

# ECOLOGIES OF DIVERSITY: PLANTS, ART, FILM

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST RESIDENCY

June 2024 - March 2025

## OPEN CALL FOR AN EMERGING ARTIST

**Ecologies of Diversity: Plants, Art, Film** is a collaboration between Koel Gallery, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), and Edinburgh Napier University's School of Arts and Creative Industries (ENU SACI). This hybrid residency is supported by British Council Pakistan and curated by filmmaker Sana Bilgrami.

Working closely with Dr Kerstin Stutterheim, visual artist, filmmaker and Head of Research at ENU SACI, an emerging Pakistani visual artist will be supported to develop their practice using poetic and experimental documentary film.

The residency will physically take place on Gumchi Farm in Tumair, Islamabad, and in Edinburgh. The project will map the indigenous and cultivated plant diversity in this farm environment, artistically and cinematically exploring the conservation of plants and their associated cultural heritage in the face of environmental and cultural change.

Using collections of South Asian plants and botanical illustrations at RBGE, and artistic-research film-practice expertise from ENU SACI, we offer a rich programme of mentoring, collaboration and outreach, embedding the resident-artist's practice in international and interdisciplinary knowledge exchange.

The residency will culminate in exhibitions, screenings and talks at Koel Gallery and RBGE. A catalogue of the work will also be published and printed.

### RESIDENCY DETAILS

We invite applications from emerging visual artists based in Pakistan who:

1. Have at least three years experience working as an artist after graduation.
2. Have not exhibited their work internationally.

Please see 'How to Apply' section below. We especially encourage artists from diverse ethnic, linguistic, geographical and socio-economic backgrounds to apply.

Up to five artists will be shortlisted and invited to an interview with a panel of representatives from the three host institutes.

One artist will be selected based on their previous work, their potential to benefit from the residency and their capacity to fulfil the rigorous requirements of the residency.

The successful artist will receive Rs 120,000 per month over 10 months. In addition, travel to Islamabad in Sept 2024 and Edinburgh in Oct/Nov 2024 and March 2025, accommodation and subsistence during the physical residencies, and art materials will be paid for.

Translators will be available to facilitate communication if required during the residency.

## RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES / TIMELINE

Below is a list of activities and timeline for the residency. Applicants MUST be available on the dates in **red font**:

- 12th May 2024: Deadline to apply
- **28th/29th May**: Shortlisted artists will be interviewed
- 4th June: Selected artist will be notified
- **10th - 28th June**: Weekly online meetings: project, mentoring and collaboration introductions
- 1st week July: Output and residency agreements to be signed by artist and collaborators
- **July - August**: Weekly online meetings: Mentoring and collaboration
- **July/August**: Artist will have 1-2-day preliminary-research visit to Gumchi Farm, Islamabad
- **13th-22nd Sept**: One-week physical residency at Gumchi Farm, Islamabad.
- **Week beg 7th Oct**: Online meetings: Mentoring and collaboration
- **25th October - 3rd Nov**: One-week physical residency in Edinburgh
- **11th Nov - 20th Dec**: Weekly online meetings: Mentoring and collaboration + catalogue prep + film edit
- **6th to 31st January 2025**: Weekly online meetings: Mentoring and collaboration + film edit
- **February 2025 (Dates TBC)**: Exhibition of work and film screenings + talk at Koel Gallery, Karachi
- **March 2025 (Dates TBC)**: Exhibition of work and film screenings + talk at Koel Gallery, Karachi

## HOW TO APPLY

1. Please carefully read through the notes above and ensure that you are eligible to apply and available on the dates in red font.

2. Complete our Application Form and email to [ecologiesofdiversity@gmail.com](mailto:ecologiesofdiversity@gmail.com)

**Deadline for applications: 11:59pm (PK time), SUNDAY 12th MAY 2024**

#### **BACKGROUND ON KOEL GALLERY, KARACHI, AND ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH**

**Koel Gallery** is one of Pakistan's leading contemporary art galleries with a mission to bridge the divide between arts and crafts. Established in 2009, the gallery is a vibrant space for exhibitions where artists, designers and craftspeople share a common platform.

**The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh** delivers world-class biodiversity research to underpin national and international research, education and conservation programmes. The collections of living and preserved materials are of enormous cultural value. Together they make up one of Scotland's national collections and rank amongst the best of their kind in the world.

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Koel Gallery  
F-42/2, Clifton Block 4  
Karachi, Pakistan  
Tel: 021 35831292  
Email: [ecologiesofdiversity@gmail.com](mailto:ecologiesofdiversity@gmail.com)