



*In-Habit.*

## *International*

### **What is *In-Habit International*?**

*In-Habit International* is an International Arts Research and Cultural Exchange Program managed by Punctum as part of its Arts Incubator in Central Victoria, Australia. Each year, through this program, Victorian artists working across art forms and investigating site, place and space are awarded a grant to live and work with a host arts organization in a country outside Australia. Four exchanges are offered per year.

The aim of the Arts Research and Cultural Exchange Program is for either

- Regionally based Victorian Artists to have access to new and stimulating international environments.
- For metropolitan based Victorian artists to have access to new and stimulating regional environments internationally.

We support artists who seek to learn about their host country through cultural exchange and their arts practice, and contribute to the cultural life in the local community in which their Host Organization is based. Our hope is that each exchange will result in ongoing relationships between regions, artists and cultural organizations.

The Cultural Exchanges are professional development opportunities celebrating regional arts practice and Victorian arts practitioners. They act to foster reciprocal relationships between artists and arts organizations.

### **Am I eligible?**

The program is open to arts practitioners/professionals across art forms who through their arts practice investigate site, place, space and cultural exchange.

*In-Habit International* is not art form specific. Rather, it focuses on arts practice that engages with the site place and space of a particular Host Organization and its surrounding community. Cross art form practices and those that embrace the fabric of everyday life and straddle the boundaries of art, science and technology, social activism, design and architecture and live art are also eligible.

You must be Australian Citizens or have Permanent Residency status and be living in Victoria.

You will have five years or more of professional arts practice and demonstrate competence in cross cultural exchange. Each Arts Research and Cultural Exchange will be a minimum of one month.

*In-Habit International* is not for academic study, paid study leave or ARC affiliated projects. Student enrolled in tertiary institutions are not eligible to apply.

## **What's my contribution in the exchange?**

### Professional Development

- *In-Habits International* offers professional development opportunities linked to reciprocal exchange rather than a specific project. However a specific art project may result from the exchange.

### Planning and Management

- It is anticipated that each artist will make the most out of the collaborative nature of the Arts Research and Cultural Exchange and will plan and manage their own program in collaboration with the Host Organization.

### Cultural Engagement

- You will need to be able to work and collaborate in an environment that is sometimes unusual, difficult or challenging whilst maintaining a productive exchange and professional relationships.

### Collaboration

- Whilst undertaking the work outlined on your application, in collaboration with the host organization you will undertake specific tasks or projects depending on the needs of the host.
- You will network widely and seek to ensure cultural vitality results from the exchange.
- A significant level of interaction and engagement with the host and surrounding community is expected. While engagement is of fundamental importance to the nature of the cultural exchange artists must not feel obliged to dilute or compromise the rigor and artistic excellence of their work. Complex, challenging and conceptually sophisticated projects are encouraged as long as they involve cultural exchange in the research and development of the work. Artists are free to explore collaboration with the host, the whole community or just one of its sub sections. In depth exchange with a small cultural sub group is preferable to a superficial exchange with an entire community.

## **What does *In-Habit International* contribute?**

*In-Habit International* will provide a travel grant of \$4000 (Australian dollars) in association with each cultural exchange to assist with airfares and accommodation, and establish initial contacts in the host country through the *In-Habit International* network of cultural organizations.

In association with Punctum's Arts Incubator, *In-Habit International* can act as a Host Organization where the specific arts research and cultural exchange needs to be reciprocated.

## **What does the Host Organization contribute?**

- Professional support
- Assistance in locating and securing inexpensive accommodation
- Liaison with local artists and community members
- Introductions to events and organizations
- An environment in which you can engage with others in the spirit of cultural exchange. This may include insuring adequate time and resources are committed by the host organization to supporting collaborative activities and projects agreed upon by you and the host.