

Comments from Yorkshire Artspace Studio Holders on the role of Director

“The Director should demonstrate their understanding of the unique history and position of Yorkshire Artspace in providing studios and opportunities for artists and makers in Sheffield, yet not be afraid to introduce new initiatives and ways of working. They should be prepared to actively engage with the other arts organisations in Sheffield and develop the identity and role of Yorkshire Artspace within the cultural community. They need to be experienced and aware of the current climate that artists and makers operate within and have a passion for contemporary art and crafts. They should actively engage with the space holders, getting to know what they do and have a reasonable knowledge of what projects and activities are happening.

- Creative vision and direction - Have one! This is crucial to the role ... the organisation needs to move forward and create a dynamic identity that supports artists and makers, encourages excellence and is relevant to the contemporary arts world we all operate within. There is no point providing affordable studio space if there are no opportunities for artists to support their survival. Yorkshire Artspace should act as more than just a landlord to its space holders and be part of the wider cultural community in helping create an environment that provides opportunities and makes the visual arts more valued and important to the life of the city and beyond.
- Exhibitions - continue to develop the exhibition programme, find funding to expand it and improve its reach in terms of audience and national recognition.
- Programme - continue to develop initiatives which give artists and makers opportunities to engage with both specified groups and general public in Sheffield, promoting the idea that art has something to offer everyone and culture is accessible.
- Professional development and support of existing artists - ongoing programme of training and information for artists on ways to develop their practices, businesses and careers.
- Affordable Studio space - crucial to the aims and sustainability of the organisation.
- Starter studios - continue this programme and seek funding to extend
- Stakeholder engagement - ensure that YAS is seen as a place of value to the people of Sheffield - beyond Open Studios. Having a strong base of artists in the city makes it a cultural centre that enriches the city and extends well beyond.

- Creative Leadership - be a respected figurehead for the organisation that promotes the spaceholders effectively and the right environment for them to thrive in Sheffield and beyond.
- Organisational leadership - a good manager of the Yorkshire Artspace staff that allows them freedom to work effectively yet supports them from a position of knowledge and good organisational skills. Improves the training opportunities for staff so they can develop their roles.
- Digital engagement - continue to improve Yorkshire Artspace's digital presence and support staff in keeping it up-to-date and relevant.