

NIGHT/SHIFT (1.0)

2025 ONLINE RESIDENCY OVERVIEW

NIGHT/SHIFT is an online arts Residency program geared specifically towards artists and other creative practitioners who are employed or otherwise dedicated to other critical, radical, or anti-oppressive fields, as well as professional artists who must work full-time jobs in addition to their creative practice in order to survive. NIGHT/SHIFT's timeline, scale, and programming focus all exist to support this goal.

The overall timeline of the residency will be slower paced, with weekly time commitments that are both easily manageable and highly adaptable. Both group and one-on-one meetings will be scheduled case-by-case, in order to accommodate each individuals' needs and availabilities that week. The Residency's structure as a whole will be built around Residents' existing lives and commitments, making use of evenings, weekends, or whatever other times work best for each group.

The goal of this approach is to make the Residency accessible to those who might not otherwise be able to take part, as well as to foster a greater sense of community amongst participants, while incorporating the experiences and realities of their lives into the program. It also reflects NIGHT/SHIFT's mandate to foster a more horizontal organizational model, in which Residents feel empowered to express their own agency, and to invest a sense of authorship over the program which they both take part in and help to co-create.

This same mandate has also led to the creation of programming which seeks to close the gaps felt by those without formal arts experience, while also broadening the knowledge of all participants (regardless of experience) through anti-hierarchical, anti-oppressive, and anti-capitalist learning and discussion.

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2025 ONLINE RESIDENCY SCHEDULE

MARCH/2025

- 01 First day of Residency / Online Meet+Greet
- 09-15 Artist Talks
- 23-29 'Dry-run' Critique

APRIL/2025

Full Critiques begin

WORKSHOP-1 (Art School in a Nutshell)

MAY/2025

Reading Group Begins

WORKSHOP-2 (Art Theory is for Everyone)

JUNE/2025

Studio Visits (Round 1)

WORKSHOP-3 (Applying for Grants and Shows)

JULY/2025

Instagram Takeovers

WORKSHOP-4 (Understanding Arts Orgs / Labour)

AUGUST/2025

Studio Visits (Round 2)

Exhibition Prep

30 Last day of Residency

SEPTEMBER/2025

27 Online Exhibition Launch / Farewell Hangout

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2025 ONLINE PROGRAMMING DETAILS

ONLINE MEET+GREET

To kick off the official start of the Residency, we'll do an informal Zoom hangout, so that everyone can get to know one another a bit before we fully jump in.

INFORMAL ARTIST TALKS

On the week of the 9th to 15th, (exact dates TBD) each Resident will give a brief (five to ten minute) presentation about their arts experience, current practice, and their goals for the Residency. These presentations will be informal, and are intended to give both your fellow Residents and Residency staff some greater context concerning your work. Further details about the format, as well as one-on-one assistance with planning, will be offered prior to the talks.

'DRY-RUN' CRITIQUE

This will essentially be a practice critique, so that Residents without formal arts education experience can learn about and become comfortable with the process before sharing their work.

CRITIQUES

Throughout the Residency, online critiques will be scheduled (as with all programming, the specific dates will be determined as needed, in order to accommodate Resident schedules as much as possible) so that Residents can share what they're working on, and receive feedback from both their fellow Residents and Residency staff.

WORKSHOPS

Over the course of the Residency, four different workshops will be presented, each going over a different topic related to the arts, or your own creative practice. The 2025 workshops will focus on closing the gaps felt by those without formal arts education or professional experience, as well as reassessing the accepted wisdom of arts institutions for those who do possess formal experience.

READING GROUP

An informal reading group will be held intermittently throughout the Residency, so that Residents and coordinators can share, discuss, or recommend relevant texts / other media to one another.

STUDIO VISITS

Members of the Toronto arts community (and possibly beyond) will be invited to take part in scheduled one-on-one discussions with Residents, (most likely held over Zoom) so that they can provide their perspective and experience on your work.

INSTAGRAM TAKEOVERS

Throughout July, Residents will be given access to the NIGHT/SHIFT Instagram account, so that they can post works-in-progress, past works, aspects of their research, or anything else that they feel like sharing.

EXHIBITION PREP

Throughout August, as Residents are narrowing in on the work or other materials that they intend to exhibit, there will be a number of meetings discussing the exhibition process, deadlines, additional materials, and so forth. Residency staff will be responsible for all actual design / coordinating, but will incorporate as much Resident feedback as possible.

EXHIBITION

Lastly, on September 27th, the 2025 NIGHT/SHIFT Online Exhibition will formally launch. The exhibition will be hosted online, on a custom-designed website. Residents will use the site to exhibit whatever work they create over the course of the Residency, or possibly other outcomes of their labour / research, such as works-in-progress, mock-ups, work journals, and so on. These will be accompanied by a brief bio on each Resident, as well as some contextualizing material for each body of work.

The Exhibition site will remain online for at least one year after the completion of the Residency.

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2025 ONLINE RESIDENT AGREEMENT

While NIGHT/SHIFT does not make use of formal Artist Contracts, we do believe that it's beneficial to Residents to clearly spell out our general expectations for participants, as well as to be transparent about the best ways to communicate any potential issues with us, should they occur.

Please review the below information, and feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have regarding it.

EXPECTATIONS

Residents are expected to participate in Residency programming to at least some extent. There are no set time requirements, and we of course understand that all of our Residents have other commitments, both professional and personal; however some level of participation with Residency programs is considered an essential part of being a Resident.

Residents are also expected to generate some form of new work or research during the Residency. The extent of this will vary considerably from Resident to Resident, and finished works are neither required nor expected. Any evidence of your research or process will be considered a valuable outcome of your time with NIGHT/SHIFT.

COMMUNICATION / SUPPORT

Any Residents who are unable to meet the above expectations, for any reason, are asked to reach out to us as soon as they're able to. If something is preventing you from meeting the expectations listed above, or if any emergencies or unplanned events occur which impact your time at NIGHT/SHIFT, we're more than happy to work with you to find a way forward.

As long as you give us a heads up, we will in no way hold it against you if you're unable to participate in all aspects of the Residency. All reasons will be considered valid, as long as you communicate with us to the extent that you're able. It's not for us to determine what are or are not valid reasons for being unable to participate fully in the Residency. Even something as simple as creative block is a totally acceptable reason.

We also do not expect anyone to share sensitive details. Even if you simply inform us that you cannot participate fully, without providing a specific reason, this will be respected. While we are always happy to provide whatever support we can, how much you choose to share is up to you.

OWNERSHIP / PRESENTATION OF WORK

All work created by Residents will belong solely to them, with NIGHT/SHIFT claiming no ownership whatsoever. NIGHT/SHIFT will only present Resident works, or share them on social media, with the express permission of the Resident, and will remove or modify the work, or its method of presentation, at any time upon request. All materials created in relation to Resident works will be made accessible to them at any future point, or removed from public distribution, likewise on request of the Resident in question.