

A surreal, dreamlike hallway with a textured, peeling wall. The scene is lit with vibrant red and blue light. Numerous red balloons are scattered throughout the space, some hanging from the ceiling and others on the floor. Thick, orange paint is dripping from the ceiling, creating a sense of decay and surrealism. The hallway leads to a window at the end, which is also illuminated with blue light.

ELECTRIC DREAMING

AI LAB

Electric Dreaming AI Lab

A 5-day residency exploring AI and creative practice — for artists ready to think, test, and make. **27 June – 1 July 2026** · Jesus College, Cambridge University.

Location

Jesus College, Cambridge University

Dates

27 June – 1 July 2026

Places

5 artists selected from across the UK

You Get

£500 fee + travel + accommodation fully covered

What Is This Residency?

A space for artists who are curious, not yet converted

This is a residency for artists who feel artificial intelligence could meaningfully change how they work — but who are not yet fully using it. Five artists from different disciplines across the UK will spend five days exploring AI integration in a way that is practical, critical, and personally relevant.

This is **not a technical lab**. It is a space for **thinking, testing, and making**.

By the end of the week, you will have:

- Developed a **clear direction** for using AI in your work
- Feel confident **talking about AI** in an artistic context
- Produced a **shareable outcome** or documentation

What You'll Explore

The lab is built around five core areas — and a rich toolkit of tools, ideas, and provocations to help you find what's useful for your practice.



Making Better Work

Interactivity, immersion, and polish — using AI to raise the quality and ambition of your creative output.



Building Connection

Using AI to grow and sustain communities around your practice.



Reducing Friction

Less admin, more time creating. AI as an operational tool, not just a creative one.



Breaking Barriers

Funding, visibility, and access — removing the structural obstacles that slow artists down.



Net Zero Thinking

Understanding and reducing the environmental footprint of your AI use.

Tools & Themes

Image, video, generative
3D & voice tools

Open source vs
subscription ecosystems

AI-assisted workflows
("vibe coding")

Ethical & philosophical
implications of AI

Practical applications within your own work

Delivered By

Simon Wilkinson

An experienced artist working across immersive media, VR, and AI — combining decades of practice with critical inquiry into how emerging technologies reshape creative work

Myra Appannah

An artist and technologist working across immersive, interactive, film, AI and live performance — shaping accessible approaches that support artists in developing sustainable practice.

How Each Day Works

Morning – Learning

Tools, workflows, ideas, and open discussion. Each morning grounds you in a new area of AI practice.

Afternoon – Making

Apply what you've explored directly to your own work. The afternoon is yours to experiment and create.

Who We're Looking For

We are *not* looking for applicants already advanced in AI.

We are looking for artists where this opportunity will unlock something, remove a barrier, or shift a practice. The most compelling applications come from artists at a genuine inflection point in their work.

- 📄 Strong applications show a clear current position, specific challenges you face, and real curiosity about what could change.

The Selection Process

01

Stage 1 – Anonymous Response

Only your main written response is seen. No identity. No portfolio.

02

Stage 2 – Portfolio Review

Portfolio and additional answers are considered.

03

Final Stage – Identity Revealed

Your identity is only revealed after selection.

How to Apply

Your Application

You will be asked to write one response of approximately 600 words, share links to your work, and provide identifying and demographic information. Focus on what you do, what is difficult, and where AI could genuinely help.

Using AI in Your Application

You are encouraged to use AI to help structure your response. Upload this guidance into your chatbot, use it to organise your thinking, push for specificity — then rewrite it in your own words. **AI should support your thinking, not replace it.**

What's Covered

Travel

Fully covered

Accommodation

Fully provided

Food

£125 for you to buy food for yourself

Fee

£375 participation stipend

Access

If you have any access needs that require you to submit in another format, please get in touch. All applications are assessed equally.

Deadline

Sunday 24 May (midnight)

Notification

By 5 June 2026

Contact

hello.brightblack@gmail.com

Apply Now

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