

House of Illustration is the UK's first and only cultural organisation dedicated to illustration: we share amazing practice, nurture skills and unlock new ideas. Since 2014, our residency programme has supported illustrators to create new work in storied places.

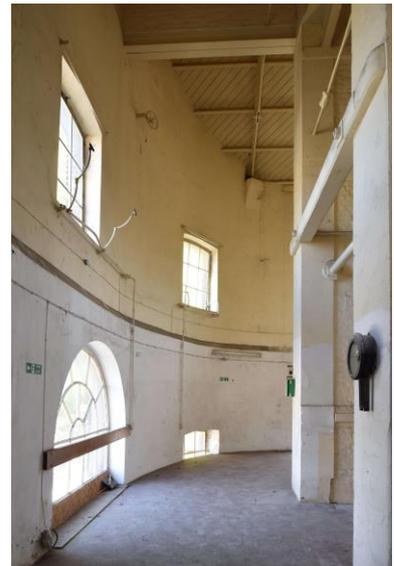
We are now open to applications from recently graduated illustrators for our 10-day Engine House Graduate Micro Residency in October 2021.

We are looking for someone to visually document New River Head, an industrial heritage site dating from the 1600s. The site in central London has been lying empty for more than 70 years, but next year we will begin renovating it to create a public centre for illustration. Before we begin our restoration work, we want someone to capture its current derelict state and mark the end of its dormant life.

This residency is open to illustrators who have undertaken a period of self-directed, peer-led, undergraduate or postgraduate study that has concluded or will conclude in 2021. This can include alternative, peer-organised and non-accredited programmes from an institution, collective or art school, as well as BA, MA and similar qualifications.

Graduate illustrators are invited to make an application in response to the brief below, explaining how they would interpret New River Head with their original approach to illustration.

The Engine House Graduate Micro Residency is made possible with generous support from the Barbara and Philip Denny Trust.



## About New River Head

The New River is an artificial waterway that was created in the early 1600s to supply clean drinking water to London's growing population. A 40-mile channel was cut to enable water from springs in Hertfordshire to run to reservoirs at New River Head, from which it was distributed across the city. It was a major infrastructure project that transformed public health in the city, but that was also the subject of controversy and debate.

Today, New River Head is a derelict site comprising the 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century buildings that housed changing technologies for pumping water from Clerkenwell to the city: a windmill, a horse gin and, eventually, monumental steam-powered engines contained within the site's central engine house. Because of their original industrial purpose, the buildings are large and marked by use. They are mostly empty, though some fittings and traces of defunct machinery remain. The landscape around the building has been concreted over, though some original cobbles and tracks are still visible, and wild plants are thriving.

Over the next two years we will work with Tim Ronalds Architects to redevelop New River Head into a permanent home for our galleries and education studios and a new public garden.



## About the residency

Our team are now beginning a period of research into New River Head's engineering, architectural, social, environmental, economic, political and cultural history. Our plan is to collaborate with different people to learn about and share the site's stories. The Engine House Graduate Micro Residency will be part of this process.

We are looking for a recently graduated illustrator to visually document the New River Head site before our restoration of its buildings and landscape begins in 2022. Our restoration will keep the site's special character and traces of history, but its transformation from forgotten place to public space will mean that it will eventually look and feel different from the way it does today. We want someone to capture its current derelict state and mark the end of its life as an unused place.

The resident may document any aspect of the site that interests them – they may be interested in making work about its architecture, atmosphere, plant life or something else. We are particularly interested in the way the resident could respond to parts of the site that may disappear, change or be concealed in the process of our restoration.

The resident may work in any medium, but we would like them to produce a short digital publication to showcase their work. This may be an e-book style piece, a series of gifs or another digital format.

## Criteria

We are looking for responses to the brief that:

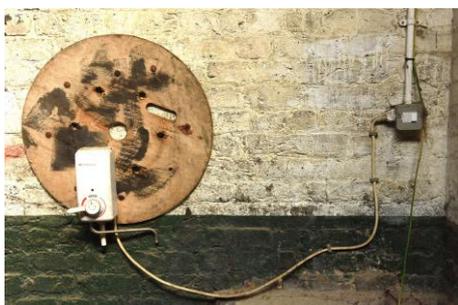
- engage directly with the current state of the New River Head site, located behind 28 Amwell Street, Clerkenwell, London, EC1R 1XU, rather than other locations related to the New River
- consider the transformation that the site is about to undergo
- document the site in a way that will be accessible to a range of audiences
- demonstrate the resident's own unique visual language
- will result in work suitable for showcasing online as a digital publication
- can be delivered within the budget and timescale of the residency
- are appropriate to the applicant's skills and strengths, as clearly demonstrated by their previous work

The resident will:

- undertake a creative project based on the brief above, supported by House of Illustration's curatorial team
- work on their project for 10 full days (or the equivalent of 10 full days) in October 2021 (exact days to be agreed with the resident and House of Illustration)
- visit the New River Head site as often as needed to complete their project
- keep track of their progress so that process artwork can be showcased online, with assistance from House of Illustration's communications team

The residency provides:

- a fee of £1,760 and up to £250 for materials and/or travel expenses for visits to New River Head (paid as required)
- support from House of Illustration's staff in the development of the project
- an online showcase of the outcomes of the residency



## Eligibility

This residency is open to illustrators who have undertaken a period of self-directed, peer-led, undergraduate or postgraduate study that has concluded or will conclude in 2021. This can include alternative, peer-organised and non-accredited programmes from an institution, collective or art school, as well as BA, MA and similar qualifications. This study should be related to illustration or creative disciplines that relate closely to graphic communication. This includes (but is not limited to): illustration, game design, typography, coding, animation, graphic design, printmaking and book arts.

Applicants must have proven experience of completing research-led and brief-driven creative projects.

Applicants should be able to make visits to New River Head as necessary to meet the needs of their project (if government guidelines allow) and within the budget of the residency.

New River Head has been derelict for some years and our work on its development is just beginning, therefore it is not currently fully accessible. However, we are committed to supporting any access needs the resident may have to undertake their project on New River Head. If you have any queries about access at the site, or would like to discuss your access needs, please email us at [residency@houseofillustration.org.uk](mailto:residency@houseofillustration.org.uk).

The residency is an opportunity to create a new body of work about New River Head. It is not intended for work on existing personal projects, commissioned projects or work undertaken as part of a qualification.

We particularly welcome applications from D/deaf and disabled creatives and creatives of African, Caribbean, Central Asian, East Asian, South Asian, South East Asian and West Asian heritage, as practitioners from these backgrounds are underrepresented in our programming.



## Making an application

To apply you must submit **two documents** as described below. Please note that we are unable to consider applications in other formats or to accept any other material as part of your application.

Please email your proposal to [residency@houseofillustration.org.uk](mailto:residency@houseofillustration.org.uk) by **17:00 BST on 20 September 2021**. Please note that our application inbox will close at that time and that submissions received after 17:00 BST will not be accepted.

We understand that applicants may have a range of access needs. If you have access needs that need to be met to support you to make an application, attend interview if shortlisted or to carry out work on your proposed project if selected, please write to us at [residency@houseofillustration.org.uk](mailto:residency@houseofillustration.org.uk).

### 1. Application form

Please download and complete an application form.

### 2. Equal Opportunities Monitoring form

Please download and complete our Equal Opportunities Monitoring form. The information you provide will be treated as strictly confidential and used only to monitor and improve the effectiveness of our recruitment programmes and help us to meet our obligations under the Equality Act 2010. Your completed monitoring form will be separated from your application upon receipt and will not be viewed by the selection panel.

**Please do not add your name to the Equal Opportunities Monitoring form, or attach it to your application document.**

In recognition of underrepresentation in our programming, we will be offering guaranteed interviews to Deaf and disabled\* applicants and applicants of African, Caribbean, Central Asian, East Asian, South Asian, South East Asian and West Asian heritage whose projects proposals meet the criteria listed above. Please indicate on your Monitoring Form whether you agree to a guaranteed interview on this basis.

\*Definition under the Equality Act 2010: you are disabled if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.



## **Selection and interview**

You will receive an email to confirm receipt of your application up to 4 working days from submission.

Applicants will be informed about whether they have been shortlisted for interview by 1 October 2021. Please note that due to the high volume of submissions, we are not able to give feedback to applicants who are not shortlisted for interview.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview via Zoom on 7 October 2021. They will not be required to create new work or a presentation for interview, but will be asked to bring examples or images of previous work.

Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed by the selection panel:

Joy Yamusangie	Visual artist and House of Illustration trustee
Olivia Ahmad	Artistic Director, House of Illustration
Katie McCurrach	Assistant Curator & Touring Exhibitions Manager, House of Illustration

The successful applicant will complete their residency in October 2021.

## **Key dates**

Closing date for applications	20 September 2021
Shortlisted applicants informed	1 October 2021
Interviews	7 October 2021
Residency undertaken	October 2021
Online launch of residency outcomes	November/December 2021

Please contact us with further queries at: [residency@houseofillustration.org.uk](mailto:residency@houseofillustration.org.uk) Please note that due to the high volume of enquiries we receive, it may take up to 5 working days for us to respond to your queries. Please submit your queries with enough time for us to respond before the application deadline.

## **Your data**

The information you provide to us in your application is used internally for us to process your application and administer the residency. Please see our [Privacy Policy](#) for further details.