



MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA · MARCH 2027

# Down the Lane Artist Residency 2027

One artist. One month in Melbourne. Return airfare, accommodation, a private studio and a production budget, so you can spend the time making work.

APPLICATIONS OPEN  
**1 October 2026**

APPLICATIONS CLOSE  
**20 December 2026**

APPLY  
[culturefocus.com.au](https://culturefocus.com.au)

# A month to make new work, with the practical things taken care of

Down the Lane is a fully supported, one-month studio residency for one artist, held in Melbourne in March 2027. It covers the artist's return airfare, accommodation for the month, a private studio and access to a shared workshop space, along with an A\$500 production budget.

It is run by Down the Lane Studios in partnership with Culture Focus. The idea behind it is simple: give an artist real time, a real studio, and enough support that they can actually use it.

## What the resident receives

Designed so cost isn't a reason not to apply.

### Return airfare

Flights to and from Melbourne for the residency period.

### A private studio

Your own working space for the month, approx. 6 x 6 metres.

### A\$500 production budget

Towards materials and the costs of making new work.

### An open studio

A chance to show the work made, by negotiation towards the end of the stay.

### Accommodation

A place to stay for the full month, arranged for you.

### Workshop space

Access to a shared workshop area alongside the private studio.

### Melbourne connections

Introductions into the local arts community during the stay.

### Visa support

A letter of support for international artists who need one to travel.

#### KEY DATES

Applications open  
**1 Oct 2026**

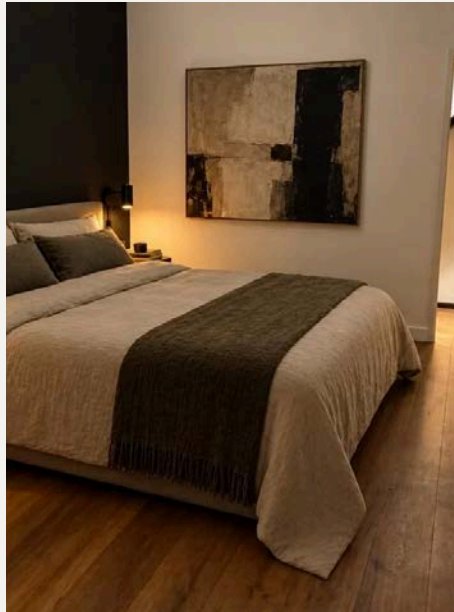
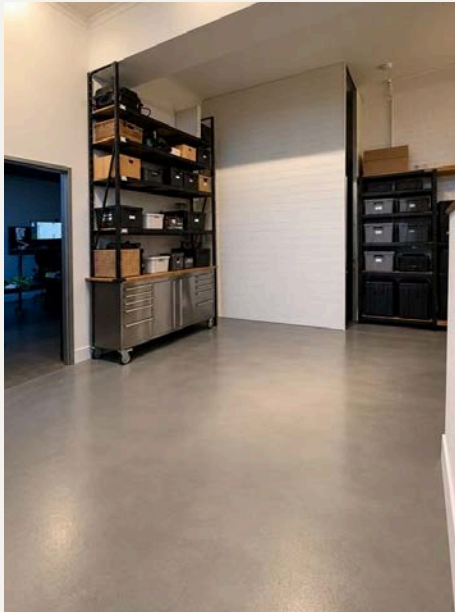
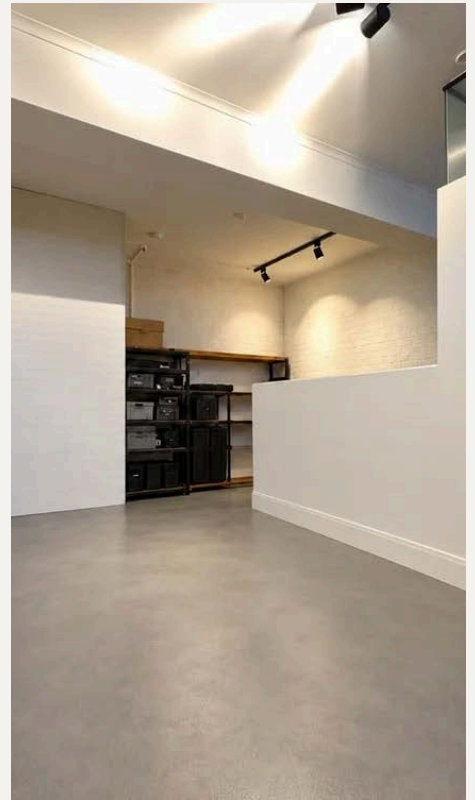
Applications close  
**20 Dec 2026**

Applicants notified  
**20 Jan 2027**

Residency  
**March 2027**

Open studio  
**By negotiation**

# Down the Lane Studios, Collingwood



LANEWAY EXHIBITION AT THE STUDIO ENTRANCE • WORKSHOP • STUDIO DETAIL • ACCOMMODATION • MELBOURNE

## The studio

A working studio space in Collingwood, Melbourne. The residency studio sits alongside a shared workshop area, with room to spread out, experiment, and make a mess if the work calls for it.

## Why Melbourne

One of Australia's most active independent arts communities: artist-run spaces, small galleries, studio complexes and a culture of dropping in on each other's work. A month here means access to that network.

## Materials and facilities

Basic working amenities are provided. Specialist facilities such as a press, darkroom or kiln aren't on site, but we can help the resident find equipment elsewhere in Melbourne.

# Practising artists, working in any medium

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## Who can apply

Practising artists worldwide, at any career stage. Applicants need to be able to travel to Melbourne, and be present in the studio for the full month of March 2027.

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## What we're looking for

- Strong, consistent existing work
- A clear, achievable idea for the month
- Genuine curiosity about Melbourne as a place to make new work
- The ability to work independently in a shared studio

### WHAT TO SUBMIT

## One PDF, everything in it

A single PDF, up to 10MB, containing:

- Up to 10 images of your work
- An artist bio (max. 500 words)
- A CV (max. two pages)
- A project plan for the residency (max. 1000 words)

### APPLICATION FEE

# A\$50

Approx. US\$35 · €31 · ¥236 RMB at September 2026 rates.

Non-refundable; goes towards the cost of assessing applications. Payment instructions are provided during the application process.

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## Check your links

Links to websites, video or portfolios must work without a login and not expire before review. A broken or private link can't be assessed.

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## Accessibility

Let us know about any access needs when you apply. You're welcome to get in touch beforehand to discuss the space.

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## International artists

A letter of support for your visa application is provided once selected. Contact us with visa questions before applying.

# Six stages, from application to notification

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## 1

### Applications close

All applications must be submitted by 20 December 2026.

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## 2

### Eligibility check

Every application is checked against the eligibility and submission requirements.

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## 3

### Panel review

Each panel member independently reviews eligible applications against the criteria.

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## 4

### Panel discussion

The panel meets to discuss and compare their assessments.

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## 5

### Final decision

The panel agrees on the successful artist.

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## 6

### Notification

All applicants are notified by 20 January 2027. There is no separate shortlist announcement.

#### ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

## What the panel is assessing

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### Quality and consistency of existing work

Evidence of a developed practice, seen across the work samples submitted.

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### Likely benefit to the artist's practice

What this specific time and place would add to where the work is heading.

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### Clarity and feasibility of the project

A plan achievable within one month, in a shared studio, with the budget provided.

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### Working independently in a shared space

Self-direction matters as much as ambition when working alongside others.

# Artists, curators, academics and arts professionals

Applications are assessed by a panel of Melbourne and international arts professionals.

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## Bronek Kózka

Artist, academic, curator. Photomedia, RMIT University; founder, Down the Lane Studios; co-founder, Culture Focus.

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## Emma Phillips

Artist, academic. Assistant Professor in Visual Communication, University of Canberra.

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## Steven Rendall

Painter. Painting, video and sculpture; held by the National Gallery of Victoria and Artbank.

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## Alasdair Foster

Curator, writer, researcher.

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## Simon Perry

Sculptor.

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## Qingyi Cai

Curator, Shanghai. Contemporary photography and historical visual culture; formerly Shanghai Center of Photography and Fotografiska Shanghai.

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## Moshe Rosenzweig OAM

Photography festival director. Founder and creative director, Head On Photo Festival.

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## Shane Hulbert

Artist, curator, academic.

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## Helen Yu

Art consultant.

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## Clara Samson

Gallerist.

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Further panel members to be announced.

**“I set this residency up because I know how hard it is to get uninterrupted time and a decent space to make new work. This is my way of giving one artist a month where that's simply not a problem.”**

BRONEK KÓZKA, FOUNDER, DOWN THE LANE AND CULTURE FOCUS

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**Never been to Australia?**

Welcome. Most residents will be visiting Melbourne for the first time.

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**Shared or private accommodation?**

Private: a room with its own bathroom, attached to the studio area, not shared with anyone else.

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**Unspent production budget?**

Administration details are confirmed with the successful applicant.

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**Who owns the work made?**

The artist. We take no ownership of, or rights to, the work.

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**Practice across several media?**

That's fine. The panel reviews the work and plan, not a category. Not photography-specific.

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**Bringing a partner or family?**

Costs cover the resident only. Get in touch before applying to discuss.

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**Can't make all of March 2027?**

Dates are fixed. Note any constraint in your application and we'll advise.

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**Is the fee refundable?**

No. The A\$50 fee is non-refundable, whatever the outcome.

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**What's expected of the resident**

Live and work from the studio for the full month, take part in the open studio at the end of the stay, and stay in touch with the Down the Lane and Culture Focus team.

# Apply by 20 December 2026

One PDF · A\$50 application fee · Opens 1 October 2026

culture  
focus

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**APPLY**

[culturefocus.com.au/  
down-the-lane-residency-2027](https://culturefocus.com.au/down-the-lane-residency-2027)

**CONTACT**

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Culture Focus acknowledges the people of the Woi wurrung and Boon wurrung language groups of the eastern Kulin Nations on whose unceded lands we live and work. We respectfully acknowledge Ancestors and Elders, past and present. Always was, always will be.