

Press Release
30 March 2021

Studio Voltaire and LOEWE FOUNDATION announce a major new award to increase opportunities for under-represented artists.

Studio Voltaire and LOEWE FOUNDATION have today announced the LOEWE FOUNDATION / Studio Voltaire Award – a new programme benefitting seven artists with two years of support through rent-free studio space, professional development opportunities and a bursary. The second phase of the award, a new year-long residency for an international artist to be based at Studio Voltaire, will also be announced later this year. This major new programme coincides with the reopening of Studio Voltaire in October 2021, following a transformative capital development project.

The award has been developed in direct response to the urgent need for affordable and secure workspace for artists. In recent years, there has been a significant decrease in studio provision in London. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a detrimental impact on artists' lives, with many experiencing reduced opportunities, losses in income and isolation. The LOEWE FOUNDATION / Studio Voltaire Award aims to cultivate spaces where artists can connect in a supportive studio environment that facilitates creative possibilities, risk-taking, experimentation and exchange.

The LOEWE FOUNDATION / Studio Voltaire Award has been established to celebrate talent, individuality and original thinking within contemporary art practice. The award will support artists at all stages of their careers including emerging and underrepresented artists, particularly those who are marginalised or experience intersecting forms of discrimination. The programme aims to increase and strengthen equitable representation and access, and amplify artistic voices across class, race, gender, sexuality and disability to fully reflect the diversity of London's population.

The two-year programme has been developed to provide a range of support including:

- A rent-free workspace within Studio Voltaire's newly developed buildings
- A bursary of £2,000 for each artist
- An individualised programme of mentoring and professional development
- Curatorial and pastoral support
- Access to local and international audiences via public events programming

Awards will be allocated based on talent and need. Applications will be received through an open call and via a group of selected nominators. Nominators include: Sheryll Catto, Co-Director of ActionSpace; Languid Hands, an artistic and curatorial collaboration between Rabz Lansiquot and Imani Robinson, writer and filmmaker Juliet Jacques; Dr Mark Sealy, Director of Autograph ABP; Linsey Young; Curator of Contemporary British Art, Tate Britain; and artist, Abbas Zahedi.

Awarded artists will be selected by a panel of leading curators and artists: Sepake Angiama, Artistic Director of Iniva; Andrew Bonacina, Chief Curator of The Hepworth Wakefield; artists Anthea Hamilton and Elizabeth Price; and Studio Voltaire's Curator of Studios and Residencies, Maggie Matic and Director, Joe Scotland.

Applications are now open at studiovoltaire.org.

Joe Scotland, Director of Studio Voltaire, said:

"This special programme is even more urgent given Covid-19's effects on artists. The need for spaces where artists can connect and be supported is vitally important. London has lost significant numbers of studio spaces in the last three years and it's estimated that more than a third of existing studio spaces will vanish by 2024. 2021 is going to be an extremely important year for our organisation and through this award we will increase accessibility and opportunities for artists, specifically those with limited financial means or experiencing barriers within their careers."

Jonathan Anderson, Creative Director of LOEWE, said:

"Supporting creativity is at the heart of all LOEWE does and it is therefore a great privilege for the LOEWE FOUNDATION to support this vital new initiative, especially in light of the impact Covid-19 has had on the artistic community. I have long admired Studio Voltaire and the work it does and am delighted we can be a part of it."

Notes to editors

Press contacts

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LOEWE FOUNDATION / Studio Voltaire Award

Each awardee receives a rent-free workspace at Studio Voltaire, London for a period of two years, starting in August 2021. They will each receive a bursary of £1,000 per year (£2,000 in total) towards materials, production costs, equipment or living expenses. Each awardee will receive an individualised programme of mentoring and professional development opportunities co-devised with Studio Voltaire, taking advantage of the organisation's network of peers, collaborators and supporters. The deadline for applications is 6pm GMT on Monday 26 April 2021. All information can be found at studiovoltaire.org.

Studio Voltaire

Studio Voltaire is one of the UK's leading not-for-profit arts organisations. Its pioneering public programmes of exhibitions, participation projects, live events and offsite commissions have gained an international reputation.

The organisation has an outstanding track record of supporting artists at a pivotal stage in their careers, championing emerging and underrepresented practices and placing emphasis on risk-taking and experimentation. Many commissions are an artist's first solo exhibition in London or the UK.

Exhibiting artists have included Aaron Angell, Nairy Baghramian, Phyllida Barlow, Monster Chetwynd, Anne Collier, Thea Djordjadze, Nicole Eisenman, Sharon Hayes, Nnena Kalu, Sanya Kantarovsky, Ella Kruglyanskaya, Shahryar Nashat, The Neo Naturists, Henrik Olesen, Paulina Olowska, Elizabeth Price, Charlotte Prodger, Jo Spence, Cathy Wilkes and Rehana Zaman.

Studio Voltaire commissions a wide range of participatory and offsite projects working in collaboration with artists, local organisations, schools and community groups and provides a much-needed resource of affordable and accessible onsite artists' studios, supporting the development of diverse individual and collective practices, from recent graduates to internationally recognised practitioners.

Studio Voltaire is a registered charity and part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio.

More information:

web: studiovoltaire.org

Instagram/Facebook: @studiovoltairelondon

Twitter: @studiovoltaire

The LOEWE FOUNDATION

The LOEWE FOUNDATION was established as a private cultural foundation in 1988 by Enrique Loewe, a fourth-generation member of LOEWE's founding family. Today, the Foundation continues to promote creativity, organise educational programmes and protect cultural heritage in the fields of craft, art, design, photography, poetry and dance. The Foundation was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit in the Fine Arts by the Spanish government in 2002.

More information:

web | loewe.com

blog | blogfundacionloewe.es

Instagram | @loewefoundation

LOEWE & Culture

With the LOEWE Foundation Craft Prize, founded in 2016, the house reasserts its longstanding commitment to creativity in all forms and disciplines. Culture is a pillar of the brand. Reflecting fashion's vital link to contemporary life, a strong emphasis on art, design and craftsmanship has been a cornerstone of Jonathan Anderson's rebuilding of the house. In the past four years, LOEWE has initiated an important series of collaborations with artists and artisans who reinterpret and expand the brand's values. Apart from showcasing the many facets of LOEWE, these cultural projects reflect the transfer of knowledge and the cooperative spirit that have been characteristic of LOEWE since the day it was founded.