

About Platinum 2010 & Platinum 2010 - 2011

Platinum is an exciting opportunity for artists to take their work and development on a Fierce journey. If you want to have some time and space to figure out how to develop your work, make useful and helpful connections that will forward your career and have fun in the process, then Platinum was made for you. Fierce has a reputation for risk and for encouraging the expression of a myriad of voices and perspectives: the Platinum programme has been extended to allow participants to express themselves and take risks in an artistically supportive environment.

Platinum is a development scheme for artists living in the West Midlands. It is organised by *Fierce* and funded by the Arts Council England West Midlands. Building from the Platinum scheme that was exclusively for artists with a BME background, we are delighted to announce that this scheme is open to all - but we still proactively encourage artists with BME or other diverse backgrounds to apply.

Fierce is an arts organisation that curates and produces Fierce Festival - a festival of contemporary performance across art-forms and other year round activity based in the West Midlands.

Fierce is particularly interested in its curatorial agenda being led by the artists it engages with. Forthcoming Fierce festivals will involve 8 - 12 artists who develop their projects over a ten month period. This emphasis on process is very much at the heart of the thinking around *Platinum*. We are less interested in finished products than the development of long-term strategies to sustain your career as an artist. We are interested in Platinum's participants being part of the activities and enquiries of the festival itself.

We intend to engage with 12 participants on the programme. They will be divided into two groups of 6.

The first group (*Platinum 2010*) will be able to publicly share work in May/June 2010 & September 2010. The second group (*Platinum 2010 - 2011*) will be able to publicly share work and ideas in September 2010 and March 2011. At the moment you can only apply to be in the first group (*Platinum 2010*). If you are interested in being in the second group please let us know and your name will be added to a database for a future call out.

There are several strands to the Platinum Programme:

Mentoring

Platinum participants will be paired with Fierce Festival Artists who will meet them at least twice to discuss their practice and the direction in which it can go.

Group Activity led by artist Kira O'Reilly

Kira O'Reilly has shown two works as part of previous Fierce presentations; *Visions of Excess*, 2003, curated by Ron Athey and Vaginal Davis and *Revisions of Excess*, 2008, curated by Ron Athey and Lee Adams.

Kira O'Reilly is a Birmingham based artist; her practice, both willfully interdisciplinary and entirely undisciplined, stems from a visual art background; it employs performance, biotechnical practices and writing with which to consider speculative reconfigurations around *The Body*.

Since graduating from the University of Wales Institute Cardiff in 1998 Kira O'Reilly's work has been exhibited widely throughout the UK, Europe, Australia, China and Mexico. She has presented at conferences and symposia on both live art and science, art and technology interfaces. She has been a visiting lecturer in the UK and Australia and U.S.A in visual art, drama and dance. Most recent new works have seen her practice develop across several contexts from art, science and technology to performance, live art and movement work. (<http://www.kiraoreilly.com/blog/>)

Seed project development

Artists will receive up to £1500 in cash or in kind on the development of a project. This money will be allocated in consultation with the Fierce team.

Networking

We will aid your networking and development of contacts through particular introductions where we think it is appropriate and by you accompanying us to various arts events.

One-on-one surgeries with the Fierce Team

Fierce Artistic Directors Harun Morrison and Laura McDermott and General Manager Helga Henry will have one-on-one sessions to discuss in detail your development.

Platforms to show work

Fierce will be producing a series of public week(end) long events which involve the audience in playful ways, allow artists to show research and discuss their work. The first group (*Platinum 2010*) will be able to publicly share work in May/June 2010 and September 2010. The second group (*Platinum 2010 - 2011*) will be able to publicly share work and ideas in September 2010 and March 2011

Key Dates

Date by which to apply: **March 5th**
Interviews if necessary will be on **Tues 30th / 31st March**

Group 1 / Platinum 2010

Group sessions led by Kira O'Reilly

Will be on April 16th and 17th / July 9th and 10th
There will also be a single day in September (tbc)

Platforms to show work-in-progress:
May/June (tbc)
September (tbc)

Group 2 / Platinum 2010 - 2011

Group sessions led by Kira O'Reilly in July, December, January (tbc)
Platforms to show work-in-progress:
Dates in September 2010 (tbc)
Dates in March 2011 (tbc)