



ARTIVATOR

Fellowship in Art Curation

Application Deadline: July 2nd, 2023

ARTIVATOR – Open Call: Fellowship in Art Curation

ARTIVATOR is an innovative Art Management Incubator focused on enhancing the capabilities of cultural practitioners from the MENA region. This initiative aims to provide comprehensive training, mentoring, and networking opportunities to empower participants with the necessary skills and knowledge for success in the arts industry. ARTIVATOR offers a personalized experience tailored to each participant's needs, leveraging a network of arts professionals, resources, and support from our esteemed partners.

By supporting emerging arts managers, the incubator strives to foster a vibrant and sustainable arts sector in the MENA region. Our goal is to cultivate a new generation of leaders capable of navigating industry challenges while driving growth and innovation. If you are an emerging arts manager in the MENA region, ARTIVATOR presents an unparalleled opportunity to elevate your career to new heights.

For its second call in 2023, The British Council, in partnership with the Liverpool Arab Arts Festival (LAAF) in the Northwest of England, is delighted to offer a Fellowship in Art Curation (Assistant Curator) from September 2023 to July 2024.

Liverpool Arab Arts Festival

Established in 1998, the Liverpool Arab Arts Festival (LAAF) is the UK's oldest annual Arab arts and culture festival. It serves as a platform to showcase the finest Arab artists from the UK and around the world, promoting dialogue and fostering appreciation of Arab cultures. LAAF extends its activities beyond the festival season, hosting various events and projects throughout the year to connect artists with diverse communities.

This year, LAAF plans to commission four Arab visual artists from Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, or Tunisia based on a specific curatorial idea. These artists will receive financial and curatorial support during their 10-day research residency in Liverpool in September 2023. The residency will involve site visits, meetings, and research to develop new artwork exploring the future of port cities in Liverpool, the Middle East, and North Africa. The resulting artwork will be presented in a group exhibition at the Liverpool Arab Arts Festival in July 2024. Alongside the exhibition, a symposium will be held to delve into the conceptual themes explored by the artists.

What does the fellowship involve?

ARTIVATOR, deeply embedded in MENA-UK collaboration, is seeking an assistant curator to work closely with the festival's curatorial team and provide support to the participating artists. Key responsibilities of the assistant curator include assisting in the planning and organization of the exhibitions. This entails collaborating with the artists to coordinate logistics, scheduling, and venue arrangements. The assistant curator will actively participate in the physical installation of the exhibitions and ensure effective

communication with the artists regarding artwork preparations. Additionally, the assistant curator will contribute to the selection process of the artists.

The Fellowship will also focus on practical tasks and include one-to-one or group sessions on various skills and areas of knowledge. You will have the opportunity to participate in a series of 60–90-minute virtual briefing sessions, enabling you to meet the team, including Festival Manager Jack Welsh, gain deeper insights into the festival, and discuss detailed itineraries.

A small brief on the curatorial idea behind the project.

Port Cities is a project that explores the unique characteristics and significance of global port cities, examining their social, economic, political, and cultural heritage. The project recognizes the historical importance of ancient port cities like Alexandria and highlights the accelerated flows of labour, capital, and information that define modern global port cities. Liverpool, with its rich history as a colonial port and its recent economic revitalization, serves as a focal point for the project. The city's redevelopment plans, including the creation of a Freeport, raise questions about the impact of colonial legacies, economic zones, and the climate crisis on the future of port cities. Through the Port Cities project, artists will engage in critical reflections and independent research to create new artwork that explores these themes.

Why apply?

As part of ARTIVATOR, The British Council, in partnership with Liverpool Arab Arts Festival, aims to support the development of cultural events and festivals in the MENA region. We believe that skills development, combined with direct practical experience, can help fulfil this ambition. LAAF provides a model of a large-scale festival with international reach, taking place in Liverpool. With its rich history since 1998, LAAF platforms the best UK and international Arab artists, fostering a dynamic dialogue between traditional and contemporary Arab artforms. It encourages informed debate, exploration, and increased appreciation of Arab people and their diverse cultures.

Who is eligible to apply?

This fellowship is intended for individuals with prior experience in art curation who are eager to expand their skills and knowledge in this field. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and commit to participate in the 10-day residency in September 2023 and the preparation work up to the opening of the festival in July 2024. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential for active engagement in the program.

Which geographic areas will the Fellowship cover?

For this project, we are seeking an assistant curator from Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, or Tunisia. If you are a national of any of these countries but you reside elsewhere, you are also eligible to apply.

What will you gain?

The fellowship will cover various aspects linked to Art Curation, including:

1. Curatorial Practices
2. Artist / Artwork Selection and Management
3. Exhibition Development
4. Collaborative Work
5. Exhibition Installation and Management
6. Curatorial Research
7. Public Engagement
8. Networking and Professional Development
9. Ethical Considerations
10. Reflection and Evaluation

We aim to provide a comprehensive fellowship for an assistant curator, offering a balance between theoretical knowledge, hands-on practical work, and opportunities for professional growth, empowering the fellow to become a skilled and confident professional in the field of curatorial practices.

What is covered?

The fellowship covers your visas and flights twice, as well as internal travel within the UK. Accommodation in Liverpool will be provided, shared with another fellow. An honorarium of £1500 and subsistence of £350 for each trip will be offered, and additional hospitality will be provided at the festival.

How do you apply?

To apply, please submit a short biography/CV and a cover letter addressing the following:

- Why are you interested in becoming a Fellow?
- What relevant experience do you have to date?
- What are your ambitions for the future in this area of work?
- What do you believe are the key personal and practical ingredients that contribute to a successful curated exhibition in a festival?



Deadline: 2nd July 2023, at 12 am BST

Please submit your application to: jack@arabicartsfestival.co.uk

Subject: ARTIVATOR Fellowship – British Council x LAAF