
CONTEMPORARY

ART

ACADEMY

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Artist: Miranda Housden

Prepared by: Zavier Ellis

Date: March 2026

INTRODUCTION

This development plan outlines a tailored mentoring approach to support Miranda Housden in strengthening her artistic practice, critical awareness, and professional positioning within the contemporary art world. It builds on a diagnostic conversation identifying key ambitions, challenges, and opportunities, including preparing for upcoming opportunities including an international residency in Bangkok.

CONTEXT

Miranda Housden is a Cornwall-based multidisciplinary artist working across sculpture, painting, and installation, with increasing integration of performance, projection, and collaborative elements such as dance and sound. Trained at Falmouth Art College and Chelsea College of Arts, her current practice reflects a transition back into sculpture alongside an established painting routine.

Alongside her artistic career, Miranda holds a senior leadership role as Director of the Institution of Civil Engineers Southwest, requiring her to balance significant professional responsibilities with her creative practice.

She has demonstrated initiative in building community through establishing a local arts collective and engaging in peer critique environments. She has also undertaken professional development through courses, which have supported confidence-building and early network formation.

However, she is currently seeking deeper critical engagement, stronger contextual grounding, and clearer navigation strategies within the art world.

AMBITION

Short-Term

- Grow and strengthen professional and peer network
- Improve website and online presence
- Develop filmmaking skills to support multidisciplinary practice
- Establish consistent critical feedback and critique structures

Medium-Term

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- Leverage Bangkok residency as a launchpad for visibility and international engagement
 - Reconnect with international exhibition opportunities
 - Build a more defined and cohesive body of work

Long-Term

- Exhibit in international contexts
- Secure gallery representation
- Establish a sustained presence within the contemporary art world
- Achieve regular exhibition opportunities and artwork sales

SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Success for Miranda is defined by increased confidence in articulating her work and positioning herself within the art world. This includes building a strong network of like-minded artists and collaborators, regularly exhibiting work in respected contexts (particularly in London and internationally), and achieving sales.

It also includes a sense of clarity and conviction in her artistic voice, supported by stronger critical and theoretical grounding.

CHALLENGES

- Limited time due to professional commitments
- Residual ego barriers around engaging with local or non-traditional exhibition contexts
- Lack of confidence in articulating the meaning and context of her work
- Difficulty navigating the structure and systems of the art world
- Gaps in critical theory and historical context from prior education
- Insufficient access to rigorous, ongoing critique and feedback

NEEDS

- Structured development in critical and historical awareness
- Regular, rigorous critique environment
- Guidance on navigating the art world and professional pathways
- Support in articulating artistic intent and positioning
- Mentorship aligned with multidisciplinary and conceptual practices
- Accountability to support proactive exhibition-making and opportunity seeking

CAPACITY

Miranda is available to commit to a structured mentoring programme beginning in May, with a preference for fortnightly sessions.

Her schedule allows for sessions on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings, Friday throughout the day, and some weekday afternoons excluding Wednesday.

A key milestone within this period is her Bangkok residency in September–October, which provides a central focal point for development and output.

She is currently applying for Arts Council funding, with the potential to allocate budget towards professional development.

WHAT WOULD MAKE THIS EXPERIENCE VALUABLE

This experience would be most valuable if it leads to a tangible increase in confidence, both in developing and presenting her work.

It should support Miranda in becoming more proactive and strategic in securing exhibitions and opportunities, while also strengthening the conceptual depth of her practice.

Access to meaningful critique, sustained mentorship, and a clearer understanding of how to operate within the art world will be key indicators of value.

Ultimately, success will be measured by both internal shifts (confidence, clarity, critical awareness) and external outcomes (exhibitions, network growth, professional opportunities).

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

MONTH 1 (MAY)

WEEK 1 – Liane Lang (Artist)

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

WEEK 3 – Emily Steer (Art Writer)

- 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 2 (JUN)

WEEK 1 – Liane Lang (Artist)

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

WEEK 3 – Emily Steer (Art Writer)

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

MONTH 3 (JUL)

WEEK 1 – Liane Lang (Artist)

- Follow-up artist crit
- Explore residency ecosystem & opportunity
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

WEEK 3 – Dean Melbourne (Artist Advisor/Artist)

- Holistic exploration of practice and professional output
- Analyse networking output
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

MONTH 4 (AUG)

WEEK 1 – Lee Holden (Artist)

- Artist crit
- Discuss exhibition opportunities including Mark Tanner Award & Standpoint Gallery
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

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 5 (SEP)**WEEK 1 – Michael Petry (Curator, Writer, Artist)**

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

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

- Follow-up session to Month 4 Week 3
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

MONTH 6 (OCT)**WEEK 1 – Michael Petry (Curator, Writer, Artist)**

- Follow-up artist crit
- Explore exhibition ecosystem & opportunity
- Together decide on ongoing tasks/research

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 ongoing tasks/research

MONTH 7 (NOV)**WEEK 1 – Xavier Ellis (Co-founder)**

- Review

CONCLUSION

Miranda is at a pivotal stage in her practice, with strong foundations, growing ambition, and a significant upcoming international opportunity. With focused support in critical context, professional navigation, and strategic development, she is well positioned to expand her presence within the contemporary art world.

A structured mentoring programme will provide the necessary framework, accountability, and expertise to help translate her ambitions into sustained artistic and professional growth.

Investment Summary:

- 1-hour 1-2-1 mentoring sessions - £95 each (fees are paid in monthly instalments starting two
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months ahead of the planned start date, or immediately if the programme begins sooner)

- Start Date: May 2026
- Session Frequency: Fortnightly
- Optional supplementary 1-2-1 mentoring sessions - £95 each
- Optional course add-ons - £95-£295

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