

# An Artist Residency in Motherhood - Planning Tool

Lenka Clayton, May 2016

Some questions to create a structure and focus for your residency. Answer any that are useful to you.

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## Part One – Where are you now?

1. Describe where you are currently with your creative work. How much time are you able to work, where do you work, how do you feel about it, what are you working on? How has parenthood affected (or not) your working practice?

2. Describe as specifically as possible, anything about your current situation that makes your creative life difficult. Write initial thoughts in the box below then edit to make a prioritized list.

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My challenges:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

3. What do you need that you don't currently have? Time? Space? Curiosity? Inspiration? Community? Solitude? New experiences? A mentor? Accountability? Sleep? Training? Materials? Assistance? Childcare? Write initial thoughts in the box below then edit to make a prioritized list.

I need:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

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For each of the items on your list, what would it take to get each of these things?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

4. What would you like to do differently during your residency?

5. Describe where you would like to be with your work after finishing the residency.

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## Part 2 - What will you do?

Write a manifesto and/or agreement for yourself

Use your reflections from part one to write a document outlining your approach to your residency. Describe the way you would like to work and why. Describe the things you need and how you might access them. What will you change? What does, could or might parenthood bring to your work? Are there expectations you can let go of, or new approaches you could explore? You can write your own manifesto, or feel free to use the one on the website. Record ideas below.

Write it up, print it, sign it and put it somewhere you will look at it often.

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## Secure the resources you need

Fundraise if you need to. This could be applying for traditional art funding, or running an independent Kickstarter or Indigogo campaign. You might also take a creative approach; make an affordable edition and sell it to friends, family and colleagues, hold fundraising events, ask for donations, hold a garage sale, or sell shares in your career. Look at [www.studiodirect.org](http://www.studiodirect.org) for a great independent model of contemporary patronage.

Alternatively look at how you might reconsider things you already have access to. Could you use space in your home differently, or use other public spaces to work in? Could you change your routine or eliminate tasks to create more time? Could you appoint a friend or colleague as an accountability tracker, or mentor? Could you trade with friends for childcare or materials, or collaborate with others to make those things more accessible? Could you alter the way you work to make it more productive given your current situation? Write ideas below.

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## Create a structure for your residency

Set a time limit (you can always extend it if necessary)

When does your residency start? ...../...../..... When will it end? ...../...../.....

Where will you work? \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours a week will you work? \_\_\_\_\_

What will your ideal working week look like? Example below, devise your own system to fit your situation.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
morning							
naptime							
afternoon							
evening							
notes							

## Create Accountability

Decide on a system(s) you will use to track your own experience, for example: a written document, a personal journal, a public blog, a website, regular meetings with a mentor, etc.

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Will you share the work you make? How? When?

## Community

Will you undertake your residency alone, or with others? If you want one, how will you create a community and keep in touch with them. Who are they?

How might you begin?

Signed .....

Date .....