

The Rum Factory is a Grade II listed building with a rich and varied history of uses. Bow Arts has a 5 year lease on part of this building and is delighted to be able to offer these spaces to artists, designers and makers. There are a number of questions that have cropped up from our first viewings and the answers to these may be helpful:

Q: *Will the studios have ceilings added? Can I add a ceiling covering myself?*

A: No, the spaces are designed to be open to maximise light into the spaces. And no, artists cannot modify the structure with a ceiling.

Q: *Will the spaces have doors? Can I add my own door or curtain?*

A: No, they are designed to be open, and no doors or curtains can be added*

The open plan design is to keep costs down for artists, but also to have a space where interaction between users is encouraged and individual artists feel less isolated. This model was trialed in our SE1 studios and has proved popular with artists.

*light flameproof curtains properly installed may be acceptable. Please ask us if not sure.

Q: *What about security? I'm worried about my stuff going missing...*

A: Our approach to security on all our sites is to ensure that the external doors and windows are secured and all users vigilant about locking up. Again, our experience with SE1 studios has been that in 5 years there was only 1 isolated incident of a piece of work going missing from a studio.

Q: *We want to share a studio? Can we do this? How can we let you know?*

A: Sharing is fine and makes a lot of sense for many artists. Please indicate clearly on your form that you want to share and who with. Please hand in forms together so we can link them.

Q: *Will the studios be very noisy with phone calls and music playing?*

A: Bow Arts has a 'headphones only' policy and studio users are asked to respect this and to minimise mobile phone calls where this might cause nuisance to other users.

Q: *How will the studios be heated?*

A: Bow Arts will provide plug in oil filled electric radiators to each studio

Q: *My practice involves regular cutting / dust / fumes. Can I have a studio here?*

A: Unfortunately, due to the nature of the spaces we can't accommodate practices that involve noisy dusty or fume producing practices – that may affect other artists. Ask us if you are not sure!

Q: *What about ventilation? I don't see any opening windows?*

A: This is why we are limiting certain types of practices. There is sufficient cubic space to allow for reasonable air flow in the building.

Q: *Do the prices on the list include everything I need to pay?*

A: Yes, this covers the monthly licence fee and electricity contribution. The electricity contribution may need to be adjusted once we can better ascertain what the actual running costs of the building are. We will need a deposit equal to two months licence fee, and the first month's payment in advance. From then on the monthly amount is paid by direct debit.

Q: *Is there wifi internet in the building?*

A: There isn't yet, but we do intend to get this installed as soon as we can. We should emphasise that this will be provided for artists to use for moderate use, and Bow Arts will not be able to guarantee that this will be a 24/7 wifi connection or to every part of this large building. If you need regular or high use internet as an essential part of your studio practice we recommend that you do investigate your own connection.

Q: *What is the Project Space?*

A: The Project Space (PSW) is a space that will be used to showcase artists work from among Bow Arts and artists and further afield. It will be a mix of Bow Arts instigated projects, short term 'residencies' and Bow Arts artists instigated projects.

We see its main purpose as showcasing activity within the building and giving emerging artists a public platform. It has been designed so it can be accessed from the street without compromising the security of the studios. If you are interested in know more please ask us.

Q: *How long do I have to take a studio for?*

A: There is no minimum term, after the initial period of three months you just need to give two months' notice if you want to leave. We keep our terms flexible so artists can change studios to meet the needs of their practice.

Q: *How will Bow Arts decide allocation of the studios?*

A: Our decisions are based on a number of factors:

-suitability of practice to space, and neighbouring practices

-ability to afford the studio

- key for Bow Arts is finding studio occupants who will make the best and most active use of the spaces. We really believe that artists and designers do benefit from working in an active environment and are keen to ensure that this building can encourage and reflect the vitality of good creative practices.

Q: *If I am allocated a studio when can I move in?*

A: The studios should be practically completed and ready to move into from the week commencing 25th May

We can organise for artists to move in from 28th/29th May. There may still be some snagging we need to complete around that week and next.

We would like artists to move in and be present for our VIP launch of the building on 10th June – Sir Nicholas Serota, Director of Tate Galleries and Munira Mirza, Deputy Mayor of London for Culture and education will be opening the building and we will have a VIP guest list looking around the studios so it will be a very special occasion for artists to be present at.

Bow Arts Studios Team:

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