

The Maggie Maguire Residency 2027 — Program Guidelines.

The Maggie Maguire Residency is for early career artists who have practiced professionally for less than five years.

The residency creates space for sustained enquiry, experimentation and exchange — offering time to immerse deeply in practice, test ideas, follow unexpected threads and allow new works, forms and directions to take shape.

Discover more about the Residency.

Testimonial —

"...the Convent's Artist-in-Residence program has been such a productive and crucial time for the development of 'The Enormous Radio' project... We made huge progress creatively and technically and I honestly don't know how we'd be in a position to premiere the work this year without this strategic support of time, space and resources. And the kindness and friendliness of [Convent] staff at every step meant a lot."

— Roslyn Oades, 2026.

The Maggie Maguire Residency Program is supported by The Patagorang Foundation, founded by Roger Allen AM, Maggie Gray and the Abbotsford Convent Foundation.

Image: In 2025, Carmen Yih premiered her solo work 'to disappoint a god' for Melbourne Fringe 2025, supported by the Maggie Maguire Residency Program and Dancehouse.

The offer —

The Maggie Maguire Residency program presents an opportunity for artists to deepen their practice, experiment with new ideas and develop work within a supportive creative environment.

Dates: Monday 11 January — Wednesday 2 July 2027.

Successful applicants will receive:

- An honorarium of $7,000 to be invested into the studio residency project.
- 24/7 access to a dedicated studio space at the Convent over the duration of the residency.
- Promotional support for the residency and its associated public outcomes.

About the Abbotsford Convent Foundation —

Abbotsford Convent (ACF) is inviting expressions of interest from early career artists for a six-month Artist in Residence Program at Abbotsford Convent.

ACF is a not-for-profit organisation that protects, activates and shares the Convent as a place for arts, culture and community. One of Australia's largest multi-arts and cultural precincts, the Convent sits on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation, alongside the Birrarung, and less than 4km from the Melbourne CBD. The Convent holds a layered history encompassing enduring First Nations connections to Country and the complex experiences of the thousands of women and girls who lived and worked here during its institutional history.

Today, the Convent is home to 120 creative tenants. ACF programs the precinct's heritage buildings, gardens and diverse creative spaces. Supporting artists and artistic practice is at the heart of our work through providing space to experiment and develop ideas and pathways to share new work with audiences.

About the studio —

The Convent Building Residency studio is approx. 3m x 3m ($10m^2$) and boasts lovely city views from cathedral height windows. The space is carpeted, and comes furnished with a desk and chair.

On-site, you'll find a number of hospitality offerings, as well as hireable venues, a gallery and an extensive program of events and workshops at your doorstep.

The site's official opening hours are 7.30am – 9.30pm daily.

Sharing and connection —

Towards the end of the residency, artists will be invited to present research and ideas in *AFTER HOURS* at the Convent, a curated public event series for ideas, conversations and creative exchange.

This is not a requirement to present finished work. It may take the form of a conversation, reading, performance, demonstration, experiment or reflection on what was discovered during the residency.

Reach out to programming@abbotsfordconvent.com.au with any questions.

Eligibility criteria —

Abbotsford Convent welcomes proposals from Australian and international artists who meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment, curiosity and capacity to develop and extend your practice.
- A clear articulation of why this work is vital now, and how this residency would enhance the development of your project.
- Commitment to use the studio throughout the Residency period.
- Evidence that you are an early-career artist, who has practised professionally for less than five years.
- The right to live and work in Australia for the Residency period. Please note the Convent does not provide accommodation or sponsor visas.

All applicants must submit —

- A completed online application form addressing the criteria above.
- Support material that reflects your artistic practice, such as documentation of previous or current work, project images, video or audio links, a portfolio or website.
- A current CV or artist biography, including relevant exhibitions, presentations, commissions, grants, awards, fellowships or reviews.

Selection process —

Applications will be assessed by a panel of industry peers.

Enquiries? Contact programming@abbotsfordconvent.com.au

Applications open Thursday 29 October and close at 11.59pm, Sunday 29 November 2026.
The successful applicant will be notified by Friday 11 December.

Apply now