

ARTIST RESIDENCY AT HOME

ask why?

- to learn and experiment
- for time or space
- to make stuff
- to put structure around a project

decide on what?

- set your intentions
- write down your vision, goals and objectives
- formulate a plan or proposal

which experiences?

- travel or other inspiration
- period of dedicated time
- artist collaboration
- community engagement
- arts practice
- networking and mentoring

For me it was to design a three month 'at home' artist residency in my shed, incorporating the benefits of dedicated time, to make large format collages for an exhibition at the Back Room. I also made an effort to take some courses, network with other artists and get some mentoring.

it could be anywhere

Do you have a hallway nook, a kitchen table, spare room, a place under the house? Can your art supplies bag be your space? Even the local park might be your studio.

where?

- embrace your space
- make it sacred
- make it inviting
- claim it as your studio

More than a Shed, my home studio, only became my sacred space when I began this residency. When I decided to keep it private, I felt able to relax to do my thing. I hope you can find your sacred space - if anyone can find a creative solution, an artist can.

when and for how long is totally up to you

Take the time to which you can reasonably commit. One hour everyday, or two hours daily for two weeks?

how

- safeguard your time and minimise interruptions
- schedule or organise your day however works for you
- practice small habits daily - a starting ritual, a meditation, organising your space
- document your process in words and photos
- write down your thoughts, successes, failures
- read widely, research artists you love, study their techniques

dive in
and start
swimming

I took three months, 9 to 5, Mon to Fri and occasionally waggled a day (or two). My sketchbook is filled with reflections, drawings, collages, to do lists, planning, complaining, everything. It is not pretty - it is private, messy and became an invaluable tool for working things out.

who are your helpers?

- ask trusted friends for feedback and support
- find a mentor or creative coach
- find new artist networks
- seek out funding opportunities
- find useful local/state government services

As part of this journey I have connected and received support from so many creatives in the community. I can honestly say networking is one of the most important things I have done for learning and finding support and friendship.