



V&A and British Council International Designers' Workshop Focus on the Gulf

10 – 21 September 2018

Deadline for applications: **Thursday, 5th July 2018** at midnight (BST)

Interviews will take place during the week commencing Monday, 9th July 2018 via video conference. Successful candidates will be notified on Monday, 16th July and will be required to travel to London on Sunday, 9th September and return on Saturday, 22nd September 2018.

The Victoria and Albert Museum, London (V&A) and the British Council are inviting applications from designers and makers resident in the Gulf countries, who wish to develop their practice through exposure to new challenges and creative environments.

This programme will allow a select group of practitioners to take part in a two-week workshop in London during the 2018 London Design Festival and London Design Biennale, interacting with V&A staff, creative professionals, as well as designers and creatives from across the globe. It will give the participants an opportunity to develop a broader network for their professional growth, and provide them with a platform that enhances their profile on an international level. It is also aimed at fostering greater engagement with museum collections and resources, and encourages an understanding of materials and techniques. The programme will include an opportunity for the designers to engage with the Museum audience and present their work to the public. The participants will learn about the V&A's engagement with creative practitioners in order to discover new possibilities for public and commercial activity and a better understanding of how to enter the design market. This programme aims to enable sustainable long-term development of the region's creative economy and foster cross-disciplinary collaborations between creative practitioners from across the region.

The workshop will take place in London over two weeks in September 2018. The participants' flights, transfers and accommodation costs will be covered, and a per diem will be provided for meals and other expenses.

A team drawn from across the V&A's departments will provide support and involvement throughout the project. We are interested in practitioners who wish to work with the Museum's resources and collections and welcome the opportunity to actively engage with V&A staff and the public.

Aims and Expectations of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to:

- Enable the selected practitioners to draw upon the V&A's collections and its staff expertise to carry out research, learn new skills and develop their work;
- Allow the participants to build an international network of fellow creative practitioners, design and museum professionals;
- Increase understanding about the UK and Gulf respective cultural values to increase trust and promote a closer relationship between the design sector in the Gulf and the design sector in the UK;
- Increase the potential for collaboration and commercial partnerships between the UK and the Gulf in the area of design;
- Increase awareness in the Gulf about UK design and the role that design can play in helping to make positive social impact;
- Provide creative practitioners from the Gulf region with opportunities for professional, creative and personal development;
- Enhance the participants' understanding of a variety of materials and techniques, focusing on the potential of design and materials to be transformative;
- Build confidence and improve the participants' business acumen and understanding of market relationships in the creative sector;
- Create links between the V&A's collections and contemporary design practice in the Gulf;
- Inspire public interest in creative practice, collaborative approaches and making.

Successful candidates will be required to take part in an evaluation process to assess the success and impact of this programme, which includes questionnaires before, during and after the workshop, and read and adhere to the Child Protection Policy provided by the British Council.

Selection Criteria

Applications should demonstrate collaborative working and be forward-thinking, pushing the boundaries of contemporary creative practice. We are looking for **early and mid-career** designers **up to the age of 35**, who can bring fresh ideas, are open to new challenges, and are keen to develop their practice and career through this programme.

Candidates must demonstrate:

- An understanding of and desire to work with museums and cultural heritage organisations;
- Ideas for innovative ways to working with V&A's collections;
- A clear sense of how they would use this opportunity to develop their practice and how they intend to meet the aims of the programme;
- Creative originality and professionalism in their work;
- A good command of the English language.

Successful candidates must arrange and cover the costs for their visa and travel insurance.

Documents evidencing this must be provided to the V&A workshop lead at least one month in advance of the date of travel to London. The V&A can supply a letter of invitation to support the visa application where required.

How to Apply

Please submit your applications to international.initiatives@vam.ac.uk

Applications should be **submitted in English and must include:**

- Curriculum Vitae (please indicate your birthdate)
- Portfolio (maximum of 5 pages one-sided and including at least 1 most recent work)
- Responses to the following questions (maximum 150 words for each answer):
 1. Please describe your creative practice (i.e. process, concepts/ideas, materials...)
 2. How will participating in this programme develop you in your practice and career?
 3. Do you want to add anything else to support your application? (*optional*)