Artist-In-Residence Program
Frequently Asked Questions

How often does Kala accept applications for the artists-in-residence (AIR) program? There are three application deadlines per year for the Kala AIR program: January 15, May 15, and October 15. Artists may apply for 1, 2, or 3-month residencies, and must specify the desired residency length in the application.

I have applied for the AIR program and received notice that I am a finalist - what does that mean?
Your application has been approved from an artistic and conceptual standpoint. The next step in the process is to make sure that you are technically proficient in the area you would like to work in through a technical review.

What is a 'technical review'?
A technical review is a process completed by Kala’s studio team that determines an artists' technical proficiency in the area they’d like to work in and ensures that they are able to work independently once they begin. Applicants chosen as finalists are asked to complete a technical review as the next and final step in the application process. Reviews are completed by phone or email, depending on the situation.

Can I postpone my residency or change the dates once I am accepted?
Yes, we are able to change your residency dates if your plans change, or postpone your start date up to one year. Applicants who cannot begin within the year of their acceptance will need to reapply the following year.

Is there housing at Kala?
Yes, Kala has two, two-bedroom furnished and shared apartments across the street from Kala at The Higby where AIRs can stay during their Kala artist residencies. Artists have their own bedroom and share a bathroom, kitchen, and living room. Housing is limited and available on a first come basis. At this time, partners, family members, and visitors cannot stay overnight.

Will you keep track of my schedule when I’m at Kala?
The part time and full time agreement is on an honor system basis. We do not keep you to a schedule or monitor your hours. Our day-to-day interaction with artists allows us to understand the patterns of studio days.
How often can I renew my contract?
Once you are an AIR at Kala, you are welcome to renew your contract as often as you like, as long as you are in good standing as a community member. Once you have your 'spot' you are welcome to keep renewing your contract over time.

Can I return to Kala after I finish a residency?
If you complete your artist residency and leave Kala, and would like to come back as an alumni AIR, you are welcome to- just contact us several months in advance of your intended return dates. For past AIRs, we have a one day residency option, which is $90, and artists can use any equipment they've been trained on during a one day residency.

What determines the cost of the residency?
Kala's artist residency rates are subsidized through year-round fundraising including grants from foundations and generous donations from individuals. We aim to keep rates as low as we can given the costs of the organization and the support that we receive. Full time rates are higher than part time rates since the impact on the studio is higher.

Are there private studios at Kala?
Kala's artist residency program is mostly communal space and is designed to give artists access to a large array of printmaking and digital media equipment, as well as a darkroom, animation/documentation room, and other art-making equipment. Artists looking for private studio space may not be the right fit for Kala. We have one large, shared print studio, a digital lab, black and white darkroom for use by our resident artists. We do have two small 100 square foot private studio spaces in our gallery facility, available on a first come-first serve basis for AIRs and visiting artists. Interested artists should contact the Artist Residency Manager for availability.

Can I work on artwork that is not printmaking or digital media? Yes, Kala's print studio has large tables suitable for any type of paper media. We also try to accommodate large installations that incorporate print or film/video work when possible. Kala's facilities, however, are not designed to accommodate large sculpture or painting media.

How many residents are there at one time at Kala?
Kala has up to 65 artists-in-residence at any given time, but usually only about 10-15 are working in our studios at the same time.

65 artists! Does it ever get overcrowded?
Kala's studio is very large and can definitely accommodate all of our artists. Most of our artists are on part time schedules, which keeps the studio traffic down.