

Film and Video Umbrella

Top Floor, Chelsea Reach, 79-89 Lots Rd. London SW10 0RN
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General Information

The Film and Video Umbrella was established in 1983 by Michael O'Pray to promote artists' film and video nationally through a series of touring programmes that would provide exhibitors - film theatres, galleries and arts centres - with contextualised selections of work. The Umbrella's packages have played an important role in developing audiences for avant-garde cinema, by presenting the most significant work from around the world within a framework that illustrates the historical background to contemporary practice.

In 1988 with increased funding from the Arts Council, the Umbrella was expanded and incorporated as a limited company. Jeremy Welsh was appointed to develop gallery based exhibition and to extend the Umbrella's programming of video art. Since 1988, the Umbrella has continued to produce touring film programmes, and has also launched several video packages that have been exhibited in the UK and internationally. An important new role for the organisation has been its collaboration with galleries in the commissioning and staging of installation based video exhibitions.

The remit of the Film and Video Umbrella is to promote and encourage the widest possible exposure for artists' film and video throughout Britain by arranging tours and by assisting venues in the setting up of exhibiting projects. It is funded for this purpose by the Arts Council and the British Film Institute.

Management Structure

Overall control of the organisation is held by a board of directors who meet periodically - generally twice a year - to review policy and general objectives. The board's function is largely advisory and it has no involvement in the day to day running of the organisation.

The permanent staff is composed of one administrator and two curators. The administrator has overall responsibility for the day to day running of the company and controls all aspects of budgetary and financial management. The two curators have particular areas of responsibility - film and video respectively, and function with a high degree of autonomy within the financial constraints determined in consultation with the administrator. The staff meet on a regular basis to report to one another on projects and to make decisions regarding the planning and scheduling of tours and exhibitions.

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Curator (Video and New Media) Information for applicants.

This is a full time permanent post to take effect from September 1990. The vacancy arises due to the departure of Jeremy Welsh, currently Director, and the restructuring of the organisation. The successful applicant will join a staff of three, comprising two curators and one administrator.

The closing date for receipt of applications is Tuesday 24th. July. Interviews will be held at the beginning of the week following.

To apply:

Please apply by letter, outlining your previous experience and indicating the extent of your knowledge of Video Art/Electronic Media and any other relevant areas of cultural practice, including Experimental Film, Performance Art etc. Please include a C.V. and provide the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two referees. Please indicate whether we may approach your referees at the shortlisting stage, should we decide to interview you.

Requirements:

The successful applicant must have relevant, recent experience in one, or preferably several, of the following:

Programming Video Art for screenings in galleries/arts centres/film theatres or other public venues.

Organising exhibitions that include a substantial proportion of video installation or other time based installation work.

Commissioning and/or producing artists' video, film or time based work.

Presenting/introducing programmes of artists' video in either a festival, public screening, or educational context.

Writing on artists' video, film, installation etc.

A thorough knowledge of the history of Video Art, especially in the U.K. would be an advantage, and an interest in this history with a willingness to undertake research will be a fundamental requirement.

A basic knowledge of Video Art internationally would also be desirable, as the job will involve attending and actively participating in various international events, especially in Europe where the Film and Video Umbrella is establishing a foothold in cross-European distribution initiatives.

The ability to speak a major European language other than English would be a positive benefit.

In view of the large number of applications anticipated, we regret that we shall only be able to reply to shortlisted candidates.