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# G.A.S. Critical Writing Workshop II

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# Background

Guest Artists Space (G.A.S.) Foundation, established in 2019 by renowned British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare CBE, is a non-profit organisation that operates residencies and public programmes across two sites: one in the vibrant city of Lagos and another on a rural working farm in Ijebu, Ogun State. G.A.S. Foundation offers multidisciplinary artists, researchers, cultural workers, and curators from around the world residencies of up to three months in its live/work spaces.

Yinka's vision for the foundation is to foster the development of new work and ideas, promote cultural understanding, and dismantle traditional barriers of privilege. This is achieved by creating access to education, building networks, and developing a resilient cultural infrastructure that supports the next generation. The foundation achieves this through residencies, educational programmes, and professional development opportunities in Nigeria.

Since launching its residencies in May 2022 G.A.S. Foundation has hosted a diverse array of residents, including emerging to established artists, architects, curators, archivists, and researchers amongst others. In the UK, the Yinka Shonibare Foundation fundraises, establishes international partnerships, and provides strategic oversight to G.A.S. Foundation. Both entities are governed by a board of trustees chaired by Yinka Shonibare CBE.

Further readings: [www.guestartistspace.com](http://www.guestartistspace.com)



# About the G.A.S. Critical Writing Workshop II

The G.A.S. Critical Writing Workshop returns for its second edition, **(Re)Casting the Canon**, developed by forthcoming resident **Folasade Ologundudu** to support the professional and critical development of emerging and early-career Nigerian art writers, researchers, and cultural practitioners. This edition invites participants to reimagine art history as something living and unfixed, examining how Nigerian and Black artists have been framed within a Eurocentric canon of Western art history, and considering how these narratives might be reframed through the contemporary voices of African and Black writers.

Inspired in large part by the visionary, genre-expansive work of Saidiya Hartman, particularly her book *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments*, the workshop encourages participants to develop fictional and/or nonfiction narratives centred on a Nigerian modernist artist and a contemporary artist working today. Through this pairing, participants will situate both artists within a broader critical conversation about art, culture, history, and the present.

Structured as a three-day intensive across three components:

- **Research & Development**
- **Art & Historical Analysis**
- **Critical Writing**

The workshop will take place at G.A.S. Lagos on **September 21st, 22nd and 24th, 2026** providing practical training for **six emerging participants**.



# Application Guidelines

## PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Across the three-day intensive, participants will:

- Study a Nigerian modernist artist alongside a contemporary artist, using art history as a space for reimagining art and cultural writing as fluid and shifting rather than fixed record.
- Investigate how Nigerian and Black artists have been framed within a Eurocentric art-historical canon, and what it means to retell that history through contemporary African voices.
- Engage with archival texts, roundtable/screening sessions, and presentations featuring Black liberatory thinkers, including Wole Soyinka, Manthia Diawara, Toni Morrison, Tina Campt, James Baldwin, and more.
- Build a clear argument and point of view through guided writing prompts and peer feedback.
- Produce a final critical essay (2–3 pages) in descriptive, narrative, or comparative format.

Selected writing may be considered for publication via [G.A.S. Publish](#), a digital toolkit and publication platform powered by [Archival Consciousness](#) which will expand from Spring 2027 to accommodate a wider body of writing produced through G.A.S. programmes.

As part of the application process, candidates will be asked to submit a **motivation letter** in which they should address the following:

1. Why they are interested in participating in the critical writing workshop.
2. How the programme could support their growth as a writer.
3. What they hope to learn or gain from the experience.



# Eligibility

## APPLICANTS MUST BE:

- **Living in Lagos, Nigeria or its environs.** We are unable to provide programme participants with accommodation at G.A.S. Lagos.
- **An art writer, researcher, or cultural practitioner.** For the purposes of this open call, this is defined as a professional who researches, analyses, and critiques various topics within the arts including, but not limited to, visual arts, performance arts, and cultural movements. Applicants may also be artists or graduate students studying in the arts.
- **An emerging or early-career practitioner.** This is defined as someone who has established a dedicated writing practice but is still in the early stages of their professional development. This includes individuals who have completed formal or informal training, published writing in exhibitions, publications, or projects, and begun to build a public presence. However, they may not yet have gained widespread recognition, received major institutional support, or achieved significant commercial success.
- Able to clearly demonstrate how they meet the application guidelines.
- Able to fully complete the application form and supply an **up-to-date biography, CV and writing samples.**
- Available to participate in the three-day intensive at G.A.S. Lagos, taking place on **September 21st, 22nd and 24th, 2026.**



# Application Form, Timeline & Award

Eligible individuals wishing to apply for this opportunity should complete the following application form: <https://zfrmz.eu/9Qtq26LTv4a2KeLEYTwi>

**Deadline for Applications:** Wednesday 9th September 2026 WAT

## APPLICATION TIMELINE

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ■ 26th August 2026        | Applications open         |
| ■ 9th September 2026      | Applications close        |
| ■ w/c 14th September 2026 | Participants are selected |

## CRITICAL WRITING WORKSHOP AWARD

Six participants will receive the following:

- Full access to the three-day programme.
- Full access to the G.A.S. Library and Picton Archive
- A hot meal (lunch), drinks and snacks on each day of the programme.
- A £50,000 allowance to cover transport costs to support participation.
- Stationery.



# About the Buildings: G.A.S. Lagos

The first G.A.S. residency building located in Oniru, Lagos is a modern, brutalist-inspired structure that wraps around a central courtyard. In 2022, G.A.S. began populating its library archive after receiving a donation from Professor John Picton and Sue Picton of a lifelong personal collection, consisting of around 1500 volumes. The donated books cover topics including Sub-Saharan African art, history, and archaeology, as well as African American and Black British arts. Collected over several decades, they are an invaluable resource for scholars, artists, and researchers interested in the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Africa.

On the ground floor residents will find an open plan shared studio/event/exhibition space, a portion of the G.A.S. Library and Picton Archive, the G.A.S. staff office, an event kitchen and a small staff studio apartment. The first floor includes a shared kitchen and utilities room, three double en-suite residency bedrooms, the G.A.S. Library and Picton Archive and a small outdoor terrace. G.A.S. staff are on-site Monday to Friday to support residents' needs, the building includes 24/7 security and residents have access to shared use of the G.A.S. driver and security on weekdays.



# About the Buildings: G.A.S. Farm House

The second residency building sits on the lush 54-acre Ecology Green Farm in the village of Ikise, Ijebu Ode. The farm produces crops ranging from cassava and cashew to peppers and maize. The building includes one ensuite double bedroom and two double bedrooms with a shared bathroom, studio/work space, and an open plan kitchen/living room. A walled garden surrounds the building and an exterior 'wet' workshop was constructed in 2023 to support residents wanting to undertake larger scale projects.

The G.A.S. Farm House supports residencies with a focus on the arts, science, ecology, agriculture, and research and was created with sustainable infrastructure and food security for the local community in mind. The build stayed true to the farm's guiding 'sustainability first' ethos by only using local materials for construction including 40,000 bricks made from soil dug up for the foundations.



# G.A.S. Team and Board



**Moni Aisida**  
Executive Director



**Adekunle Adeboye**  
Residency and Operations  
Manager



**Catherine Bardi**  
Communications and Events  
Coordinator



**Funmilola Ogunshina**  
Farm Residency Coordinator



**Damilola Joseph**  
Library Assistant

The G.A.S. team are on site Monday to Friday to support the needs of residents and help with booking trips and visits, organising meetings, accessing the library and delivering events and activations.



**Yinka Shonibare CBE**  
Founder and Chair



**Bimpe Nkontchou**  
Trustee



**Tokini Peterside-Schwebig**  
Trustee



**Niyi Adenubi**  
Trustee



**Temitayo Ogunbiyi**  
Trustee



**Ugoma Ebilah**  
Trustee

# FAQs

## **How many people will be selected to participate in the Critical Writing Workshop?**

Six emerging art writers, researchers and cultural practitioners will be selected to participate in the programme.

## **How long is the programme?**

The programme will take place on **September 21st, 22nd and 24th, 2026** with sessions holding everyday from **10am to 4pm**.

## **Is accommodation provided for participants?**

No, accommodation is not provided for programme participants. Applicants must be based in Lagos, Nigeria, or its surrounding areas to be eligible for the programme and will need to commute to G.A.S. Lagos located at **9B Hakeem Dickson Drive, Off T.F. Kuboye Road, Oniru, Lagos** to attend the sessions.

## **Can I apply if I don't have a formal art education?**

Yes! Formal training is not a requirement. The programme is open to art writers, researchers, and cultural practitioners who have developed a dedicated practice, whether through formal or informal education, self-study, or hands-on experience.

## **Will I receive stipend during this programme?**

While the programme does not provide a formal stipend, selected participants will receive ₦50,000 allowance to support transport costs during the workshop.

## **Can I attend if I am unavailable for any part of the three-day programme?**

No, applicants must be available to participate fully in the three-day intensive taking place on **September 21st, 22nd and 24th, 2026**. This is crucial to ensuring that all participants receive the full benefit of the programme.

## **Are you able to support and accommodate applicants with access needs?**

G.A.S. Foundation's Accessibility Policy can be viewed [HERE](#). Applicants requiring further access information or assistance relating to both the programme and application process should contact [catherine@guestartistsspace.com](mailto:catherine@guestartistsspace.com).