with the Clandeboye team to understand the specific requirements of working at the estate;
- Participate in reasonable media / social media requests as part of the marketing and communications plan to promote the project.

We welcome applications from artists who bring diverse lived experiences that will enrich their interpretations of complex historical narratives.

Budget and Support

- Residency Award: The creative resident will receive £10,000 to cover all aspects of the 6-week residency (including personal liability insurance whilst at Clandeboye, should this be deemed necessary, any other fees arising, materials costs, all travel, accommodation and subsistence, and production/removal of the artistic output and supporting materials). All such aspects of the Residency are the responsibility of the artist. The artist must be in a position to accept payment in UK currency and is responsible for the payment of any taxes that may be incurred by them as a result of accepting the award.
- Resources and Facilities: Artists will have access to HHGC project staff, archival resources, and to on-site facilities at Clandeboye by prior and explicit agreement with Clandeboye staff and under their supervision. Limited additional resources for a marketing and communications plan and multimedia engagement will also be made available by agreement.
- We strongly recommend an early enquiry to Professor Joy Porter (j.porter.6@bham.ac.uk) and/or to the HHGC project team for a conversation about specific needs/ideas and access requirements, for example in relation to the planned artistic medium and access needs to the gardens, estate or collections and Clandeboye staff time.
- Clandeboye does not commit to purchasing creative outputs resulting from residencies. The resident will be responsible for the packing and transportation of the work produced at the end of the residency.

How to Apply

To discuss your interest in applying, please contact:

Professor Joy Porter (j.porter.6@bham.ac.uk)

Application Process

Interested artists should submit the following by email by **29 September 2025** to Lynn Wadding (l.wadding.1@bham.ac.uk):

1. A proposal and engagement plan of not more than 1 page detailing the artist's approach to the residency, how the planned work will engage with the stated themes and concepts, how it will engage in community co-production and facilitate visitor interaction, and how potential public sensitivities will be addressed in an inclusive way. The proposal must contain a statement concerning plans to be based at Clondeboyne for six weeks (or as appropriate given personal circumstances) in the period May-June 2026.
2. A brief CV of not more than 1 page.
3. A portfolio not exceeding 6 pages demonstrating relevant experience, including where appropriate, in public or community-engaged art, or other evidence of ability to complete the project successfully.

Shortlisted artists will be invited to interview by Zoom.

Key Dates

- Application Deadline: **Monday 29 September 2025**
- Residency period: May to June 2026
- Community Workshops and Public Engagement: Concurrent with residency

Evaluation

Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on:

1. Artistic Quality: Originality, relevance, and clarity of the artist's approach;
2. Capacity for Completion: Previous experience or other evidence of capacity to complete the project successfully;
3. Engagement with HHGC project themes: including historic houses and demesnes as global crossroads, community and heritage, and global identities;
4. Visitor Appeal: Potential to attract, engage and involve onsite visitors and remote audiences;
5. Community Engagement: Potential to work with diverse communities in a meaningful, accessible, and sensitive manner.

Equal Opportunities

The promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion is central to the mission and vision of the University of Birmingham. You can read more about UoB's commitment to Equality, Diversity & Inclusion here: <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/equality>

Contact Information

For further details, please contact:

Professor Joy Porter (j.porter.6@bham.ac.uk)