



TYLEE COTTAGE RESIDENCY

Generously supported by



ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA

2026 Prospectus



Introduction:

Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery is calling for applications for its artist-in-residence programme at historic Tylee Cottage in central Whanganui for 2026.

Since its reopening in November 2024 the Sarjeant Gallery has been overwhelmingly well received with over 130,000 visitors through the doors and has attained many accolades and praise for its dynamic exhibitions and public programmes. The two four-month residencies offered in 2026 will result in future solo artist projects that will take place in one of the many beautiful new gallery spaces we now have available.

Tylee Cottage is one of the longest running residencies in the country and this is a chance to be part of an impressive alumni of artists who have been in residence since 1986. To date 76 artists have participated in the Tylee Cottage artist-in-residence programme. Each of the two four-month residencies being offered are a unique opportunity for an artist with New Zealand residency (not living in Whanganui but in New Zealand or overseas) to develop a new body of work while living financially unencumbered.

Tylee Cottage is offered rent free with all services (maintenance, electricity, phone and internet) covered by the Sarjeant Gallery as a cultural facility of the Whanganui District Council. With the generous support of Creative New Zealand, the recipient of each four-month residency will receive a stipend of \$6,250 a month, totaling \$25,000.



The gallery is part of Creative New Zealand's Toi Uru Kahikatea (Arts Development) Investment Programme which generously provides financial support for the residency programme. Each recipient will be able to develop a unique project that will result in a solo exhibition at the Sarjeant Gallery in the period 2027-2029. The gallery will also contribute towards travel costs for the residency.

On offer are the following two residencies for 2026:

RESIDENCY 1: April–July 2026 (4 months)

For a painter aged 35+ years

An opportunity for a painter over the age of 35 to develop a new body of work. As recipient of this residency the successful applicant will also receive the Lilian Ida Smith Award for 2026.

Lilian Ida Smith 1920–1983 was a Whanganui resident who in her will instructed her estate to be divided into three equal parts to establish trusts to assist people aged 35 years and over to develop and further their interest in painting, writing and teaching music. The Sarjeant Gallery was charged with administering the painting strand of the bequest and in 1993 established the Lilian Ida Smith award. Lilian's desire to support someone over 35 was in recognition of the constraints her father, Vivian Smith, faced in response to his more experimental output as a painter. Between 1993 and 2003 the award was offered three times.

Fifteen years on, the Sarjeant Gallery reactivated this generous bequest by creating a specific residency as a companion to the award, with recipients being Julia Holden in 2018, Graham Fletcher in 2021, and Jade Townsend in 2024. Through Smith's forward-thinking bequest, the gallery is able to offer this opportunity again in 2026 for a mid-career painter to explore a new direction in their practice.

The successful appointee will not only receive \$25,000 from Creative New Zealand but, as the recipient of the Lilian Ida Smith Award, they will also receive a one-off grant of \$5000. This combined funding is to enable the artist to have a living wage and cover living expenses for the production of new work whilst in residence. The expectation from the gallery being that the recipient will be working towards an exhibition-ready, new body of work.

We would like applications from painters who have an established track record of exhibiting in both public and dealer galleries, and who have received critical interest from the arts community including reviews and publications. We would like to see a compelling proposal for a new body of work that will take your practice in a new direction or allow you to continue developing a specific line of enquiry.

Although the residency has a long-established history of artists engaging with Whanganui's physical environment or history, in this particular residency we are looking for applications that will produce work that celebrates, challenges and confirms the power of paint. What that paint does and what it conveys is entirely up to you.



RESIDENCY 2: July–November 2026 (4 months)

For a photographic / new media artist

In the early 1920s the Sarjeant Gallery was the first gallery in New Zealand and one of a handful across the world to begin actively collecting the then relatively new medium of photography. Since then, the gallery has continued its commitment to artists working in the medium, with the collection now encompassing a broad spectrum of works from an international collection of pictorial photography through to work by leading artists such as Anne Noble, Ans Westra, Peter Peryer, Laurence Aberhart and Wayne Barrar, Fiona Pardington and Tia Ranginui to name a few. This commitment to the medium has also been reflected via artists participating in the residency programme at Tylee Cottage and recipients in the last decade have included Conor Clarke, Roberta Thornley, Richard Orjis, Ann Shelton, Andrew Ross, Marie Shannon, Solomon Mortimer and Zahra Killeen-Chance, Jae Hoon Lee and Christopher Ulutupu.

We are calling for applications from artists that use the medium of photography, moving image, or new media that continue the Sarjeant Gallery's long-standing commitment to the genre. Applicants should have a strong exhibition record in public and dealer galleries and critical recognition through reviews, publications, or arts community engagement. Proposals should present a new body of work that deepens an existing enquiry or takes your practice in a new direction.

Who:

We are looking for applications from a broad range of practitioners. You could be emerging, mid-career or a well-established artist/maker. We want a compelling proposition and an application from someone who has a proven track record of developing exciting new work and exhibiting, or someone whose work has a thoughtful and progressive critical premise.

What's on offer:

- Two four-month residencies at Tylee Cottage in Whanganui.
- Accommodation at Tylee Cottage. Built in 1853, this historic cottage offers two bedrooms and a downstairs studio. The cottage is fully furnished and there is also a single garage that can be utilised as an alternative studio space. The cottage is rent free and maintenance, electricity, power and internet costs are all covered.
- With the generous support of Creative New Zealand, the recipient of each four month residency will receive a stipend of \$6,250 a month, totaling \$25,000.
- During your time in Whanganui you'll receive the full support of the Sarjeant Gallery with your first port of call being Senior Curator & Programmes Manager, Greg Donson, who has been managing the residency programme for over fifteen years.
- We will use our extensive networks to promote you as our artist-in-residence and also assist with getting you in touch with meeting the right people and making the connections to enable you to develop your project.
- Our funding from Creative New Zealand also enables us to offer support for travel expenses and to produce a small publication. The Sarjeant Gallery will also support the residency by making a small contribution to material costs. The acquisition of an artwork made as a result of the residency, will be negotiated between the artist, their dealer/representative and the Sarjeant Gallery and take into account the Sarjeant's financial contribution to the residency.



- **OUTCOME:** The resulting body of work that you create will be featured as a solo exhibition in the Sarjeant Gallery's 2027-2029 exhibition programme and this will be subject to the availability of spaces and the scope of your project. We expect that the successful applicants will deliver an 'exhibition-ready' project at the assigned time of their exhibition.

Expectations:

What we expect from you as artist-in-residence is that you work full-time on your project throughout the period of the residency, meeting the outcomes of your proposal as far as may be practicable in terms of your stated project.

We would like you to engage in building a public profile, through the gallery's public programmes and the media, developing links with local art, cultural and educational communities.

We also ask that the resident artist treat Tylee Cottage (a historic building) with every care and consideration and maintain a high standard of cleanliness.

How to apply:

- In a one page document tell us about your proposed project. We are looking for a well-considered idea that you will be able to research and develop into a new body of work while you are in Whanganui. Tell us what the idea is, how you'll explore it, the kind of work that might result from it and how you'll produce that work.
- We will need a current CV, an outline of your achievements to date and visual material illustrating your recent work.
- We'd also like to know how you might engage the Whanganui community.
- We require a minimum of two referees and their contact details.
- Please also let us know if there will be other people residing with you; e.g. partner or family.
- We need to receive your application as a PDF and please also provide links to websites or videos, where appropriate.

For processing send your application via email to:

Jessica Kidd
Curator – Exhibitions & Projects
Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery
jessica.kidd@sarjeant.org.nz

For enquiries about the residency and this prospectus please contact:

Greg Donson
Senior Curator & Programmes Manager
Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery
greg.donson@sarjeant.org.nz
(06) 349 3277 and 027 534 5555

Applications close at 5pm Friday 23 January 2026.

Late applications cannot be accepted.

The successful candidates will be notified by Friday 13 February 2026, and a contract detailing the terms of agreement between the gallery and the artist will be signed by both parties.