



MAKER IN RESIDENCE

@ Valletta Design Cluster

*Creativity is inventing, experimenting,
growing, taking risks, breaking rules,
making mistakes and having fun.*

Mary Lou Cook



ABOUT

The Maker in Residence (MIR) is a residency programme for Designers and Makers at the Valletta Design Cluster, a community hub for cultural and creative practice in Malta. The residency offers designers time and space away from their usual routine to reflect, research, and consider new ways of developing their practice or product

Share your results with like-minded individuals, professionals and the public through a final event/ talk/ workshop/exhibition at the end of the residency.

Participate in events, training, talks and workshops organised for members and non-members on a wide variety of topics.

Connect with a community of creative individuals and organisations who are members at the VDC

EXPECTATIONS

The Makers will be expected to:

- Dedicate at least 20 hours per week to their residency project
- Give a public presentation or a hands-on workshop about your work at the end of the residency
- Be open to meet and possibly collaborate with VDC staff and members
- Provide a 500-word report on their work and your experience at the end of the residency with at least 3 good quality photos.



AREAS OF FOCUS 2027

FLAVOURS & FABRICATION

We invite chefs and culinary experts to explore the intersection of food, design, and making to investigate how culinary traditions, local ingredients, and food culture can inspire innovative creations using digital fabrication.

From bespoke presentations, complex designs turned into food moulds, to interactive dining experiences, makers will experiment with materials, technologies and flavours to innovate their culinary practice.

FROM WASTE TO DESIGN

This theme challenges makers to rethink waste as a valuable resource for creativity and innovation. This residency invites makers to transform discarded, reclaimed, or surplus materials into functional, beautiful, and meaningful designs using traditional craftsmanship and digital fabrication tools.

By embracing circular design principles, residents will explore sustainable making practices that reduce waste, inspire new perspectives on materials, and promote a more resource-conscious future.

WOVEN IDENTITIES

Exploring how textiles, craft, and making can express personal, cultural, and collective identities. This residency invites makers to use sewing, weaving, embroidery, and digital fabrication to create works that reflect stories of heritage, memory, community and belonging.

Through material exploration and community engagement, participants will celebrate the threads that connect people, places, and traditions while reimagining them for the future.

BENEFITS

The Residency provides:

- Accommodation in a private bedroom in a shared residency facility.
- A dedicated studio space within VDC
- Access to the **VDC Makerspace and Foodspace** which includes a variety of tools and equipment
- Opportunities to connect with other makers, designers and creative professionals.
- Maker retains full ownership of their work and Intellectual Property

It does not provide:

- Financial support towards visa, flights, per diem, insurance or materials



ELIGIBILITY

The Maker-In-Residence Programme is designed to support and encourage creative exploration and experimentation.

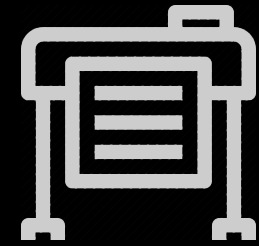
The programme is open to makers from all creative disciplines: Designers, Craftspeople, Visual artists, Technologists, Fashion designers, Innovators and more ...

Applicants must:

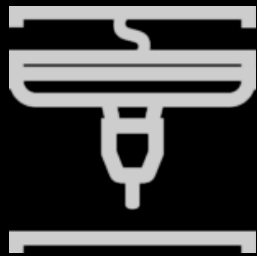
- Be 18 years of age or older at time of applying
- Have a strong portfolio of work
- Be able to communicate effectively in English



THE MAKERSPACE

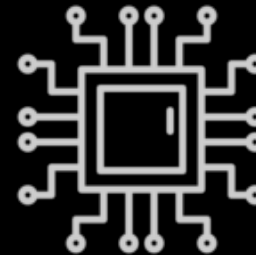


VINYL CUTTING



CNC MACHINERY

CNC Router, CNC Mill,
CNC Mini-Lathe, Laser
Cutter (100W CO2)



ELECTRONICS

Oscilloscopes, Soldering
stations, Multimeters



SEWING

Texi 1501 TS 15-needle Embroidery,
Pfaff Creative Ambition 640, Singer
Heavy Duty Sewing Machines and
Overlockers



3D PRINTING

Prusa MK4S, Creality CR-
10 Smart Pro, Delta WASP
2040 with Clay printing
kit, Bambulab P1P with
AMS, Creality Halot-Lite



HAND AND POWER TOOLS



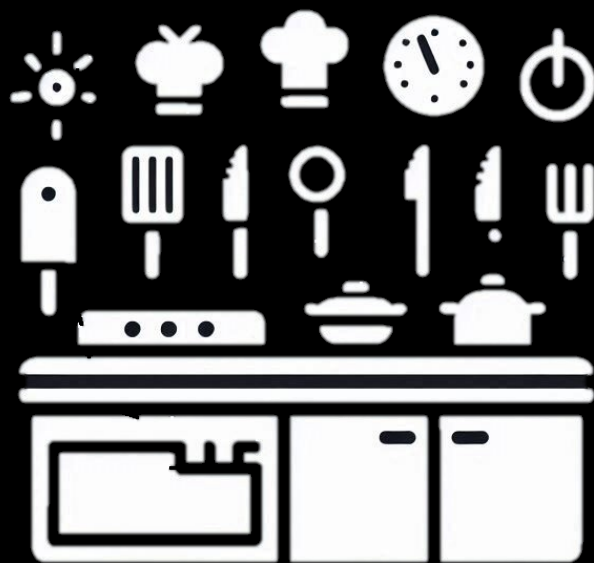
MOULDING

Vacuum Forming





THE FOODSPACE



TWO PROFESSIONAL KITCHENS

A Teaching Kitchen and an
Industrial Kitchen equipped
with

ELECTRIC OVENS

COMBINATION OVENS

DEEP FRYERS

BLAST CHILLER

INDUCTION RANGES

ELECTRIC GRIDDLE

VARIOCOOKER

POTS, PANS AND TOOLS

RESIDENCY APPLICATION

APPLICATION

A Residency may last between **15 and 45 days** and it may take place any time between January and December 2027.

Fill in the online [Application Form](#) and upload a file sharing link with your

- Portfolio
- Copy of ID Card

Applications are on a rolling-basis and will be evaluated on a project-by-project basis

SELECTION

A selection panel will review your application. If selected, you will be notified within fifteen days of submission of the application.

Applications will be scored according to set criteria: creativity and innovation; impact of the project on the maker community and the broader public; feasibility.

Results will be communicated once interviews are completed.