



RADESMAN'S ENTRANCE

Call for Artist in Residence

Deadline: 18th April

Full details at <http://labourexchange.weebly.com/>

Labour Exchange is a non-commercial, independent artists' collective. We are currently programming **Tradesmans Entrance** Earlsdon's inaugural contemporary visual art festival, which will take place during the annual Earlsdon Festival (26th April to the 4th May 2015). The festival aims to highlight an array of visual art, incorporating 'Free 2 View' an art trail of curated exhibitions, installations, interventions and video screenings, and 'Pay and Display' an accompanying art car boot sale.

Tradesman's Entrance takes as its starting point Earlsdon's rich history to explore changing notions of 'Workplace', 'Trade' and 'Labour'. Earlsdon, a suburb of Coventry in the West Midlands, UK, can be characterized by its history of integrated live/work spaces, from the ribbon weaving and watchmaking top shops of the 19th century to the small industrial units associated with the cycle and engineering industries once found down the back alleys and interspersed between houses in gardens and yards throughout the 20th century. Tradesman's Entrance proposes a revisiting of these 'hidden spaces for making', which now reveal a different sort of creativity and different sort of 'worker'.

Artists' Residency

Labour Exchange is pleased to announce that we've just been awarded funding to host two artists in residence in Earlsdon during Tradesman's Entrance. We are therefore inviting proposals from artists who are interested in responding directly to this context and the attendant ideas outlined below.

As a critically engaged form of cultural intervention Tradesman's Entrance sets out to investigate the relationship between art and work in this localized context. Over the past century significant social and technological changes have led to a shift in our understanding of the notion of work (and the time and place it occupies in our lives). The title 'Tradesman's Entrance' deliberately refers to a time when labour was defined as a male occupation and so the premise of the project seeks to actively question the nature of hidden work both historically and in a contemporary setting. The project will consider what role the artist plays in this context? Is the artist a form of public worker and what is the 'work' of art in politics and the broader society?

We are inviting proposals for artworks/artistic research projects for this residency that respond to these questions and that address, but are not limited to the following themes:-

- Residents relationships to work/workplace; domestic, industrial, craft, service, intellectual, material and imaterial labour, formal and informal

- Conditions of production/organisation of contemporary work/workers
- Time; occupied and recreational
- Points of contact between personal and political/public and private, space and time
- Different geographical and cultural viewpoints
- A gendered study of work in the context of Earlsdon.
- How can art be produced in this context, where is the place/space for creativity?
- The local and the global context.
- Art and the wellbeing agenda

This residency would suit artists who are curious, flexible and open to fully engaging with the project and who adopt a research or process orientated site/context responsive approach. This can include, but is not limited to interventions, installations, video (projected or screen based), sculpture, drawing, moving image, photography, painting, performance, sound, participatory and collaborative work. We also welcome an inter-disciplinary approach.

The residency will provide:

- Opportunities for networking with artists/curators in the region.
- A weeks accommodation hosted in an artist/academics home (27th April- 4th May), to allow time for process, experimentation, engagement, research, play, discovering the unexpected...
- Return uk travel expenses
- Artists stipend £200
- Material costs £150
- Opportunity to present work as part of Tradesman's Entrance Festival of Contemporary Art
- The project will be documented and disseminated online and via a printed colour brochure.

Artists will need to be available to undertake the residency from 27th April - 4th May 2015 and to attend a preliminary one-day visit/tour of Earlsdon to discuss your proposal, ask questions and begin initial research on Thurs 23rd or Fri 24th April.

To apply please send the following information by **midnight 18th April** to Jane Ball at j.ball@Coventry.ac.uk

Please put 'ART TRAIL RESIDENCY PROPOSAL' in the header of the email

- a 350 word project proposal/statement outlining your approach and relevant previous work
- C.V.
- Website address
- Artists Bio (max 100 words)
- 3-5 images of recent previous work
- 1 high res image for publicity purposes

Selected artists will be notified Mon 20th April.

Partners and funders

Tradesman's Entrance is a collaborative arts project produced by '*Labour Exchange*' and commissioned by Earlsdon Festival/Hearsall and Earlsdon Residents Association (HERA). We gratefully acknowledge the support of the City University Initiative in the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University and Brian Holt Estate Agents.

Labour Exchange is a non-commercial, independent artists' collective co directed by Jane Ball, Rob Hamp and Andrea Hannon.
