

FAQ

WHO IS IT FOR?

Applicants are welcome from different backgrounds and experience levels. Although there are no educational prerequisites to participate in the programme, applicants must demonstrate in their application that they have been developing a painting practice for at least 3 years.

The programme is open for applications from any self-identifying emerging artist with a painting practice based in the UK. All participants must be 21 years of age at the start of the programme and hold a valid passport. Applicants who are non-UK nationals must hold a valid British or European visa, held at the time of application for European travel purposes.

Upon acceptance to the programme we will require evidence of current visa status. Alternatively, non UK/EU nationals will have one month to apply for a visa after confirming their place for their visa to be accepted. Successful applicants without confirmed travel visa status will forfeit their place, and we will allocate that place to a waitlist applicant.

HOW LONG DOES IT LAST?

Participants will gather every Wednesday online and Thursday in person in Manchester for a nine-week programme starting **27th May - 23rd July 2026**. From 31st July 2026 a one month residency will begin in Italy, ending 30th August. All applicants must be prepared to attend the entirety of the programme if selected.

HOW IS THE TEACHING DELIVERED?

Teaching is primarily delivered via formal in person lectures by art professional and internationally acclaimed artists, personal feedback sessions, group discussions and off site drawing projects. Dr Ian Hartshorne is the programme's main tutor, and he will be moderating the online sessions with external lecturers as well as running most of the in-person teaching days in Manchester. The list of lecturers changes every year and it will be released before the start of the course.

Participants are expected to develop their individual practices, and this will be supported in person and online. The individual development of work will be enhanced by feedback sessions intended to compliment, not disrupt existing ideas already in place. Our teaching methodology is complimentary and supportive. Open minded discussion is encouraged in order to examine the full scope of potential.

We ask that all participants be prepared to be engaged in conversation (the nature and content of those conversations will be self-determined). Because the programme focuses on process, experimentation, and an opening up of one's practice, participants are encouraged to be prepared to work without a preconceived agenda or schedule. We advise against using the time to prepare for an upcoming exhibition and instead come prepared to be open to discovery and develop new conversations.

HOW IS THE MONTH OF RESIDENCY IN ITALY STRUCTURED?

All participants will spend the month of August in Latina, Italy. The city is located on the coast about 50km from Rome.

Each participant will be housed separately with a local family. This is to facilitate cultural exchange and immersion in the local lifestyle. The allocation of the student to a family is at the discretion of the APS team and will be communicated to the students at the beginning of the course so that they might already make contact with their host family should they wish to do so.

The city has a very small network of public transport (bus service is sporadic) so each participant will be equipped with a bicycle. Should a participant not feel comfortable cycling this should be mentioned in the application process so that we might make adjustments towards the living arrangement.

The studios in which all participants will work together are the classrooms of Liceo Artistico Statale Michelangelo Buonarroti, a professional state run art high school in the centre of Latina. The participants will have access to the studios Monday to Saturday from 8am till 2pm. This time will be used to prepare for the end of the programme exhibition.

For the 2026 edition of the programme, the final exhibition will be presented in Sermoneta, a remarkably preserved medieval hill town 20 minutes from Latina. It will be hosted in the newly restored Palazzo Ada Caetani, a Renaissance palace dating to the 16th century: the exhibition will unfold on the piano nobile (upper floor), while the ground floor houses the Museum of Ceramic History, arranged across three rooms and tracing ceramics from prehistory to the modern era through roughly 300 objects—a vivid, tactile counterpoint to the visual arts. The Palazzo is closely associated with the Caetani, one of central Italy's most influential noble families, long rooted in the cultural landscape of Sermoneta and nearby Ninfa. Sermoneta is also the birthplace of artist Girolamo Siciolante da Sermoneta (c.1521–1575), whose paintings and drawings (including preparatory sketches) are today part of major Italian and international museum collections, including the Galleria Borghese and Palazzo Barberini in Rome, the Galleria Nazionale di Parma, the Louvre Museum in Paris, and the British Museum in London.

During the time in Italy, outside of studio time there will be a series of mandatory day trips to local sites of artistic and natural interest, as well as afternoon trips to Rome once a week which will be led by local curators and tour guides. The full list of activities for this part of

the programme will vary from year to year and will be announced to the participants in early July.