

BEYOND STUDIO

Beyond Studio, the Research Branch of Roman Road, Launches a Pilot 9-Month Programme for Young Artists



London, UK (03 December 2025). Recent discussions — including the Frieze roundtable “How London Can Champion Its Next Generation of Artists”, published on 24 Sep 2025 — highlight the need for alternative, flexible, and supportive platforms beyond institutional or commercial models. Beyond Studio responds directly to this need in building a space where artists can continue training seriously after formal school and we are very excited to announce our pilot 9-month programme, limited to 10 artists and upon application.

Our expansion into a full-length programme, now offering artists a dedicated room with an art reference library and a fully equipped classroom in Bethnal Green, replacing the use of our original gallery, provides the time, structure, and professional support needed to develop their practice with confidence, depth, and long-term sustainability. This follows the success of our three short courses running since February 2025.

Our programme is offered at an accessible rate of £300 per month, with no additional costs, and includes two fully funded spots (see section: Accessibility & Funding).

Like our short courses, the 9-month immersive programme is led by market experts and established guest artists (to be announced). It is designed to guide artists in defining their practice and trajectory. Participants receive both group and one-to-one support, focused on understanding and articulating who they are. Rather than dictating what to create, we help artists discover their own direction and position their work, finding answers from within.

The 9-month programme was created in response to artists seeking sustained guidance beyond short workshops. Unlike brief courses, artists are selected based on a proposed project, which becomes the focus of their 1:1 sessions. Because most participants already have an active practice, the programme combines conceptual feedback with practical support. It sits between an academic tutorial and the kind of work gallerists do, fostering dialogue between ideas and studio practice while supporting both the work and the artist’s professional development.

Running from 26 January 2026 to the end of September 2026, the 9-month programme will conclude with an end-of-programme show timed to coincide with Frieze London 2026.

LINK TO APPLY: <https://forms.gle/XCgT5zb7qR36Pqi49>

A Unique Approach: The Trilogy of Confidence

At the heart of Beyond Studio lies the ‘Trilogy of Confidence’, a methodology developed by Marisa Bellani through years of practice supporting artists at the early stages of their careers, helping them transform ideas into tangible projects. Rather than a set of procedural steps, the Trilogy frames the artist’s development in conceptual and professional terms, reflecting the interplay between practice, presentation, and sustainability in contemporary art.

This methodology is at the core of our three signature courses launched in February 2025. Building on the success of the short courses — which introduced the core pillars of our methodology: Message, Communication, and Administration — the 9-month format offers a more in-depth, sustained, and immersive framework. The programme combines individual mentorship, small-group classes, workshops, studio visits, and extensive self-directed studio practice with critical theory sessions and professional skills training, creating a structure that enables artists to develop their practice with clarity and long-term confidence.

Message - Artists learn a methodology to articulate their artistic approach and research with clarity, confidence, and purpose. Taught by Marisa Bellani, who has 10+ years’ experience running a gallery, participating in art fairs, and placing artists in major institutions such as Tate Modern (London), Benaki Museum (Athens, Greece), Stedelijk Museum, (Schiedam, The Netherlands), Musée Des Beaux Arts Le Locle (Switzerland), Victoria & Albert Museum (London) among others. Marisa combined this experience with a training in neuroscience-based coaching (Neuroleadership Institute, 2019) and her passion for creating space for artists to find themselves, create context, and grow.

Communication - Once the message is clear, we help artists reach visibility. Beyond Studio situates visibility within an art-historical and cultural context. Artists explore strategies for presenting work across platforms and to audiences — from collectors and curators to peers and critics — emphasising clarity and intentionality rather than mere promotion. This is taught by guest lecturers specialising in storytelling, PR, branding, and marketing (see section. Learning Environment).

Finance & Legalities - The practical frameworks that sustain an artistic career are reframed as part of professional autonomy. Understanding contracts, intellectual property, and financial strategy — from the psychology of money to the practicalities of application for fundings, VAT, cash flow or even savings, — is positioned not as administrative detail but as an essential tool enabling the artist to maintain control over their practice and trajectory. Taught by an art law counsellor and an art accountant (see section. Learning Environment).

“Being an artist means making choices: what to explore, which colour palette, who to collaborate with. Those choices create clarity, and clarity builds confidence. That’s what we work towards with each artist.” — Marisa Bellani

Programme Structure (26 Jan – 30 Sept 2026)

At the start of the programme, we will identify a specific area of weakness, challenge, or project for each artist. This focus is reassessed every three months through one-to-one sessions.

While the majority of time is spent in the studio, allowing artists to integrate lessons into their practice and build sustained confidence, the programme includes 46 hours of in-person group classes with experts and guest artists, complemented by 10 hours of supplementary activities such as exhibition visits and curated video screenings.

In addition, each artist receives 3 hours of one-to-one mentorship, with one session at the start of each phase to work on their individual project, as well as 2 hours of individual studio visits.

The programme concludes with one day of external and peer crits and will end with a show presenting their work in October 2026, during Frieze (London) at our space dedicated to art and research.

PHASE 1 – Core Practice & Confidence (26 Jan – 20 Apr):

In this phase, we help artists build clarity, confidence, and create meaningful connections between their artistic vision and the works they make.

PHASE 2 – Critical Theory & Art Law/Finance (20 Apr – 28 Jun):

At this stage, we will help them develop conceptual depth alongside practical skills in IP, contracts, and financial management.

PHASE 3 – Communication, Digital Presence & Curation (1 Jul – 30 Sept):

In this final phase, artists consolidate their digital presence, storytelling, and professional networks, culminating in a peer critique session and preparation for curating and presenting their work in the collective show.

FINAL EXHIBITION - Friday 02 October 2026

The exhibition will be curated to reflect what the artists have achieved over the nine months. The public, collectors, and members of institutions will be invited to view the works and attend the opening. Further programming will be announced in due course.

Accessibility & Funding

For each course, and the 9-month programme is no exception, Beyond Studio offers two funded spots for artists who cannot cover the fees. Funding is awarded based on financial need.

While our primary focus is on artists born after 1980, we believe all artists deserve access to the essential tools for success. Our commitment to inclusivity ensures that creatives from all backgrounds can benefit from our resources, fostering an environment where every artist can thrive and realise their aspirations.

Learning Environment

Classes are delivered by experts, including:

Marisa Bellani

Roman Road, Founder



Since launching her first project space in 2013, she has worked with over 50 ultra-contemporary artists, providing mentorship, coaching, and curatorial support. She has also contributed to the Young Patron Steering Committee of The Photographers’ Gallery and served on the Tate Photography Acquisition Committee.

Lorna Tiller

Artsy, Partnerships



Marketing and communications professional with extensive experience supporting artists, galleries, and creative organisations.

Stéphanie Ollivier

Brand Strategist & Media Coach



Brand Strategist with 15 years of experience across media, including 10 years at Art Newspaper and within the arts and culture sector, renowned for delivering strategic brand initiatives and media coaching that empower clients to communicate with authenticity, confidence, and purpose.

Alexios Seilopoulos

Apropos, Founder



The co-founder of the creative agency APROPOS in which he leads high-profile projects for lifestyle brands (Giorgio Armani, Max Mara Group, Land Rover, Six Senses), governments (Government of Thailand), combining strategic thinking with powerful storytelling.

Sara Kärpänen

Women of the Wick & Finnish Cultural Institute



Founder of Women of the Wick, a feminist media and curatorial platform amplifying the voices, work, and visibility of women and non-binary creatives, Sara also is an Arts Programme Director at the Finnish Institute in the UK and Ireland, enabling cross-cultural exchange through art and culture.

Sara Kietzmann

Sutton Comms, Associate Director



With over 10 years of experience in arts communications, Sara has developed strategic campaigns for museums, foundations, biennials, galleries, art fairs, and brand sponsors: LAS Art Foundation, Muzeum Susch, the Danish Pavilion at the Venice Art Biennale, the launch of Ladbroke Hall, and the 35th Bienal de São Paulo.

Victoria Helena
Artist Money Matters, Founder



Strategic partner to C-Suite executives, founders, and artists, specialising in business recovery, restructuring, and financial stability. They have collaborated with major galleries and global talents, including Pace, Carpenters Workshop, Studio Wayne McGregor, BMW, Art Basel, Frieze, and Random International.

Mona Yapova
Mishcon de Reya, Art Law Specialist



With experience at Phillips, the Guggenheim Museum in Venice, and the State Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Mona brings a wealth of knowledge to her practice. Mona has lectured at the Royal Academy Schools, the London School of Economics, King’s College London, the Courtauld Institute of Art, and the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing.

More lecturers and Guest artists
to be announced.

Impact & Testimonials

“I think what is very unique about what Marisa Bellani does with this course is that we are encouraged to set a goal that we work towards together. And each case is individual, feels like an elevated learning experience.. Marisa’s focus is to treat each artist uniquely and to work with them with totally tailored approaches. To work with each artist as an individual to achieve their own goals. ” — Shooq AlShawi

“What motivated me to join was the urge to learn how to speak about my practice and professionalise myself as an artist.” — Constanza Pulit

“Great value to have these non-artist perspectives on art practice — different ways of communicating different aspects of my work.” — Ray G Brown

“Keeping the group size small made it more of a discussion and allowed enough time to focus on each person’s work.” — Sam Parsons

“The course provided insight and strategies to cultivate my independence as an artist — it’s the type of programming sorely missing from art school.” — Unu Sohn

“It saved me years of trial and error, clarified a lot, and I’m thankful to all who gave generously.” — Bokani

“Being able to discuss, interact, and learn from other artists at various stages was extremely valuable, paired with Marisa’s guidance for a constructive learning experience.” — Darian Zahedi



NOTE TO EDITORS

About the Roman Road

Since 2024, and under the direction of Marisa Bellani, Roman Road has evolved into a catalyst for artists' career growth, building on its origins as a gallery space. Initially founded as an exhibition venue and participating in art fairs, Roman Road recognised the increasing demand for more comprehensive support to help artists navigate their careers beyond exhibitions alone. This shift led to the development of an innovative, forward-looking curatorial and studio platform designed to respond to young artists' need for a viable support system in an ever-evolving art world. By departing from the traditional gallery format, Roman Road's core mission is now focused on fostering artistic development and career growth through a two-pronged strategy: Curations and Beyond Studio. Beyond Studio is Roman Road's space dedicated to learning, research, and artist exchange, while Curations is dedicated to the conception and production of exhibitions, either independently or in partnership with high-profile organisations. These include the group exhibition at Christie's London (February 2024), *WE ARE THE FUTURE: Knocking on Heaven's Door*, featuring works by artists such as Antony Cairns (UK), Channatip Chanvipava (Thailand), Daisuke Yokota (Japan), Daisy Dodd-Noble (UK), and Julie Maurin (France), among others; a major solo exhibition dedicated to Thai artist Channatip Chanvipava in Venice during the 60th Venice Biennale (April 2024); and, more recently, Polina Piëch's solo *Painted Winds* at Photo London (May 2025), as well as Lize Bartelli's solo exhibition *Last Night I Dreamt That Somebody Loved Me* (June 2025) and Bartelli's forthcoming exhibition *The Hour of The Star*, part of the Visiting Curators Initiative at Pipeline (January 2026).

About the Marisa Bellani

Marisa Bellani is a leading art curator and independent artist liaison based in London with a decade-long experience as the founder and creative director of Roman Road, a gallery created in 2013 which organically evolved into an established hub for emerging artists. Bellani is widely recognised for her flair and exceptional eye for unearthing creative talent and operates at an international level. She has a proven track record in advancing and bolstering the career of artists through strategic guidance and support, resulting in enhanced positioning, exposure, and tangible prospects.

Moving away from artists representation, Bellani works closely with a carefully selected line-up of artists born after 1980 or ultra-contemporary artists whom she predicts will be the talents of tomorrow. Her gift for identifying high-profile partners who share her vision, from auction houses and galleries to foundations and influential individuals, serves her ambition to propel them in front of the right audiences and provide them with promising opportunities. Bellani's curatorial interests specifically focus on two main topics: the future of the world through utopia and dystopia, and the complexities of the human mind, from non-normative identities to challenging stereotypes in modern society.

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Website: romanroad.com (launching soon: beyondstudiohq.com)

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Images:

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