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Artsource Announces \$20,000 for Western Australian Visual Artists to spread their wings.

In its relentless drive to support the professional development of WA artists Artsource is offering up to \$20,000 to assist WA artists in designing their own residency. This exciting initiative is a direct result of generous contributions to the Artsource Residency Fund.

Deliberately keeping the criteria as open as possible, Artsource expects the most creative of outcomes.*

The New Residency will be officially launched this Friday at the Artist Talks at Artsource in Fremantle (details below).

“WA is a fabulous haven for artists; the isolation, sunshine and lifestyle have a particular appeal; but isolation can also suffocate and insulate. For artists, the need to escape periodically to explore and research or to develop skills with experts at specialist facilities and to connect with the wider arts world is imperative. Not only is the isolation a major hurdle – but the cost of escaping is considerable,” says Yvonne Holland, General Manager of Artsource and the coordinator of the Residency Fund.

“Artists who continue to make significant contributions to our community, such as ceramicist Fleur Schell and sculptor Hans Arkeveld, confirm that they are still feeding on the rich experience of their residencies in Canada and Barcelona ten years ago.”

Artsource already assists WA artists in winning residency opportunities via its advisory and workshop programs, and continues to manage two residencies each year for WA artists – one to Switzerland and one to Sydney. Developing a ‘Residency Fund’ in order to send more artists on residencies is another way to address the isolation of WA artists in a continuous way over the long-term. Uniquely these residencies will also expand on residency options currently on offer with the artists themselves being invited to design their own – *whatever they want, wherever they want.*

Recognising that WA artists are best equipped to judge what will bring them real benefits, the residency outcomes may include*

Getting you and your work out there; building gallery relationships, networking, promoting work, securing commissions, exhibiting

Finding a mentor, a peer or an expert to collaborate with; an artistic partnership or mentorship, an opportunity for the development of technique

See what’s out there; exploration and research in other places

Joining a formal structure, academic or otherwise; conferences, retreats, course of study, existing residency opportunities

Artsource is in touch first hand with the needs of artists. As a representative body for WA visual artists it has over 800 members ranging from recent graduates to established professional artists with a career span of over 40 years. The Residency Fund is just one of a number of new initiatives that Artsource is implementing to uplift the profile and professional capabilities of WA artists.

DEADLINE for RESIDENCY APPLICATIONS is 30 June 2009; criteria apply;

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