

BR WHITING STUDIO ROME RESIDENCY



View from the terrace. Image credit: Kevin Brophy

1. ABOUT BR WHITING

The BR Whiting studio was bequeathed to Creative Australia by Lorri Whiting, who was married to writer B.R. 'Bertie' Whiting.

B.R. (Bertie) Whiting was born in Melbourne in 1923 and was a journalist, script writer, playwright, carpenter and researcher. He was married to the painter Lorraine Fraser and settled in Rome in 1955, where he died in 1989. His publications include *The Little Desert: Poems of India, Australia and Italy* (1975) and *Winter for Quiet: A Collection of Sea Poems* (1979). *The Poems of B.R. Whiting* was published in 1991.

Lorri Whiting was born in Melbourne in 1927 and studied sculpture at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. She had solo exhibitions of her paintings in Rome, London, New York, Milan and Paris. Her work is held by the National Gallery of Victoria, C.A.S London, the Philadelphia Art Museum, the Menagor Museum and Topaco Texas. Mrs Whiting died in Rome in 2019. Creative Australia is extremely grateful for her generous donation of the studio and the opportunities it provides for Australian writers.

2. STUDIO – ACCOMMODATION

The BR Whiting studio is located on the eighth floor of a security building. A lift travels to the seventh floor, where there is a short set of stairs leading to the studio.

The apartment consists of a spacious multi-purpose room, a bedroom, bathroom, and library annexe.

The main room contains the kitchen and dining area, a desk, sofa, sofa bed, storage cupboard (containing vacuum cleaner, ironing board etc.), coffee table, electric heater and wood stove. The bedroom contains a clothes cupboard and a double bed. Bed linen, towels and blankets are supplied. There is a washing machine in the bathroom.

There is a telephone in the apartment. Only local calls can be made from this phone. We advise using international telephone cards should you wish to call Australia or another country.

Due to its location, the apartment can be hot in the summer months. Please take this into consideration when selecting your preferred residency period.

Internet access:

The apartment has ADSL, so if you bring a laptop you will be able to access the internet.

At the end of the residency, and at Christmas and Easter, residents are asked to adhere to the local custom of tipping the portiere for her work and assistance during the residency. It is also possible to provide a small gift. You can ask Pepita for guidance.

Amenities provided

Bed linen
Blankets
Towels
Deskjet printer
Television

Families and guests

While the studio would accommodate a couple and a small child over five, it is not recommended for families. There are no parks or facilities in the area and the apartment is quite old.

Accessibility

The BR Whiting studio is not wheelchair accessible and has limited flexibility regarding physical access needs. A guide dog, and/or a carer could accompany the artist for the residency, as the living quarters could accommodate two people. Please contact Creative Australia to discuss your specific needs.

Maintenance and cleaning

Residents are responsible for the cleaning of the apartment and terrace and for the purchase of cleaning materials and replacement light bulbs.

Please contact Pepita if there are any items broken or need replacing or for any other issues related to the condition of the studio.

3. LOCAL AREA

General information

The apartment block, between Via Carlo Porta and Via Filippo Chiappini, is within walking distance from Roma Trastevere train station, and close to the River Tiber. A short distance away is the old district of Trastevere, which besides its historic significance, boasts some of the best pizzerias and bars in Rome.

There is a tram (No.8) on Viale Trastevere that takes you to Piazza Venezia, the centre of Rome. The apartment is also within walking distance to the centre and to John Cabot University.

Taxis from the airport cost 50 Euros. The only legal taxis are white and have the fare stamped on the doors. The train to Trastevere station from the airport costs about 10 Euros. Residents should make sure they do not take ITALO because that goes non-stop to Termini station.

Food sold in markets is usually cheaper and fresher than in stores. There are shops of every variety in the immediate vicinity of the apartment. In Via Carlo Porta there is a smallgoods shop, snack bar and butcher. A chemist is located between Via Chiappini and the station.

A large department store, OVS, is a five-minute walk from the apartment and has a supermarket, CONAD, in the basement which is one of the cheapest and has good groceries, fish, meat and vegetables. There is a flea market every Sunday in Via Portuense.

Restaurants and bars are plentiful in the old area of Trastevere. Generally, customers in bars pay at the cash register first and present the receipt at the counter. For a good cheaper meal, previous residents have recommended the Luzzi Trattoria and other restaurants and bars in the area around the Colosseum, which are frequented by the locals and university students. Opening hours vary, but generally small stores, banks and offices close from around 1.30-4pm. Big stores and supermarkets are generally open until 8pm. You are advised to take care with your valuables, particularly in the markets.

The BR Whiting studio contains a collection of over 2,000 books. A tradition has been established that each resident leaves a volume of their own work. Besides this collection, residents may borrow books from the Libreria Rispoli, just off Piazza Venezia; the library lends books to people with visas or residence permits.

BR WHITING RESIDENCY INFORMATION PACKAGE – This information package was prepared July 2024, based on material that was as accurate as possible at the time of publication. We will amend this package as new information becomes available.

4. PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

2025

1 January	Wednesday	New Year's Day
6 January	Monday	Epiphany
20 April	Sunday	Easter Sunday
21 April	Monday	Easter Monday
25 April	Friday	Liberation Day
1 May	Thursday	Labor Day / May Day
2 June	Monday	Republic Day
15 August	Friday	Assumption Day
1 November	Friday	All Saints' Day
8 December	Monday	Immaculate Conception
25 December	Thursday	Christmas Day
26 December	Friday	St Stephen's Day

2026

1 January	Thursday	New Year's Day
6 January	Tuesday	Epiphany
5 April	Sunday	Easter Sunday
6 April	Monday	Easter Monday
25 April	Saturday	Liberation Day
1 May	Friday	Labor Day / May Day
2 June	Tuesday	Republic Day
15 August	Saturday	Assumption Day
1 November	Sunday	All Saints' Day
8 December	Tuesday	Immaculate Conception
25 December	Friday	Christmas Day
26 December	Saturday	St Stephen's Day

5. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Creative Australia covers all maintenance costs for the apartment and provides rent-free accommodation.

6. INSURANCE

Residents are responsible for organising and paying for their own travel insurance for their residency, including health insurance that is required by their country of residence. Proof of cover should be provided to Creative Australia prior to commencing the residency.

Please note Creative Australia will not be held responsible for loss, damage or accidents occurring within or relative to the residential studio. Residents are

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responsible for any damage caused to the building or inventory (beyond normal wear and tear) and must report this to Pepita immediately.

7. OVERSEAS TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

You make your own travel arrangements, at your own expense, after notification of your successful application for the studio/payment of your grant.

The residency can only occur within the time period nominated by Creative Australia in your agreement. In exceptional circumstances, it is sometimes possible to amend your arrival and departure dates by a reasonable period. If you wish to change your dates, please contact Creative Australia at least four weeks before travelling.

Please contact Pepita at least one month before your departure to inform her of your travel details and arrange a time to meet. She will be able to answer any questions you may have about the apartment and the local area, arrange a suitable time to meet and work through the inventory and other organisational matters.

Pepita will meet you when you arrive at the apartment.

Please inform Creative Australia of your itinerary before travelling.

8. VISA REQUIREMENTS

Creative Australia does not advise or provide information on visas. For up-to-date entry visa requirements, you must check with the appropriate embassy or consulate and arrange your visa requirements well in advance of your departure date.

All Australian travellers are strongly encouraged to check the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs website www.smartraveller.gov.au prior to travel.