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17 April 2023 – 31 October 2024

We are excited to announce our international Open Call for the brand-new Asymmetry Curatorial Research Fellowship at Chisenhale Gallery, London – an 18-month post for an early career curator to develop their curatorial practice supporting the gallery's internationally renowned commissions programme and newly founded publishing initiative, Chisenhale Books. The Fellowship will further provide the curator with the opportunity to develop and contribute to various editorial, communications and social media outputs, thinking critically about the connections between the gallery, commissioned artists and our audiences, in line with the organisation's mission, vision and values.

This role marks an evolution of the partnership between Asymmetry and Chisenhale Gallery, which to date has yielded two successful Curatorial Writing Fellows; the first focusing on the methodological contradictions of forging "remote affinities" through written communication online, the second straddling oral history and fiction writing as two modes of capturing the complexities of transnational identities. The Asymmetry Curatorial Research Fellowship 2023/24 builds upon previous experiences, responds to Fellows' feedback, and recognises the urgent need to provide unique professional development opportunities related to working with artists in ways that push beyond the boundaries of traditional exhibition making, communication and publishing formats.

The Fellowship will provide unique training, skills, and experience, while embedded in the curatorial workings of a non-profit gallery that is recognised for its experimental and innovative approach. It will provide instrumental hands-on experience including exhibition organisation, artist liaison, project-based research, production support, publishing and editorial input, and public programming. There will also be an opportunity to work with the organisation's rich exhibitions archive, thinking critically about the gallery's legacy and future archival practice. Moreover, the Curatorial Research Fellow will contribute research and ideas to the gallery's programme, in collaboration with the wider curatorial team, and support the delivery of events, artists' books and other publishing outputs. The position is aimed at curators identifying to any extent with Greater Chinese and Sinophone cultures and identities, based in the regions or internationally.

ABOUT THE CURATORIAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The Asymmetry Curatorial Research Fellowship 2023/24 will provide time and space for critical conversation, close reading and rigorous thought, alongside the development of invaluable practical skills. Opportunities for studio visits and critical discourse will be facilitated via Chisenhale's extensive creative peer network.

The Asymmetry Curatorial Research Fellow will work closely with Chisenhale's curatorial team, who are committed to pastoral care and supportive professional development. Managed by Chisenhale's Curator, the Fellow will work directly on the development of commissions, events and/or publications with artists Laurie Kang, Benoît Piéron, Alia Farid, Joshua Leon and Rory Pilgrim. Additionally, the role includes an opportunity to work at Asymmetry HQ – the foundation's multipurpose hub - one day a week, for the Fellow to further their own curatorial research and writing in collaboration with Asymmetry's curatorial network.

The Fellow will be given the opportunity to research and develop aspects of public-facing programming over which they will have responsibility for implementation. Throughout the placement, mentoring and assistance from senior staff will allow the Fellow to develop and refine their skills and establish their own curatorial ambitions. The placement is designed to instil agency, to allow the realisation of new curatorial achievements, to enable, formulate and expand on new ideas and growth in their profession.

ABOUT ASYMMETRY ART FOUNDATION

Asymmetry is a London-based independent, non-profit foundation dedicated to nurturing curatorial practice and disseminating knowledge about Greater Chinese and Sinophone contemporary art. Asymmetry works regionally and internationally, promoting meaningful exchange between creative practitioners, institutions, and audiences to enable pioneering research, collaboration, production, and participation.

ABOUT CHISENHALE GALLERY

Chisenhale Gallery was founded by artists. The same experimental vision and spirit of possibility that changed an empty veneer factory and brewery warehouse into an art gallery guides the gallery's work today. Chisenhale Gallery commissions and produces contemporary art, supporting international and UK-based artists to make their most ambitious work to date by pursuing new directions in their practices. The gallery is committed to its audiences having access to the energy and ideas of an ever-expanding artist community. Chisenhale Gallery has an award winning, 38-year history as one of London's most innovative forums for art production and presentation. With a reputation for identifying new artistic talent, Chisenhale Gallery believes in making cultural impact through working with artists. The gallery develops ideas with artists over a one- to two-year incubation period, from concept to completion. Located in a dynamic and creative residential neighbourhood in the heart of London's East End, where many cultures converge, Chisenhale Gallery is an evolving space for experimentation, transformed by each artist's commission.

FELLOW DESCRIPTION

Open to an early career curator identifying to any extent with Greater Chinese and Sinophone cultures, candidates for the Curatorial Research Fellowship should possess:

- A demonstrable professional commitment to contemporary art and culture, and an interest in exhibition-making
- A desire to understand the particulars of curating in the British public museum sector
- A relevant degree in Art History or Curating

- Experience of working in a public gallery or museum in a curatorial capacity
- Writing experience in relation to contemporary art
- Experience of both working as part of a team and independently
- The ability to work on several projects simultaneously to gain an understanding of the different stages of organising projects
- The ability to communicate effectively and proficiently in English, both verbally and in writing
- Excellent computer skills
- An eye for detail
- An understanding of the nature of working with living artists
- Diplomacy and collegiality; enjoying teamwork and fostering good interpersonal relations

CURATORIAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP TIMELINE

- 12 December 2022: Open Call application deadline
- December 2022: Application shortlisting
- January 2023: Interviews for shortlisted candidates (via Zoom)
- February 2023: Selection of Fellowship recipient
- Spring 2023: Announcement of Fellowship recipient
- 17 April 2023 – 31 October 2024: Fellowship duration

CURATORIAL FELLOWSHIP GUIDELINES

Chisenhale Gallery has a reputation for providing critical friendship to artists through the development of contemporary art commissions at every stage, from concept to completion. Opportunities for studio visits and engaged discourse will be facilitated via Chisenhale's extensive creative peer network.

The successful candidate will receive the equivalent of £25,000* per annum during their 18-month fellowship (inclusive of pension and National Insurance contributions) and 28* days annual leave in addition to UK Bank holidays.

*An 18-month total of £37,500; 42 days leave, as agreed by line manager

International travel allowance up to £1,800 (envisioned as two return flights; one to undertake the full duration of the fellowship and another for an interim trip back home), should the successful candidate be based abroad.

UK Airport transfers: up to £180, as above to support the successful candidate if international.

Visa application fee and associated costs (inclusive of eligibility check, legal assistance, and health surcharge) £2,400, if required.

UK travel allowance: £100

FOR THE CURATORIAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION PACKAGE, PLEASE SUBMIT:

- The completed Asymmetry Curatorial Fellowship Application Form (to be downloaded from our website)
- Your current CV, outlining previous employment history, past exhibition projects, residencies, awards, publications, and public programming (such as talks, symposia, conferences etc.)

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- A cover letter summarising your motivation to undertake the Fellowship and a brief written statement on your curatorial interests and your research in contemporary art and its wider discourse (500 words)

Please send in your complete Curatorial Research Fellowship application package via e-mail to fellowship@asymmetryart.org

Application language and material must be submitted in English.
Please note that the file size should not exceed a total of 10 MB.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
12 DECEMBER 2022

Asymmetry