

Jo Robertson Proposal

Viafarini residency was recommended to me as being an excellent place to make work, travel to neighbouring important cities, and to meet creative people in the art world, who will inspire and help me think about my practice in a professional and experimental way. Having the opportunity to work in a new environment, such as this one, will help me expand on my points of reference. People inspire me to look at my subject matter, this residency will encourage energy in me to try out ideas and have them passed back at me by an audience. I hope, whilst in Milan, to make a successful body of work which I can then show, whilst also looking out at what painting means, looking at it's communicative powers and questioning if it is still something worth looking at today. Making emotive acts is important to me. Poetry, drawing, taking photographs and playing music, all inform my practice to give it a self created substance for me to rummage through. Milan will provide new inspiration to help develop this intermedia language.

Painting is a way of looking at a visual surface, which paradoxically addresses internal hidden emotions. There is an immediacy about paint which I love, I like it to almost look gross, disgusting, ugly, but then I find some beauty still lurking inside it somewhere. I also very much enjoy painting from life, so I will be interested to see what the light is like to work with in Milan. I want to pick up some of the dirty side of Milan, and make it clean, or make it presentable to an audience, whilst also making beautiful paintings.

Researching confessional poetry is something I enjoy doing, the poems I am looking at draw on the act of creating something vulnerable and raw whilst at the same time giving it a structure to compete with. I hope to address this kind of expression whilst in Milan. I hope the city will provide a perfect realness to feel free within, to make good work.