



**Live Art
Development
Agency**



**POST-DOCTORAL
RESEARCHER
RECRUITMENT PACK**

INTRODUCTION

We are seeking a post-doctoral researcher to lead and deliver a 9-month project investigating the post-study landscape for undergraduate and postgraduate alumni (1–5 years post-study) from London area visual and performance art programmes.

The role will combine data collection, stakeholder engagement, and qualitative analysis to inform understanding of graduates' needs to retain and professionalise talent within our sectors.

The role will be supported by the Live Art Development Agency (LADA), Queen Mary University of London's Department of Drama & English (QMUL) and the Post-Study Network (a temporary network of London based Cultural SMEs and HEIs). The Network will provide strategic oversight, support in amplifying the reach of the research, and distribution of findings.

The successful candidate will be supervised by Mary Osborn, Director (LADA) and Dr Martin O'Brien, Head of the Department of Drama (QMUL).

This is an exciting opportunity for an early- or mid-career researcher with strong qualitative and organisational skills, capable of designing and executing a project that includes roundtable discussions and 1:1 interviews, survey analysis, and stakeholder engagement.

This research project is made possible with funding from Arts Council England.

“ How do Live Art practitioners transition from study into sustainable careers in the creative industries? ”



Images (L to R):

Season Butler, Performing Borders Live - Curating Borderless Spaces; Studio MABA 2019.

Live Art Research Collection Study Room user; Jemima Yong, 2024

WHO WE ARE

Live Art Development Agency (LADA) is a registered charity based in London, dedicated to the development of Live Art research, practice and infrastructure.

Founded in 1999, LADA has a long history of supporting contemporary culture's most radical and inventive artists and ideas. Our specialised resources, projects and publications have been driven by an unwavering commitment to Live Art as a cultural strategy that makes space for the experimental processes, experiential practices, and the bodies and identities often excluded from traditional art and performance contexts.

In October 2024, Mary Osborn joined LADA as Director, bringing with her a bold new vision for the organisation that builds on LADA's significant legacy. With a specialism in artist development, Mary is committed to building programmes and partnerships that serve, nurture and sustain fiercely defiant artistic practices.

WHAT WE DO

As a 'Development Agency', our mission is to develop an expansive Live Art ecology that prioritises learning, practices resistance, and invites possibility about what art can be and do.

We do this through three strands:

Developing Live Art Research

Our primary resource is the Live Art Research Collection, housed at [LADA's Study Room](#) in Bethnal Green. Containing over 8,000 items from the 1960s to the present day, including an audio-visual archive of interdisciplinary live and performance practices, the Live Art Research Collection is the world's largest collection of research materials on Live Art.

Alongside our [online resources](#) for artists, students and professionals, our ever-expanding collection remains the only open-access resource of its kind. Our [Live Art Bookshop](#) expands our research engine, distributing a curated selection of hard-to-find publications, media and limited editions, including artists' books and LADA's own titles.

The Live Art Research Collection is activated by annual artistic research residencies, workshops and our broader [public programme](#), connecting practices of the past with those emerging in the present and future.

Developing Live Art Practice

We create [professional development programmes](#) for artists and practitioners, with a focus on peer-to-peer development and shared process. Through residencies, commissions and bespoke opportunities, we support practitioners to centre collaboration and experimentation in their practice.

This includes LADA's national peer-to-peer professional development programme Do It Together (DIT), which seeks to create the conditions for artists to explore ideas, aesthetics and socio-political challenges together, and build a nation-wide support network for radical practice.

Developing Live Art Infrastructure

Our mission is to build sustainable national and international partnerships so that artists working within the multiplicities of Live Art can take risks, experiment and develop diverse audiences. This includes co-ordinating [Live Art UK](#), a network of 25 partners who seek to sustain and develop the Live Art ecology. We also work in partnership with Higher Education institutions to share knowledge and embed Live Art within wider cultural and academic contexts.

By connecting independent artists, grassroots spaces, major institutions and higher education we are helping to shape a more sustainable, inclusive and courageous infrastructure for Live Art.

CORE VALUES

We are **custodians**:

We care for the materials that live in our Live Art Research Collection, so that present and future generations of artists and researchers can access them. We do this with respect for the past, not reverence. We take a critical approach to how knowledge is gathered, stored and shared, and are committed to access, transparency and critique of power.

We are **curators**:

We listen and respond to our current and ever-evolving cultural contexts. We make decisions based on emerging ideas that we learn about through conversations with artists and researchers, and in dialogue with what we hold in our collection.

We are **collaborators**:

We find joy in working with artists, practitioners, researchers and organisations. We think, strategise and take action together, with trust and respect for each other's work. We are particularly interested in approaches to co-learning and collaborative research.

We are **cross-disciplinary**:

We are a meeting point for explorations of liveness, and for practices that have been historically excluded from traditional art contexts. We are curious about what emerges when different disciplines meet and are excited by fluidity and experimentation. We welcome artists and researchers who share our desire to commune around the potential of this work, and are eager to hear what Live Art means to them.

We are **change-makers**:

We do this work because we want to create change. By change we mean a more equitable and more liveable cultural, social and political reality. We know that meaningful and sustainable change takes work, and we are committed to robust policies and strategic actions.



JOB DESCRIPTION

POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Position Type: Fixed-Term Freelance

Funding: £20,000 (pay envelope for researcher) + additional resources (see page 7)

Duration: 9 months

Location: Flexible/Remote with occasional in-person events in London (UK-based HEI partners)

Please note that this research role is contracted by the Live Art Development Agency with a special partnership with Queen Mary University of London. The successful candidate will be co-supervised by Dr Martin O'Brien, Head of the Department of Drama. The post is not contracted by Queen Mary University of London.

Key Responsibilities

- Design and deliver research outputs relating to the contemporary post-study landscape of visual and performance art under- and post-graduate students in London.
- Qualitative research design and facilitation.
- Autonomous leadership of research in concert with key stakeholders.

Research Outputs

- **Focus Groups/Round Tables:**
 - Deliver max 6 round tables (e.g. 3 with undergraduates, 3 with postgraduates)
 - Design format, recruit participants (in concert with LADA & Post-Study Network), and facilitate discussion.
 - Analyse finding from events.
- **Survey:**
 - Develop and disseminate a survey in collaboration with partner Higher Education Institutions.
 - Target population: “final year” and “leavers:
 - Current matriculated “final year” students in UG and PG programmes
 - Alumni (undergraduate and postgraduate) 1–5 years post-study.
 - Analyse survey findings.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:**
 - Conduct 1:1 interviews with key stakeholders (to be identified and scheduled by the researcher).
- **Data Analysis & Reporting:**
 - Complete qualitative data analysis across all sources.
 - Deliver a comprehensive **Final Report** synthesising insights and providing recommendations.
- **Other outputs as agreed during recruitment in line with candidate's continuing professionalisation**

CANDIDATE PROFILE

POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER

The ideal candidate will demonstrate:

- A completed doctorate in a relevant field (art history, drama, theatre and performance studies, social sciences, education, sociology, policy studies, or related discipline).
- Proven experience in qualitative research, including facilitation and data analysis.
- Capacity to manage project timelines independently.
- Strong communication and stakeholder engagement skills.
- Interest in live and interdisciplinary performance, higher education, graduate outcomes, and student experience research.
- Knowledge of Live Art, interdisciplinary/experimental performance, or related fields.

Resources Available:

- Researcher's fee: £20,000 (all researcher costs must be delivered within this envelope within the 9 month period)
- Additional administrative and marketing budget of £4,300:

Marketing & Distribution	£1500
Hospitality	£200
Honorariums	£1500
Access Budget	£500
Admin Support / Contingency	£600

- Venues - BLOC @ QMUL and Garrett Centre (LADA) available for working and meetings, to be scheduled across on-boarding period.

Recruitment Timeline

Call for proposal: Thursday, 8 January 2026

Deadline for Proposals: Friday, 20 February 2026 by 6pm

Submission: info@thisisliveart.co.uk with the subject line: *Surname, Post-Study Proposal*

Contact for Queries: Mary Osborn, mary@thisisliveart.co.uk

Proposal Submission Guidance

Interested candidates are invited to submit **a short proposal (max. 3 pages)** outlining:

- **Research Interest & Fit**
 - Narrative that explains why this project aligns with your expertise and research agenda.
- **Delivery Plan**
 - Proposed approach to delivering the required outputs.
 - Timeline for project delivery over the 9 months.
 - Methods for participant recruitment and engagement.
- **Resource Management & Risk Mitigation**
 - A budget that demonstrates how you'll appropriate the £20k researcher fee against your delivery plan, and the additional admin/marketing budget and access funds.
 - Identify any perceived risks and mitigations to financial resourcing, management of activity, and reputation to LADA, QMUL and partner network.
- **Experience**
 - Relevant research track record, facilitation experience, and prior publications (if applicable), evidenced through CV.

Candidates are welcome to use these headings in their proposal.

Deadline for Proposals: Friday, 20 February 2026 by 6pm

Submission: info@thisisliveart.co.uk with the subject line: *Surname, Post-Study Proposal*

Contact for Queries: Mary Osborn, mary@thisisliveart.co.uk

Selection Process

- Selection panel will include representatives from LADA and QMUL
- Selection of shortlist will be based on proposal submission and CV:
 - Research Interest & Fit
 - Delivery & Engagement Plan
 - Resource Management & Risks
 - Experience, evidenced through CV
- Only shortlisted candidates will receive feedback on their proposal.
- Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview with Martin O'Brien (QMUL) and Mary Osborn (LADA).
- Appointment will be made in line with equal opportunities principles.

Thank you for your interest in working with the Live Art Development Agency.



Supported using public funding by
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www.thisisliveart.co.uk

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Cover Image: Samra Mayanja, 'please believe me...' gathering at LADA, November 2025. Image Mary Osborn