

Flax Art Studios, Belfast, Northern Ireland

<https://flaxartstudios.org/>



ART STUDIOS

Duration: 8 weeks

Availabilities: Between Mid/End January and March 2026

About Flax Art Studios

Flax Art Studios has been established for 37 years in Belfast. As the only studio dedicated to sculptural practice in Northern Ireland, it significantly contributes to the regions' visual art practice through subsidised studio provision and resources. Flax acts as a hub for professional development, international networking, and fostering greater understanding through outreach and engagement.

Flax is based in the heart of Belfast city centre. Flax provides studio space for eighty two of the most exciting artists in NI, reaching over 100 artists/creatives through its production and workshop membership programmes. The calibre and skills of its world-renowned artists is something which we celebrate and of which we are proud.

Flax is delighted to work in partnership with Belfast South Community Resources supported by Belfast City Council and Urban Villages to offer a new build dedicated live/work residency space based in the south of the city in the heart of the Sandy Row community, a short walk from the city centre, with a studio (60sqm) and fully accessible private apartment – the only one of its kind in Northern Ireland for the visiting resident.

Flax Art Studios has been running an International Residency programme since 1994, and has worked with artists and in exchange with organisations globally. Flax's artists play a key role in the life of the city, the renewal of its cultural scene, and the overall regeneration movement in which the various associated communities are directly involved.

1/ FOCUS

Flax Art Studios is based in a city in transition. Colourful, complicated, messy... and magnificent. This is a place with a long and complex history, a tapestry of narratives, and now a new story in the making. Flax is particularly interested in research/art work inspired by the new story of Belfast and inspired by the Sandy Row area of the south of the city.

2/ PROGRAMME RESOURCES

The residency offers:

- Artist fees of £2100 per month.
- Furnished private accommodation in Belfast city centre.
- Access to a studio in the city centre.
- If necessary, access to the only dedicated sculptural practice facility in Northern Ireland and a range of subsidised shared resources. 24-hour access to Studio Spaces with sculpture workshop facilities including wood, plaster, casting, digital fabrication, and textile.
- If necessary, access to Flax Art Studios industrial scale workshops – technician support will be provided.
- Administrative, technical, pastoral and curatorial support from Flax Art Studios team.
- Optional opportunity to show works/research in Flax Art Studios project space programme. Access to a project/experimental/shop front exhibition space at North Street satellite studio.
- Community support, facilitation and introductions by Flax Art Studios specific to the particular needs of the visiting artist.
- Opportunity to meet and network with Flax Art Studios international artists, Board Members and team.
- Round trip UK / France and local transports will be covered.

3/ ACCESS

The artist studio space is fully accessible and the apartment is fully accessible with lifts and accessible toilets. The current main building is not wheelchair accessible in Bedford Street and partially ground floor accessible in North Street.

The accommodation comprises of a two-bedroom apartment, separate kitchen, living room with balcony space and bathroom. If the other bedroom is not being used by another visiting artist, it may be used by a family member/support worker. The apartment is fully accessible with a lift.

The venue is city centre based and is accessible from both Belfast airports via bus or taxi, the city centre is compact and is easy to get around. The venue is city centre with nearby bus stops within 5 minutes walk. There is no accessible parking on site, however there are various public parking options in the city centre.

Our staff are not fully trained, but could seek support from other specialist agencies.