



Artful Migration Residency Programme | Artist Brief



An opportunity for an artist to undertake the 2025/26 Artful Migration residency, exploring the temperate rainforest of Galloway.

The 'Artful Migration' residency programme offers artists a unique insight into the migratory birds of Dumfries & Galloway through partnership working with local nature reserves and the opportunity to create new artwork in response for public display.

For 2025/26 the focus of the residency will be expanded to encompass a unique habitat, in the temperate rainforest of Galloway, highlighting the rich biodiversity the woodland supports (this includes flora and fauna, insects and birds).

KEY INFORMATION

- The commission will be managed by D&G based visual art and craft organisation [Upland](#) and has been developed in partnership with [Moving Souls Dance](#).
- The partners for this project are the [Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere](#) and [RSPB Scotland](#)
- The commission will take place between December 2025 – September 2026.
- The artist will be contracted on a pro rata basis, in line with Scottish Artist Union rates of pay at a residency fee of £8000 with an additional fee £1400 for 4 days engagement work (see additional budget information below).

- Artists based in Scotland can apply for this residency (see details below in 'who we are looking for')
- The artist is not expected to be on site for the duration of the residency. There is no permanent residency accommodation. Artists will work with the project partners to create a plan for when they will be on site and accommodation will be booked as required. Please note there is additional budget for accommodation and travel costs.

The residency involves four key elements:

- Research and development (on site combined with remote working)
- Creating and exhibiting new artwork (exhibition to take place in Dumfries & Galloway, site/location to be determined between artist and partners)
- 4 days of engagement work (i.e artist talk and workshops)
- Understanding the impact of climate change on the habitat, birds and their migration

The deadline for applications is 9am Monday 6th October 2025.

Project background

The residency programme has been developed by Upland in partnership with Ginnie Wollaston and Nicholas Paton Philip of Moving Souls Dance. Ginnie's uncle, George Clark, left her a legacy and his brother John Clark was a keen artist who lived for many years in Gatehouse of Fleet. She wanted to give this legacy to Dumfries and Galloway in memory of both uncles.

This legacy, along with additional support from Creative Scotland, has enabled three previous residencies (see previous [residencies](#))

Previous residencies:

2017-2018: The pilot residency took place at [WWT Caerlaverock](#), focusing on the whooper swans and their family groups. Undertaken by Angela Alexander Lloyd.

2020-21: This residency enabled artist and filmmaker John Wallace to research and create work based on the ospreys at [NTS Threave Garden and Estate](#).

2023: This residency was awarded to Leeming + Paterson and focused on the elusive nightjar in partnership with [Forest and Land Scotland](#) (FLS) and [RSPB](#).

Each residency culminated with an exhibition of new artwork created as a result of the research undertaken. [See past residency in 2023](#).

We hosted our first conference at The Crichton, Dumfries in 2023, see: [Artful Migration Conference October 2023](#).

About the Residency

The 2025/26 artist in residence programme will enable an artist to:

- Have a dedicated period of time to explore the temperate rainforest as a habitat for rare lichen and fungi as well as migratory birds (such as the [pied flycatcher](#), [wood warbler](#), [redstart](#)).
- Make innovative new artwork in response to their research. How and where the artwork will be exhibited will be discussed between the artist and partners – this could be site specific, outdoors or in a local venue.
- Work closely with the project partners to ensure best practice and sensitivity to the area.

The research and resulting artwork should raise the profile of the temperate rainforests, which are recognized as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), under the European Habitats Directive. The SAC is made up of four areas of woodland within Dumfries and Galloway: Wood of Cree, Carstramon Wood, Glentrool Oakwoods and Killiegowan Wood. All four are designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). See this [link](#) for a map.

The temperate rainforests are a high focus habitat within the [Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere](#), which has been recognised internationally as an endangered habitat at risk in Scotland.

More information on Scotland's rainforests can be found at: [Woodland Trust](#)

The RSPB Area Manager Scottish Lowlands & Southern Uplands (Andrew Bielinski) will be the main contact for access to the rainforest fragments with specific guides to support the artist.

Aims of the residency:

- Raise awareness about Galloway's temperate rainforests - why they are such an important habitat, highlighting the rich biodiversity the woodland supports (this includes flora and fauna, especially insects and birds)
- Raise awareness of the challenges the woodlands face – e.g. climate change, habitat fragmentation, inappropriate levels of deer grazing and the presence of non-native species that alter the composition of the woods
- Highlight the importance of conserving these habitats and the conservation work which is currently being done by the project partners to restore the woodlands
- Connect artists to the environment and communities of Dumfries & Galloway, which will facilitate learning, sharing of knowledge, discussion and debate around conservation on both a local and wider level
- Provide opportunities for artists to create new high-quality artwork informed by the research undertaken
- Highlight the role art and culture plays in communicating and raising awareness of crucial research relating to the climate crisis
- Highlight and demonstrate the importance and potential of partnership and collaborative working between art and nature organisations/ sectors.

Artistic Outcomes:

The following research and recording may be undertaken:

- Research, observation and visual recording of the temperate rainforest habitat in D&G
- Exploration of the challenges that climate change is having on temperate rainforest in D&G
- Recording of sketches, photos and digital media to reveal the artistic research that may inform presentations at the end of the residency
- Artistic work produced during the residency will be showcased at the end of the residency during summer / early Autumn 2026
- Artist to deliver 4 days of outreach/ education activity with GSA Biosphere & RSPB
- Artist to contribute / take part in an Artful Migration conference in Autumn 2026 (funding dependent, speakers fee in addition to residency)

The final artwork created can take any form and proposals are welcome from artists working in any medium including but not limited to painting, digital, multi-media, installation, moving image, photography and live art. However, we would ask all applicants to consider how they would capture the range of flora, fauna and the visiting birds.

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

- **Applicants must be practitioners in visual arts** but we are very open as to what form this takes, previous residencies have resulted in installations, film, sound, performance and photography.
- **An artist with an existing strong interest in environmental issues**
Artists applying should be able to demonstrate a strong interest in environmental issues and the climate challenge in their art practice
 - **Artists at any stage of their career are welcome to apply**
Artists should feel confident in working independently and managing their own timescales
 - **Artists based in Scotland are welcome to apply.** The temperate rainforests are in Dumfries and Galloway so artists will need to consider accommodation and travel when applying for this residency. Let us know how you would approach the geography of the site in your application.
 - **An artist who is confident in delivering artist talks and workshops** and relating their research and practice to other people. Local community spaces can be utilised for participatory activities and events. Artists will be well supported and connected with local networks.
 - **Artists willing to consider 'slow travel'** as an approach to taking part. Articulate how you might travel to the research sites and how environmental considerations will inform your approach to the residency
 - **Artists must be willing to travel and engage with remote locations.** The sites are not easily accessible by public transport and paths are on challenging terrain.

There is flexibility for the artist to manage their time on site and this will be negotiated between the artist and project partners, however, spring/summer will be a key time for migratory birds.

Fee for the artist in residence:

- £8000 to undertake the residency and create new work for exhibition.
- An additional fee of £1400 for 4 days engagement work. This can be agreed with the project partners after selection but may take the form of workshops, an artist talk or event.

The total fee is £9400.

The residency fee is based on a residency pro rata basis for an established artist/maker with 5 years + experience in line with the Scottish Artist Union rates of pay and therefore the number of days/time spent on the residency may be subject to negotiation depending on experience. (based on £44,000 pro rata for approx. 8 hours per week over 8-10 months). Artists will be contracted by Upland.

Additional Expenses:

- A production fee of £2000 is available towards creating new work for exhibition and an additional £350 for materials for the engagement sessions.
- £600 available towards the artists travel and £900 for subsistence and accommodation. Please note that there is not a set up residency base, but Upland and the project partners will assist the artist in finding accommodation for overnight stays at key points throughout the residency period.
- A small additional budget is available for project access costs.

Artist Responsibilities

The artist will take responsibility for the following:

- research and development of the project
- liaise with the partners and the project team
- work with Uplands' project team to deliver and install the resultant artwork
- deliver 4 days of engagement to be agreed with project partners
- keep diary notes and photos documenting the development of the work during the project
- provide content for the Upland blog
- attend meetings with the Upland and partner project team when required
- contribute to Uplands PR, marketing and social media
- complete end of project evaluation

HOW TO APPLY

To apply please submit the following as a single pdf:

- An outline of your interest in the project including how you would approach the residency, the unique challenges it brings and in what way the opportunity will contribute to the expansion and development of your artistic practice (max two sides A4)
- Please let us know how you would approach the geography of the site in your application.
- An artist statement including relevant experience (max one side A4)
- Curriculum vitae

- Up to 6 images of your work
- If including time-based media please include links to online content (vimeo, you tube, soundcloud or similar).

Please also get in touch if you prefer to submit your interest in an alternative form, we are flexible and open to different methods of applying such as video and/or audio.

Selection will be based on

- Quality of previous work
- Relevance of practice and previous experience
- General response to the brief
- Experience of public engagement

Applications should be emailed to: Amy Marletta, Creative Director at amy@weareupland.com and should have 'Artful Migration Residency' in the subject heading. If you have not received confirmation that your application has been submitted within 3 working days, please contact us to ensure we have received it.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 9am on Monday 6th October 2025

Shortlisted artists will be invited to an interview on – **Thursday 16th October** interviews may be in-person in Dumfries or can be conducted via zoom if preferable).

Draft Timescale:

Deadline for applications: 9am Monday 6th October 2025

October 16th 2025: Interviews and selection

November/December 2025: Artist recruited, initial meeting

December 2025 – September 2026: Residency period (work to be spread across 10 month period)

August/ September 2026: Exhibition (A conference event may also take place but this is subject to funding)

Partner Information:

About Upland

Upland CIC is the visual arts and craft development organisation for Dumfries & Galloway.

Upland delivers a year-round creative programme that includes events, exhibitions, residencies, workshops and professional development. We engage and collaborate with a wide audience that includes young people and emerging and established artists and makers.

www.weareupland.com

About Moving Souls Dance

Ginnie Wollaston and Nicholas Paton Philip founded Moving Souls Dance in 2017. Through partnering with other arts and conservation organisations we have engaged in 6 large scale projects (including Route 34 for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham involving over 1,000 participants and reaching 210,000 audiences.

https://movingsouls.dance/past_participatory_events/route-34-embracing-cultures/

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We now combine our skills, knowledge and professional experience to train emerging producers to undertake work placements with arts organisations in the West Midlands specialising in participatory projects with young people and communities. We work in partnership with Upland to produce the Artful Migration programme and in 2026 we hope to bring this to the West Midlands. Moving Souls Dance new website will be available in September 2025.

About the Biosphere

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere has been recognised internationally as a world class environment for people and nature.

The UNESCO Biosphere designation was awarded in 2012 in recognition of the fantastic array of landscapes, wildlife, cultural heritage and learning opportunities that SW Scotland offers for communities, businesses and visitors to experience and celebrate in a sustainable way.

The Biosphere designation brings no new rules or regulations but rather encourages us to work together to create a better future for people and nature.

www.gsabiosphere.org.uk/

About RSPB – [RSPB Bird & Wildlife Conservation Charity](https://www.rspb.org.uk/)

About the temperate rainforests in Dumfries & Galloway:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/so-many-ways/explore/save-the-uk-rainforest>

[Wood Of Cree Nature Reserve, Dumfries & Galloway \(rspb.org.uk\)](https://www.rspb.org.uk/)

[Castramon Wood](#)

[Glentrool Oakwoods](#)

[Killiegowan Wood](#)

