

SPTB 2023 Report and Quote

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Overview

I used my Stephen Palmer Travel Bursary to travel to London and Newcastle from the 23rd - 29th November 2023, centering on visits to the Mother House Studios in Catford, London and the MOTHEROTHER project on Newcastle. The travel came at a pertinent time as I have recently finished a 2.5 year contract with the Culture Collective which, in part, allowed me to begin work on a broader m*ther-artists creative-action-research project. As such, I used my time to explore models of m*ther-led artist support in England, to compare with the knowledge I have of those in Scotland.

As well as visiting the 2 main projects, I also visited: The Feminist Library in Peckham, in which I found extremely useful references for my research as well as potential collaborations for further work; the *Re/Sister* exhibition at the Barbican; *Women in Revolt!* at Tate Britain; *The Mother & The Weaver* at the Foundling; and met with a contact who is now part of my (loose, email-based) m*ther-artists network.

Logistical Details

I used the money towards: train and bus travel; food; accommodation in Newcastle and; artist-books by m*ther-artists, m*therhood in the arts and 'divergent' m*therhoods. I stayed with a friend in London for 4 nights and in a hostel in Newcastle for 2 nights.

Impact

I have begun documenting the travel in writing which I plan to share once it is completed and checked with the people referenced. This writing, made possible via the Bursary, has allowed me to generate new ideas for further research and to refine my angle for future funding applications.

Since returning from the travel, I hosted another M*ther-Artists Network meeting online in which I welcomed 3 new m*ther-artists who I met when on my trip. I had a separate meeting with Lauren McLaughlin of Spilt Milk Gallery CIC, who also received the funding and visited some of the same projects, to compare notes. Collectively, and inspired by my time spent with the SPTB, we have decided to explore a collaborative project mapping m*ther-artist initiatives across the UK. Again, this would not have been possible without the SPTB.

Quote

"The Stephen Palmer Travel Bursary allowed me to expand upon and consolidate knowledge of m*ther-artists initiatives in the UK at a time in my career when this theme is shifting into sharper focus. Without this fund, the connections I made and the research I conducted would not have been possible. Additionally, receiving the award bolstered my confidence in my creative-action-research, validating my sense that this topic is worthy of research. Receiving the award has supported me in further applications such as to the Emerging Curator's Group 2024 and the Scottish Sculpture Workshop Group Residency 2024 and has furthered pre-existing connections with people in Scotland doing similar work such as Lauren McLaughlin, founder of Spilt Milk Gallery CIC, who was also a recipient of the SPTB".