



Tashkeel Critical Practice Programme 2018-2019 CALL for APPLICATIONS

About Tashkeel

Established in Dubai in 2008 by Lateefa bint Maktoum, Tashkeel seeks to provide a nurturing environment for the growth of contemporary art and design practice rooted in the UAE. Through multi-disciplinary studios, work spaces and galleries located in both Nad Al Sheba and Al Fahidi, it enables creative practice, experimentation and dialogue among practitioners and the wider community. Operating on an open membership model, Tashkeel's annual programme of training, residencies, workshops, talks, exhibitions, international collaborations and publications aims to further practitioner development, public engagement, lifelong learning and the creative and cultural industries.

Tashkeel's range of initiatives include: *Tanween*, which takes a selected cohort of emerging UAE-based designers through a nine-month development programme to take a product inspired by the surroundings of the UAE from concept to completion; *Critical Practice*, which invites visual artists to embark on a development programme lasting up to one year of studio practice, mentorship and training that culminates in a major solo presentation; *MakeWorks UAE*, an online platform connecting creatives and fabricators to enable designers and artists accurate and efficient access to the UAE manufacturing sector; *Exhibitions & Workshops* to challenge artistic practice, enable capacity building and grow audience for the arts in the UAE; and the heart of Tashkeel, its *Membership*, a community of creatives with access to facilities and studio spaces to refine their skills, undertake collaborations and pursue professional careers. Visit tashkeel.org | make.works

About Critical Practice Programme

The Critical Practice Programme offers studio support, critique and production for practicing contemporary artists living and working in the UAE up to one year. The programme generally culminates in an exhibition, publication or other digital/physical outcome. Each artist's programme is carefully constructed and built around the individual's practices and/or areas of research. Tashkeel works with the artist to identify a key mentor to both build, challenge and guide them through the programme. This mentor can be an artist, curator, critic or arts professional with whom the artist feels both comfortable working but also, whose own area of research and/or practice ties in with the proposed programme and focus areas. Ongoing participant updates are posted via a blog on the Tashkeel website at key points in the programme.

In short, the aim of the programme is to provide the artist with sustained support to develop their work in an environment that encourages progressive experimentation, cross-disciplinary exchange and cross-cultural dialogue. Outcomes feeds into the Tashkeel annual programme.

Critical Practice Programme alumni include:



Afra Bin Dhafer: The University of Sharjah Visual Communications graduate explored her interest in design and digital photography under the mentorship of Andrew Starnier, a theatre art and performance lecturer at New York University Abu Dhabi. Her research and experimentation culminated in a solo exhibition and accompanying catalogue 'Hymns to a Sleeper' at Tashkeel in February 2016.

Vikram Divecha: UAE-based artist works with what he terms 'found processes' – forces and capacities that prevail in society. Under the guidance of mentor, Debra Levine, an assistant professor of theatre at New York University Abu Dhabi, Vikram explored the concept of time and money, devising a formula to work out the value of time as it relates to the creation of art. The resulting exhibition 'Portrait Sessions' at Tashkeel in October 2016 encouraged viewers to question their own economic status.

Hadeyeh Badri: Having worked with mentors Roderick Grant and Dr. Alexandra MacGilp over 8 months, the American University of Sharjah Visual Communications graduate and Mobius Design Studio co-founder chose to explore the intimate and personal account of losing her late aunt. The resulting exhibition 'The Body Keeps the Score' took place at the Tashkeel Nad Al Sheba from April 12 – May 17, 2017, accompanied by a panel discussion.

Raja'aa Khalid: The Dubai-based, MFA graduate explores contemporary narratives of class, luxury and consumer culture of the Arabian Gulf through her practice. Through progressive experimentation and multidisciplinary research, she had the opportunity to undertake research, experiment with new ideas and develop her practice in collaboration with her mentors, US-based art educators Jaret Vadera and Iftikhar Dadi. Raja'a's project culminated in 'FASTEST WITH THE MOSTEST' at Tashkeel in September 2017.

Lantian Xie: MFA graduate Lantian makes images about cosmopolitanism and belonging. He is particularly interested in hotel lobbies, gulfs, general trading, and cafeteria menus. As part of his Critical Practice Programme, Lantian has been convening reading group sessions examining water, gas, electricity and rent exploring issues such as hospitality, occupancy, homeliness, precarity, exception and temporariness.



Critical Practice Programme Outline

Selected participants will be expected to work on the development of their practice with the guidance of an appointed mentor selected by Tashkeel in consultation with the artist. They will be provided with full Tashkeel membership with regular interaction and on-going support from Tashkeel staff and access to all facilities for the duration (up to one year, which is decided by Tashkeel in consultation with the artist).

Tashkeel allocates a specific budget to each artist at the beginning of the programme, which includes the production of artwork and the accompanying publication. It is the responsibility of the artist to work within that budget.

Whilst the programme acts as an ongoing residency format, it is understood that applicants may have other commitments and therefore not be able to commit on a full-time basis.

Phase 1

- Identify and clarify intended area(s) of study
- Regular use of Tashkeel and its facilities
- Regular sessions with the appointed mentor
- Update sessions with CPP Coordinator
- Participation in group workshops
- Input to the Tashkeel website via a blog (project updates such as findings, images, sketches, conversations, found relevant articles and reference artists)

Phase 2

- Documentation and archiving of processes and explorations
- Review and planning session (outcome of production timeline agreed with Tashkeel)
- Production of body of work ready for solo exhibition at Tashkeel gallery space at Nad Al Sheba or equivalent (i.e. film/sound/publication/performance/intervention/digital asset/other) as agreed with Tashkeel

Phase 3

- Delivery of body of work at Tashkeel, including supervision of installation; execution of accompanying catalogue/publication
- Availability for press interviews and any other marketing/promotional activities
- Availability to deliver guided tours (if applicable), talks, workshops or other activities.
- Exit session with CPP Coordinator



WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- Artists currently resident in the UAE
- Over the age of 21 as of 15 March 2018
- Working in any discipline(s)
- Not yet represented by a gallery
- Hold a third level qualification or equivalent experience
- Committed to pursuing a self-directed programme of development
- Interest in delivering talks, workshops or other forms of public engagement
- A strong portfolio demonstrating sustained investigations into specific themes and/or topics

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Applicants are required to submit by 6pm, 15 March 2018 the following to submission@tashkeel.org with 'CRITICAL PRACTICE PROGRAMME 2018' as the subject:

- Statement outlining approach and influences; highlighting areas applicant wishes to explore during the programme
- Biography
- Images of 6-10 recent works (JPEG, 300DPI) sent via wetransfer.com or other labelled 'CPP 2018 – [ARTIST'S NAME]'

SELECTION PROCESS

All applicants will be notified by 28 April 2018

The selection panel's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Application Deadline: 6pm, 15 March 2018