The Monash University Prato Centre (MUPC) Visual Residency Program offers established and emerging Australian practitioners the opportunity to incubate new ideas, undertake research, and engage with local institutions and industry. The residency is hosted jointly by MUPC and Monash Art Design & Architecture (MADA).

THE RESIDENCY PROVIDES

- return airfares
- three months’ accommodation at Monash’s base in Tuscany
- $10,000 contribution to materials, further travel, living expenses during the residency

TIMELINE 2020

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<th>Month</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 2019</td>
<td>Applications open</td>
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<td>September 2019</td>
<td>Applications close</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2019</td>
<td>Announcement of successful applicant</td>
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Enquiries about the program or eligibility may be directed to: pratoresidency@monash.edu

BACKGROUND

Monash University is Australia’s largest university, and one of the leading research universities in the world, with a mission to discover, teach and collaborate with partners to meet the challenges of the age, in service of national and international communities. The university’s commitment to excellence is enhanced through deep and extensive international collaborations. The Monash University Prato Centre Visual Residency Program encourages international engagement, through contemporary art practice and research.

A Faculty of Monash University, MADA is an open connected community of creative thinkers, makers & professional practitioners. We dissolve the boundaries between disciplines, creating new spaces to imagine real change — transforming the world around us.

MUPC is located in the 18th century Palazzo Vai, in Tuscany, just outside Florence, where it provides a strategic base for research and engagement in Europe.

The Residency offers a broad range of activities for inspiration, education and professional development. Prato is an interesting location from the perspective of migration studies, cultural studies, inter-cultural communication, and historic and contemporary economic relations and interactions. It’s home to the Luigi Pecci Centre for Contemporary Art, the Textile Museum, Renaissance art collections, and it is close to Fattoria Celle in Pistoia, home of the important Gori Collection of site-specific contemporary artworks. And Prato’s proximity to Tuscan historic sites such as Siena and Pisa (Medieval religious, intellectual, educational and arts centres) and Florence (Renaissance economic, religious, intellectual and arts centre) adds potential for visual research.

ELIGIBILITY

Applications are accepted from Australian citizens or residents with a track record of professional practice and public presentation in their field. Early and mid-career practitioners are encouraged to apply. If you have an UG fine art qualification, you must have three years of practice since graduation.

EXCLUSIONS

Current Monash contract or ongoing faculty members, currently enrolled Monash students, recent fine art graduates of any program (within 3 years).
AIMS

- To provide opportunities for creative practitioners to sustain and deepen their practice & research, free from the distractions and duties of daily life
- To offer and encourage engagement with institutions and industry in the Prato region
- To provide access to significant collections, exhibitions, colleagues and practitioners in Europe
- To encourage independent artistic thinking, experimentation and practice.

DURATION

3 months (1 September – 30 November)

INCLUSIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

- Return economy airfare (arranged by Monash)
- Contribution to further travel, living expenses, materials and/or production costs to the value of $10,000
- Serviced apartment in Palazzo Vai (single or double occupancy)
- Private studio with:
  - approx. 40 square metres
  - abundant natural light
  - white-clad walls that can be hung on
  - power points
  - Wi-Fi
  - access to PC and Mac computer labs including printing facilities
  - access to fax and photocopier via the administrative offices
- Some general costs associated with exhibition and public presentation, e.g., promotional material, professional translation services, refreshments
- Travel insurance for the period of the residency, which will be provided by Monash University’s Insurance Agent
- Administrative assistance with permits for transport of artworks
- MUPC offers professional liaison support for interactions with the local community, but applicants should be in a position to undertake their residency in a largely self-directed capacity

NOTES

Studio is not suitable for major construction as there are no workshops or hand tools. The heritage-listed parquetry floor can be covered for minor works. All other services, materials and expenses, including transport of artworks, private phone arrangements, laundry, tools, etc. must be covered by the artist. It is the responsibility of the resident to inform themselves of visa requirements for Italy and to make any necessary arrangements.

CONDITIONS OF THE RESIDENCY

- Give an initial public presentation either about existing work and/or the research to be undertaken during the Residency
- Engage with the Monash Faculty of Art Design & Architecture’s semester programs
- Public engagement opportunity, eg. workshop, lecture, exhibition (of works produced during the residency, works in progress, or existing work)
- Monash University logo, MADA and MUPC acknowledgement must appear on works that were developed during or associated with the residency and on all related publicity material

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Normally candidates will be selected through a competitive application process. The selection committee will comprise the Dean of MADA, the Head of the Department of Fine Arts, the Director of the Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA), and the Director of the Prato Centre.

The selection committee reserves the right to appoint by direct nomination.

All applications are assessed on the merit of their proposal, in relation to the aims and objectives of the residency program, Prato context, and the potential benefits to the applicant and the wider community. Decisions are also subject to the availability of the studio.