

ACHF Artistic Domain Expertise Partner | Call for Proposals

[Australian Creative Histories and Futures \(ACHF\)](#) invites expressions of interest for a short-duration commission for an artist in residence to develop a new public-facing creative work for presentation within the [Flinders Festival of Creative Arts](#) in November 2026. This commission invites artists to explore how cultural archives, databases, and records shape what becomes visible within histories of artistic practice. We are particularly interested in projects that engage with gender and transition in cultural data, by curating an artistic response to how the instability of transition can be ethically represented and maintained within cultural data.

Archives are often understood as preserving cultural memory. Yet every piece of cultural data begins with an act of transition: an artwork, artist, performance, event, feeling or experience becomes a record. That record might take the form of a catalogue entry, a review, a cast list, a database field, a biography, a program note, a search result, or a line in an institutional history. In that transition, some things are preserved – but others may shift, disappear, become simplified or distorted, or take on new meanings.

In working with cultural data, then, we are urgently considering how to engage with records when the artist whose work they represent has transitioned in some way. This might include gender transition, such that a record no longer corresponds to the artist's correct identity, or career transition, such that an artist whose career is held in one disciplinary dataset finds themselves in another. In each case, the record becomes distorted and its capacity to represent the artist and their work is compromised.

This commission therefore asks:

What happens when artistic production and experience becomes a record? What becomes visible, and what becomes difficult to hold?

Applicants are invited to respond creatively to these questions using performance, digital media, sound, screen-based work, or interdisciplinary practice. Projects may engage with cultural infrastructure, such as the datasets held by [AusStage](#) and Design and Art Australia Online ([DAAO](#)), but do not need to illustrate or explain those resources.

We welcome proposals that explore ideas such as:

- things (including identities) that disappear
- categories that do not fit
- records that feel incomplete, strange or unexpectedly revealing
- the experience of being represented by someone else
- the gap between what happened and what survives

We are equally interested in works that approach these questions with humour, pleasure, curiosity, playfulness or speculation as we are in critique

Possible Outputs

The selected artist will create a small-scale original work suitable for public presentation, working with an artist fee of between **A\$3000 and A\$5000**. Projects should be achievable within a short development period and produce research documentation (working with ACHF researchers).

Outputs may include:

- live performance
- digital or screen-based work
- immersive sound work
- installation
- interactive work.

The commission includes:

- artist fee
- access to ACHF datasets as appropriate
- engagement with members of the ACHF research team and partners
- presentation through Flinders Festival of Creative Arts
- documentation and dissemination support
- access to the research infrastructure managed by Assemblage Centre for Creative Practice Research at Flinders University, including the studios and technical resources of Flinders Drama Centre, The Void and The Cube.

Proposals should be presented on the Artist in Residence form attached and returned to Flinders University via email (assemblage@flinders.edu.au) by **Thursday 30 July 2026**. Enquiries about the Artistic Domain Expertise Partner program and the application process can be directed to Dr Christopher Hurrell (christopher.hurrell@flinders.edu.au).

About Australian Creative Histories and Futures (ACHF)

Australian Creative Histories and Futures (ACHF) is a four-year research infrastructure project aimed at augmenting Australia's cultural data capabilities and developing enduring digital infrastructure to meet the research needs of the Creative Arts. The project is being led by A/Prof Bryoni Trezise and Dr Caroline Wake at UNSW, with partners ARDC, Flinders University, Creative Australia and ACMI. Each year of the project, an Artistic Domain Expertise Partner produces an artwork that responds to cultural data. The 2025 Partner, director Chris Drummond, created *The Shock of the New in Adelaide*, a co-production with the Flinders Drama Centre that you can [read more about here](#).

Australian Creative Histories and Futures is a co-investment partnership with the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC) through the HASS and Indigenous Research Data Commons (DOI: [10.3565/3t64-zy41](https://doi.org/10.3565/3t64-zy41)). The ARDC is enabled by the Australian Government's National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).



ARDC is
enabled
by NCRIS

How to Apply

The application should include:

- A full curriculum vitae (no longer than 5 pages)
- A complete application form, which follows in this document
- Any documentation of your artistic practice relevant to this application.

Personal Details

Full name

Address

Phone number

Email

Existing University affiliation (*if applicable*)

Project Title

Proposed Dates of Residency

Commencement date

Dates of any in-person component

Project Background

In up to 250 words, describe the context of this proposal in the arc of your career. Links to documentation of previous work relevant to this project can be included here.

Project Proposal

In up to 500 words, describe the following:

- A description of the creative work you intend to develop;
- The aims of the work, both creative and scholarly; and
- How these aims speak to the brief provided.

Project Outcomes

In up to 250 words, describe the following:

- What form the output(s) from this residency will take; and
- Any collaboration you propose with ACHF researchers.

Project Budget

In up to 250 words, describe the following:

- Anticipated costs incurred during the residency;
- Any in-kind support requirements from Assemblage/Flinders;
- Any in-kind support provided by other stakeholders; and
- A final budget request of between A\$3000 and A\$5000.