
G. A.

S. GUEST. ARTISTS.
SPACE.
FOUNDATION

Ìmòrà Arts Intensive 2025

CONTENTS

1. Background
2. About the Ìmòrà Arts Intensive
3. Application Guidelines
4. Eligibility
5. Application Form, Timeline & Award
6. About G.A.S. Lagos
7. G.A.S. Team and Trustees
8. FAQs

In partnership with
Deutsche Bank



Background

Guest Artists Space (G.A.S.) Foundation, established in 2019 by renowned British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare CBE RA, is a non-profit organisation that operates residencies and public programmes across two sites: one in the vibrant city of Lagos and another on a rural working farm in Ijebu, Ogun State. G.A.S. Foundation offers multidisciplinary artists, researchers, cultural workers, and curators from around the world residencies of up to three months in its live/work spaces.

Yinka's vision for the foundation is to foster the development of new work and ideas, promote cultural understanding, and dismantle traditional barriers of privilege. This is achieved by creating access to education, building networks, and developing a resilient cultural infrastructure that supports the next generation. The foundation achieves this through residencies, educational programmes, and professional development opportunities in Nigeria.

Since launching its residencies in May 2022 G.A.S. Foundation has hosted a diverse array of residents, including emerging to established artists, architects, curators, archivists, and researchers amongst others. In the UK, the Yinka Shonibare Foundation fundraises, establishes international partnerships, and provides strategic oversight to G.A.S. Foundation. Both entities are governed by a board of trustees chaired by Yinka Shonibare CBE RA.

Further reading: www.guestartistspace.com



About the Ìmòrà Arts Intensive

The Ìmòrà Arts Intensive is a pilot initiative developed by G.A.S. Foundation designed to support the professional development of emerging local artists. The programme takes its name from the Yoruba words *ìmòrà* (support, guidance, mentorship) and *ìmò èkọ* (acquisition of knowledge or skill-building).

This one-week intensive, held at G.A.S. Lagos from 9th to 13th June 2025, will provide mentorship and practical training for ten early-career artists. Through a series of workshops led by industry professionals, participants will develop essential skills for navigating the art world.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

The intensive will cover key areas, including:

- Writing successful open call and funding applications.
- Developing project proposals.
- Building and presenting a professional portfolio.
- Crafting an effective artist statement.
- Approaching and presenting practice to galleries.
- Conducting and applying artistic research.
- Documenting work and artistic practice.
- Understanding the local and global arts ecosystem.

The programme aims to offer a structured opportunity for emerging local artists to gain valuable insights, refine their professional approach, and expand their networks.



Application Guidelines

Applications for the **Ìmòra Arts Intensive** are open to emerging and early-career visual fine artists based in Lagos, Nigeria.

Emerging and early-career artists are those who have established a dedicated artistic practice but are still in the early stages of their professional development. They may have completed formal or informal training, participated in exhibitions, residencies, or projects, and begun to establish a public presence. However, they may not yet have widespread recognition, major institutional support, or significant commercial success. At this stage, artists are often focused on experimentation, skill development, and professional growth, seeking opportunities for mentorship and networking.

Visual fine artists are creative practitioners engaged in the creation of original works that explore conceptual, aesthetic, and material concerns. Their work spans a range of mediums, including painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, photography, installation, video art, new media, or other interdisciplinary practices.

As part of the application process, candidates will be asked to:

- Explain **why they are interested in participating** in the Ìmòra Arts Intensive.
- Describe **how the programme could support their growth** as an artist.
- Share what they **hope to learn** or gain from the experience.



Eligibility

APPLICANTS MUST BE:

- **Living in Lagos, Nigeria** or its environs. We are unable to provide accommodation at G.A.S. Lagos for programme participants.
- A **visual fine artist** which for the purposes of this open call is defined as a creative practitioner engaged in the creation of original works that explore conceptual, aesthetic, and material concerns. Their work can span a range of mediums, including painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, photography, installation, video art, new media, or other interdisciplinary practices.
- An **early career/emerging practitioner**, defined as someone who has established a dedicated artistic practice but is still in the early stages of their professional development. This includes individuals who have completed formal or informal training, participated in exhibitions, residencies, or projects, and started building a public presence. However, they may not yet have gained widespread recognition, received major institutional support, or achieved significant commercial success.
- Able to clearly demonstrate how they **meet the application guidelines** outlined in the previous slide.
- Available to participate in the full one-week intensive, held at G.A.S. Lagos from **9th to 13th June 2025**.
- Able to **fully complete the application form** and supply an up-to-date **artist CV** and **portfolio**.



Application Form, Timeline & Award

Eligible individuals wishing to apply for this opportunity should complete the following application form:

<https://zfrmz.eu/Uxq4ou1U0j1MFRAq3UxP>

Deadline for Applications: Sunday 13th April 2025

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- 19th March 2025 Applications open.
- 1st April 2025 Online Information Session. This is a valuable opportunity for prospective applicants to learn more about the Ìmòrà Arts Intensive and ask any questions they may have.
- 13th April 2025 Applications close.
- w/c 28th April 2025 Shortlisted applicants interviewed.
- w/c 5th May Final selection.

ÌMÒRÀ ARTS INTENSIVE AWARD

Ten emerging visual artists will be selected to participate in the program and will receive the following:

- Full access to the programme.
- A hot meal (lunch) provided on each day of the programme.
- A ₦50,000 allowance to cover transport costs, and materials to support participation.



About G.A.S. Lagos

The first G.A.S. residency building located in Oniru, Lagos is a modern, brutalist-inspired structure that wraps around a central courtyard. In 2022, G.A.S. began populating its library archive after receiving a donation from Professor John Picton and Sue Picton of a lifelong personal collection, consisting of around 1500 volumes. The donated books cover topics including Sub-Saharan African art, history, and archaeology, as well as African American and Black British arts. Collected over several decades, they are an invaluable resource for scholars, artists, and researchers interested in the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Africa.

On the ground floor visitors will find an open plan shared studio/event/exhibition space, a portion of the G.A.S. Library and Picton Archive, the G.A.S. staff office, an event kitchen and a small staff studio apartment. The first floor is primarily dedicated to residents and includes a shared kitchen and utilities room, three double en-suite residency bedrooms, the G.A.S. Library and Picton Archive and a small outdoor terrace. G.A.S. staff are on-site Monday to Friday to support residents' needs, the building includes 24/7 security and residents have access to shared use of the G.A.S. driver and security on weekdays.



G.A.S. Team and Board



Moni Aisida
Executive Director



Adekunle Adeboye
Residency Manager



Catherine Bardi
Communications and
Events Coordinator



Tomiwa Adegbola
Projects Coordinator



Funmilola Ogunshina
Farm Residency
Coordinator



Yinka Shonibare CBE RA
Founder and Chair



Bimpe Nkontchou
Trustee



Temitayo Ogunbiyi
Trustee



Tokini Peterside-Schwebig
Trustee



Niyi Adenubi
Trustee



Ugoma Ebilah
Trustee

FAQs

How many people will be selected to participate in the Ìmòrà Arts Intensive?

10 emerging visual artists will be selected to participate in the programme.

How long is the programme?

The programme will run from Monday 9th June until Friday 13th June with sessions taking place every day from 10am to 5pm.

Is accommodation provided for participants?

No, accommodation is not provided for programme participants. Applicants must be based in Lagos, Nigeria, or its surrounding areas to be eligible for the programme and will need to commute to G.A.S. Lagos located at 9B Hakeem Dickson Drive, Oniru, Lagos to attend the sessions.

Can I apply if I don't have a formal art education?

Yes! Formal training is not a requirement. The programme is open to artists who have developed a dedicated artistic practice, whether through formal or informal education, self-study, or hands-on experience.

Will the programme help me get funding for my projects?

While the programme does not provide direct funding, it will equip you with the skills to write successful open call and funding applications, helping you apply for financial support for your projects in the future.

Can I attend if I am unavailable for any part of the one-week programme?

No, applicants must be available to participate fully in the one-week intensive from 9th to 13th June 2025. This is crucial to ensuring that all participants receive the full benefit of the programme.

Are you able to support and accommodate applicants with access needs?

G.A.S. Foundation's Accessibility Policy can be viewed [HERE](#). Applicants requiring further access information or assistance relating to both the programme and application process should contact moni@guestartistspace.com.