

Antarctic Artists and Writers Programme

Residency call 2024/5

Calling artists and writers for a residency on, or about, the sea.

The residency offers:

A 1-3 month immersive experience spending time at sea on a research vessel (the *SA Agulhas II*) or in a polar science lab, with a view to producing an artwork or publication

This residency is part of a pilot project that aims to bring Antarctica, the sub-Antarctic Islands and the Southern Ocean closer to a South African audience through the production of creative works.

Applicants could be interested in any of these or related topics:

- The relationship between society and environment from the perspective of South Africa or Africa
- African coasts and shores, Antarctica, the subantarctic islands, the Southern Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, etc.
- Gondwana imaginaries
- Far South and Global South interconnections
- Weather, sea level rise, inundation, drought, rain
- Ice, water, hydrological cycles
- Media and environmental media
- Place, space, journeys
- Being unbalanced, unlanded, at sea
- Place and displacement, embodiment and identity
- Shipwrecks, lifeboats, whaling, sea creatures, etc.

Possible residency dates include:

- 5 December 2024 to 6 February 2025 (Antarctic relief voyage)
- 15 April to 15 May 2025 (Marion Island voyage)
- July 2025 (Southern Ocean Window winter cruise, exact dates TBD)
- Various dates in lieu of cruise in the event of cancellation, for a university lab-based residency
- Depending on availability of berths on the ship, weather, etc. **Flexibility is crucial.**

Funding:

- Travel and accommodation in Cape Town as required
- Costs of the voyage itself
- Budget for materials, exhibition and publication costs
- Variable funding depending on duration and scope of project proposed

Eligibility:

- Strong priority will be given to diversity and transformation in selection

- South African citizens or permanent resident, or citizen of another African country
- For inclusion on a ship's cruise a medical and dental assessment is mandatory, plus a passport valid for three months after the end of the cruise
- Independent, self-directed artist/writer; willing to learn, be uncomfortable and chip in; flexible
- Experience with fieldwork, outdoor activities or similar would be beneficial

Outcome:

- a creative/scholarly work that will be made public through exhibition or other means

Application procedure:

- Candidates are encouraged to contact us in advance to express interest, find out more, and discuss possible projects
- You will then be asked to send us an application in a single pdf (max size 5MB) and include
 1. a short CV (contact details, website/Instagram etc, – max 5 pages)
 2. a description of the proposed project
 3. a portfolio of relevant recent creative work or published research

Please state clearly which residency are you interested in – Antarctica, Marion Island, or Southern Ocean window winter cruise.

Email charne.lavery@up.ac.za and jean.brundrit@uct.ac.za

Deadline:

- **31 October 2024**
- **or ASAP for the first residency**
- **rolling thereafter**

Additional information

This project aims to plan and pilot a South African Antarctic Artists and Writers Programme (AWP), and in so doing to improve public engagement with South African Antarctic involvement through arts production and humanities research. Arts production will be supported by giving artists and writers a formal structure through which access the Antarctic and subantarctic regions, through exhibitions of their work, and through promotion by public events, publication and/or online platforms. Humanities research will provide the context, background, and cultural histories to develop and deepen both arts production and public engagement.

The residency may include time at sea on the South African research vessel, *SA Agulhas II*, or time attached to a lab. In the event that the resident goes to sea a comprehensive administrative process needs to be completed to satisfy the Department of Forestry,

Fisheries and the Environment as well as the company that runs the ship. The resident needs to be willing to assist with this process.

The aim of going to sea is so that the artist/writer can experience being immersed in a different environment, to draw upon in their creative process and artmaking. Once onboard there is a strict protocol in terms of command – what it is possible to do and when, overall behavior guidelines, etc – to which you will be required to abide. You will receive a document detailing all aspects of shipboard life that will guide your time on the ship. The proposed project cannot require the ship to deviate from its scheduled activities or make demands on the ship's crew.

All materials needed during your voyage must be taken with you.

We cannot guarantee you a single cabin. You may be sharing a cabin with other passengers.

Wifi and communication while at sea is very poor, so a project that relies on wifi is not feasible.

There may be additional permissions required depending on your project.

Conceivably time spent at sea or in another residency may focus on planning artworks that are manufactured/produced only after you return. A voyage report and a finished work will be required within six months of return.