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na
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Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA)

FELLOWSHIP: ART & AGEING

BRIEFING DOCUMENT

Introduction

The Irish Museum of Modern Art wish to appoint a *Fellow* to work with our Art and Ageing Programme.

Location & Facilities

The Fellowship will be based at IMMA in Kilmainham, Dublin 8.

Term & Fee

The term of the Fellowship is offered for 2 years from September 2017. The total Fee for the Fellowship is €25,000. The Fee will be subject to tax as applicable. Employers PRSI will be deducted from the total fee. Research materials & associated costs are included.

Funding

The Fellowship has been made possible through IMMA's Funding Partners.

Eligibility

Have a post graduate degree and a track record of work in the field of art & ageing. Be a highly motivated, self-directed individual with proven ability to be flexible and work with a team. Experience in action research also required.

IMMA Reporting Line

The Fellowship will report to the Senior Curator Head of Engagement & Learning.

Context of the Fellowship

IMMA has made a commitment in its five year strategy to support successful ageing through creativity.

Background

- By 2030, one in five people resident in Ireland will be 65 years or older
- The greatest increase will be in the over 80s
- Of female children born today, over 50% are likely to survive to age 100 or beyond

In recent years there have been significant developments in Ireland in; our understanding of the needs of our ageing population; the ways in which society can support healthy and successful ageing; and in work to raise the standards and expectation of the care for older people. The Irish situation is particularly challenging as Ireland has one of the lowest life expectancy rates in Europe. This means our older people are amongst the least healthy in Europe and Trinity and St James's hospital recently commenced a ground-breaking longitudinal study on ageing (TILDA) with a view to investigating the health, social, economic, environmental and genetic factors which contribute to such strikingly higher mortality. One the key initial findings from this report is the importance of creative engagement as a means to improve brain health and combat loneliness and isolation. Two centres of excellence have now been established in Ireland to implement some of the key findings from the study, one at Trinity (Trinity EngAGE is Ireland's Global Centre for excellence in Ageing research) and the other at St James' Hospital (Mercer's Institute for Successful Ageing - MISA).

There are currently almost 48,000 people living with dementia in Ireland and 50,000 family carers caring for someone with dementia. Due to our ageing population it is estimated that the number of people living with dementia will rise to over 153,000 by 2046. This is a community that is particularly vulnerable to social exclusion and there is an important role that we can play.

IMMA are working as a key cultural partner with both centres to explore the potential held by the arts and in particular the visual arts, for successful ageing.

In the past year IMMA has worked within the institution to develop both awareness and skills with its staff in relation to welcoming and facilitating people living with dementia and their families/carers to the museum. On a national level we have continued to play an active role in the **Azure** network, to work with Age and Opportunity on one of their training programmes **Creative Exchanges** for professionals working in care settings and to work directly with our local hospital St. James' in association with the new centre **MISA (Mercers' Institute for Successful Ageing)** <http://www.misa.ie/> which is affiliated through its teaching university Trinity College to the Global Brain Health institute. <http://www.atlanticphilanthropies.org/goal/global-brain-health-institute>.

Purpose

The purpose of the Fellowship is to create the potential for more interventions for people living with dementia and embed practice in our programmes through adopting an action research model which will allow for testing out new ways to develop the Azure model as aforementioned, identify evaluation methodologies that are sensitive to the 'social model' of engagement that we are adopting and to work in partnership with our medical colleagues in the MISA institute and Trinity College to both grow the number of participants in our programmes and to reflect on its effectiveness and to disseminate the learning through our national and international networks.

Undertake the action research exploring the following areas:

- How can IMMA's art and ageing programmes facilitate participants to have deeper, more meaningful arts experiences, to engage with each other to a greater degree and to access the museum outside of and independently from these programme.
- What can be 'built-in' to art and ageing programmes so that over time they develop and transform with regard to structure and content, resulting in ongoing programme growth and regeneration?
- In what ways can art and ageing programmes ensure fluidity in relation to the make-up of participants? What needs to be put in place to facilitate the integration of new participants

within the programmes and to support long-term participants to explore new cultural experiences?

Methodology

The action research will take the form of:

- An assessment of IMMA's current programme in relation to art and ageing and an assessment of contemporary national and international art and ageing programming, both grounded in the research questions.
- A review of IMMA's existing art and ageing partnerships (the Azure Network, the Azure Steering Group (Age and Opportunity, the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland, Butler Gallery, and IMMA), Mercers' Institute for Creative Ageing, St James' University Hospital Trinity College Dublin) and an exploration of potential partnerships with regard to their possible future development.
- The development and hands-on delivery of pilot art and ageing programmes at IMMA that build on the Azure model and are in accordance with its ethos, values, aims and objectives, thus increasing the number of bespoke programmes of tours/workshops for the public.
- The integration within the pilot programmes of evaluation framework/s addressing the research questions and building on learning from the assessment of IMMA's current art and ageing programme and the assessment of contemporary national and international art and ageing. The evaluation framework should include ongoing reviews with IMMA staff and IMMA's art and ageing partners.

Reporting & Evaluation

Along with ongoing reporting to the Senior Curator, the Fellow will be required to produce an evaluation report on completion. This report is intended to contribute to national and international understanding of the nature and potential of art and ageing programming, demonstrating:

- An increase in the delivery of interventions with older audiences at IMMA over the 24-month period
- Evaluation of the methodologies applied in the programmes and recommendations for developments in relation to IMMA's future art and ageing programming
- An analysis of the research identifying the specific aspects of the programme that individually and together coalesce to impact on both people with dementia and their care partners.

Further Information and Application Details

Please send your completed Curriculum Vitae and a cover letter to-
human.resources@imma.ie

or by post to

The Human Resources Department reference (Art & Ageing Fellowship)
Irish Museum of Modern Art
Royal Hospital Kilmainham
Dublin 8

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IMMA Data Protection Statement

Any contact or personal information shared with IMMA for the purposes of enquiring or applying for this Scheme will be retained solely for the purposes of this Scheme and will be retained in accordance with IMMA's Data Protection/ Retention of Records arrangements. IMMA will not share your personal details with a 3rd party without express consent.