

January 27, 2020

Dear Applicant,

Please consider this an invitation to join the Otis MFA Graphic Design Program in the summer of 2020 for two weeks as a Designer in Residence. The commitment for this opportunity is:

- Host a 3-day workshop with a group of 8-10 MFA students
- Work on your own projects as a Designer in Residence at Otis -  
You will be given a desk within a VA studio space and you will have access to all of our labs at the college (riso, printmaking, bookmaking, photo lab, rapid prototype, as availability permits).
- At the end of the two weeks, present to the department a brief review of what you did during your residency so that the students can learn from your studio practice.
- Present a brief and inspiring ten-minute lecture at our Annual Otis MFAGD Art Book Fair

Your 3-day workshop will occur the first few days of the residency. The MFA Graphic Design Program cultivates socially responsible designers through curricular and co-curricular initiatives. Therefore, we ask that you write a workshop brief that introduces the MFA candidates to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals written by the United Nations.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

Ideally, all of the students will move forward in their careers understanding their potential and obligation making our world a better place. The 17 goals are so broad that it will be easy for a conscience student to tap into adopting some guiding principles in their developing practice.

We conclude the Designer in Residence workshops and studio days with our annual Art Book Fair. The book fair will run for two days. At the end of the first day, we host a public lecture. You will speak for ten-minutes along with other DIRs and other invited studios.

All Designers in Residence are asked to host a table at the annual art book fair. Your table will be among the 60 + vendors and we assume you will be selling projects generated from your residency as well as projects produced before your arrival.

A few previous Designers in Residence: Sakaria Studio, The Rodina, Morcos Keys, Specht Studios, Actual Source, All the Way to Paris, Corners, Braulio Amado, Alexis Mark, Jan en Randoald, etc.

In the second week of your residency, the department will be hosting workshops with other visiting artists. These studios will facilitate workshops with the students, host a table at the fair, and also lecture for 10-minutes alongside all of the DIRs. The brief for those workshops is to have the students generate materials for the art book fair.

# OTIS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

Once we have confirmation from all of our invited guests, I can share their names and contacts. A highlight of our summer visiting artists and Designer in Residence Program is the relationships that develop among the studios as with our faculty, staff and students. Los Angeles will welcome you warmly and I hope you are able to join us in this capacity for our summer session 2020.

The following page includes dates, schedule, and specifics for this summer. If you confirm that you can attend, we will begin the process of booking your flight and arranging your housing.

Please see #otismfagd and @otismfabookfair for more information on the program as well as evidence of previous summer sessions.

Warm regards,

Kali Nikitas  
Chair, MFA Graphic Design \*  
@knikitas

\* MFA Graphic Design at OTIS College of Art and Design in Los Angeles is a 14-month accelerated program. The summer sessions have historically hosted a large number of visiting artists and unique initiatives that distinguish it from other institutions. Social responsibility and alternative practices run throughout the curriculum.

**SCHEDULE:**

**ASAP:** Confirm your attendance

**ASAP:** We arrange and cover your flight and housing

**Before April:**

Construct a workshop that activates conceptual inquiry, social responsibility, and formal exploration at the graduate level. Remember all workshops will use the 17 Sustainable Goals of Development.

**End of April:**

Let us know what resources you will be needing for the three-day workshop.

**Workshops and Residency: June 22 – July 10**

**Arrival:** Arrive in Los Angeles on or before the evening of June 20<sup>th</sup>.  
Welcome Dinner for Designers in Residence – Evening of June 21<sup>st</sup>

**Housing:** Check-in June 20, Check-out July 13

**Workshop: June 22 – June 24 (Mon-Wed)**

Meet the students in your workshop in the morning  
Create your own schedule for the three days  
▪ 24 hours contact time total is required.  
Final critique end of the day Wednesday June 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Residency: June 25- July 10 – DiR Studio work - this time is all you!**

July 10: Sit in on Final Crit for Design Week.  
Present the results of your residency  
Set up your table/booth/happening for the art book fair

**Art Book Fair: July 11 + 12**

Host a table at the Art Book Fair  
Give one 10-minute lecture on the 11th

**Please note:** The residency does not include a meal plan or an honorarium from Otis College, however occasional meals will be provided and economy flights + housing will be covered