



**Live Art
Development
Agency**



ARCHIVES & COLLECTIONS PLACEMENT RECRUITMENT PACK

INTRODUCTION

The Live Art Development Agency (LADA) is seeking a motivated and detail-oriented individual for a **6-month Archive and Collections Placement**. This placement offers a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in collections management, archival practice, and research within a leading arts organisation.

Key Outputs of the Placement:

- Conduct an **audit of collection holdings**, documenting existing items, identifying gaps, and assessing condition and accessibility.
- Undertake **desk-based research** to support strategic development of the archive and collections.
- Develop an **outline Collections Development and Acquisitions Policy** to guide future acquisitions and management of LADA's holdings.

About the Collection

Our core resource, housed at the LADA space in Bethnal Green, is the world's largest collection of research materials on Live Art, containing over 8,000 items that include out-of-print books and rare documentation.

It is a free, open access research facility for artists, students, curators, academics and other arts professionals and can be used to view artists' work, read publications, undertake research projects, and find out general information about Live Art, opportunities and networks.

Including DVDs and Live Art related videos, our Live Art Research Collection is for many people one of the only opportunities to view documentation of performances that they were unable to experience 'live'.



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‘LADA’s collection is singular in prioritising practices of the past (through the archive) and the present (in powerful programming)’

- Samra Mayanja, Study Room Artist in Residence 2025

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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.



ROLE DESCRIPTION

ARCHIVES & COLLECTIONS PLACEMENT

Placement Term: 6 months

Location: LADA offices, The Garrett Centre, 117A Mansford Street, London E2 6LX

Hours: 2-3dpw, * Tuesday–Friday, 10:00–18:00

*working pattern to be agreed with successful candidate.

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Responsibilities

- Audit, catalogue, and document LADA's archival holdings, including physical and digital materials.
- Research historical, artistic, and institutional contexts relevant to the collection.
- Assist in the development of an acquisitions strategy and collections policy.
- Support LADA staff with administrative and collections-related tasks as required, including cataloguing.
- Produce clear reports and recommendations based on findings.
- Other duties as meaningful to the outputs of the placement and day to day operations of LADA.

Professional Development Benefits

By the end of the placement, participants will:

- Gain experience in professional archival and collections management practice.
- Develop skills in cataloguing, auditing, and collections documentation.
- Learn to research and produce collections development and acquisition strategies.
- Understand the challenges and strategies for managing live art and performance archives.
- Contribute meaningfully to the development of LADA's collections policy.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ARCHIVES & COLLECTIONS

PLACEMENT

Essential:

- Interest in live art, contemporary art, or performing arts.
- Degree and/or experience in archives, collections management, or cultural heritage.
- Strong research and analytical skills.
- Excellent attention to detail and organisational skills.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively.
- Good written and verbal communication skills.

Desirable:

- Experience with cataloguing software or databases.
- Understanding of acquisitions, copyright, and collection development policies.
- Knowledge of conservation and preservation principles.

HOW TO APPLY

Access & Inclusion

If you require this call out in a different format, would like any support completing the application, or would require support to understand the role - please let us know by contacting info@thisisliveart.co.uk.

Making an application

Please send a cover letter of no more than 2 sides of A4, along with your CV, outlining why you are suitable for the role with the job spec in mind, to info@thisisliveart.co.uk making the subject line 'LAHP Placement Application'.

We are happy to accept applications via video (max 2.5 minutes) or a different format for accessibility purposes.

Please submit an anonymous [Equal Opportunity monitoring form online](#), together with your email application.

Closing date: Friday, 6 March 2026 at 6pm

Interviews: Friday, 17 March 2026

Start date: April or May 2026

End date: September or October 2026

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



Live Art
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LAHP

The LONDON
ARTS & HUMANITIES
PARTNERSHIP



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ARTS COUNCIL
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www.thisisliveart.co.uk

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Images:

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

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

Oozing Gloop at LADA's 20th Anniversary Gala; Manuel Vason 2019.

Sheaf & Barley, Spill Festival; Guido Mencari, 2016.