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CONTEMPORARY

ART

ACADEMY

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## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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Artist: Miranda Carter

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Prepared by: Zavier Ellis & Mathew Gibson

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Date: January 2026

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### INTRODUCTION

This Personal Development Plan has been designed to support Miranda Carter at a pivotal stage in her professional practice. Miranda is an established, working artist with a growing exhibition history and gallery representation, seeking to consolidate her practice, strengthen her critical and professional confidence, and position her work within a more ambitious contemporary context. The plan reflects Miranda's desire to paint more, market less, and to engage with the art world in a way that feels authentic, sustainable, and aligned with her values.

### CONTEXT

Miranda is a process-led painter whose work explores expansive, non-specific landscapes and the idea of the sublime. Her practice is rooted in instinctive drawing and painting, evolving from earlier abstract work into painterly environments that evoke power, beauty, threat, and elemental forces in nature. Sustainability is central to her approach: she works without solvents and is represented by Galerie Les Bois, a gallery focused exclusively on sustainable artists.

She currently exhibits with three galleries, works two days a week in a gallery setting, and is based in rural Northamptonshire. Miranda earns a living as a professional artist but feels that much of her energy is pulled towards marketing and administration rather than studio development. She has recently begun planning a new body of work, including wood panel paintings that explore balance between expressive mark-making and formal structure.

### AMBITION

#### Short-Term

- Rebalance time towards studio practice, prioritising painting over self-promotion.
- Develop clarity and confidence around the current and emerging body of work.
- Begin shaping the new collection with a stronger sense of context and intention.
- Gain constructive critical feedback outside of her immediate local network.

#### Medium-Term

- Position work in front of the "right people" rather than relying on open calls.
- Strengthen professional confidence in navigating galleries, curators, and institutional contexts.
- Build a clearer narrative around the work that can support exhibitions and conversations.
- Continue developing sustainable practice as a defining strength rather than a niche concern.

#### Long-Term

- Secure a solo exhibition in the right context, aligned with the ambition and depth of the work.
  - Paint full-time with greater financial and professional stability.
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- Be taken seriously within a contemporary art discourse without compromising instinctive, visual-led practice.

### **SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE**

Success for Miranda is defined less by visibility alone and more by alignment. It looks like painting full time, feeling confident and prepared when speaking about her work, and seeing her practice discussed and exhibited in contexts that reflect its seriousness and ambition. Success also includes feeling connected rather than isolated, and supported rather than uncertain, while navigating the art world.

### **CHALLENGES**

- The physical scale and labour-intensive nature of the work limits speed of production.
- Navigating the art world feels opaque and intimidating, leading to feelings of being unprepared or “not heavyweight enough.”
- Limited access to high-level critical feedback due to geographic location.
- A sense of working in a bubble, despite participation in local artist groups and meetings.
- Tension between a visually driven practice and the expectation of overt conceptual or political framing.

### **NEEDS**

- A balanced focus on studio development, critical and historical awareness, and professional practice.
- Regular, rigorous crits that respect the visual and intuitive nature of the work while deepening context.
- Guidance on exhibition and gallery contexts, including how and where the work might best sit.
- Exposure to mentors and artists with comparable career trajectories.
- Support in articulating the work confidently without forcing it into unsuitable frameworks.

### **CAPACITY**

Miranda currently has no fixed external deadlines but is open to guidance in identifying and working towards appropriate opportunities such as exhibitions, residencies, or applications. She has a functioning studio, an established working rhythm, and a strong commitment to making time for development. While financial capacity is currently limited, she is motivated to seek funding or alternative structures that make sustained professional development possible.

### **WHAT WOULD MAKE THIS EXPERIENCE VALUABLE**

This experience would feel most valuable if Miranda feels genuinely heard, challenged, and inspired. Creating meaningful professional connections, gaining confidence in her own voice, and feeling less isolated in her ambitions are key priorities. Practical guidance that leads to tangible shifts—whether in how she works, speaks about her work, or navigates opportunities—will be essential to the success of the programme.

### **PROPOSED SCHEDULE**

#### **MONTH 1 (MAR)**

##### **WEEK 1 – Liane Lang (Artist)**

- Artist crit
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

##### **WEEK 3 - Rebecca Pelly-Fry (Curator)**

- Mentee to present prior experience, current interests and aspirations, highlighting areas needing support, development, or specific attention
- Mentor presents summary of experience
- Explore exhibition ecosystem & opportunity
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

#### **MONTH 2 (APR)**

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**WEEK 1 – Liane Lang (Artist)**

- Follow-up artist crit

**WEEK 3 – Sarah Kent (Art Critic, Curator, Artist)**

- Analyse critical context of mentee's practice
- Mentor to advise on research & furtherment of contextual awareness
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

**MONTH 3 (MAY)****WEEK 1 – Emma Bennett (Artist)**

- Artist crit
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

**WEEK 3 – Rebecca Pelly-Fry (Curator)**

- Follow-up session to Month 1 Week 3
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

**MONTH 4 (JUN)****WEEK 1 – Emma Bennett (Artist)**

- Follow-up artist crit

**WEEK 3 – Sarah Kent (Art Critic, Curator, Artist)**

- Follow-up session to Month 2 Week 3
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

**MONTH 5 (JUL)****WEEK 1 – Kiera Bennett (Artist)**

- Artist crit
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

**WEEK 3 – Andrew Etherington (Curator)**

- Mentee to present prior experience, current interests and aspirations, highlighting areas needing support, development, or specific attention
- Mentor presents summary of experience
- Explore exhibition ecosystem & opportunity
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

**MONTH 6 (AUG)****WEEK 1 – Kiera Bennett (Artist)**

- Follow-up artist crit

**WEEK 3 – Richard Dyer (Art Critic, Artist)**

- Analyse critical context of mentee's practice
- Mentor to advise on research & furtherment of contextual awareness
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

**MONTH 7 (SEP)****WEEK 1 – David Risley (Artist, Curator, Writer)**

- Artist crit
- Together decide on tasks/research/discussion topics for the follow-up session

**WEEK 3 – Andrew Etherington (Curator)**

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- Follow-up session to Month 5 Week 3
  - Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

## **MONTH 8 (OCT)**

### **WEEK 1 – David Risley (Artist, Curator, Writer)**

- Follow-up artist crit

### **WEEK 3 – Richard Dyer (Art Critic, Artist)**

- Follow-up session to Month 6 Week 3
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

## **MONTH 9 (NOV)**

### **WEEK 1 – Zavier Ellis (Co-founder)**

- Review

## **CONCLUSION**

Miranda Carter is at a moment of consolidation and expansion: her practice is mature, disciplined, and values-driven, yet her ambitions now extend beyond her current contexts. This plan is designed to support her in stepping up a level—artistically, critically, and professionally—without losing the instinctive, landscape-led qualities that define her work. With the right mentorship and structure, Miranda is well positioned to move from working successfully to working with greater confidence, visibility, and impact.

### **Investment Summary:**

- 1-hour 1-2-1 mentoring sessions - £95 each (Fees are paid in monthly instalments starting two months ahead of the planned start date, or immediately if the programme begins sooner)
- Start Date: March 2026
- Session Frequency: Fortnightly
- Optional supplementary 1-2-1 mentoring sessions - £95 each
- Optional course add-ons - £95–£295

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