

## Open Call for Artists' Expressions of Interest

New Geographies is an Arts Council England funded project to create a new map of the East of England based on personal thoughts, reflections and stories of unexplored or over-looked places, rather than on historic or economical centres. The map forms the basis of 10 major site-responsive art commissions across the East of England, to be delivered over the next two years. The first phase of the project invited members of the public to nominate locations for the map, over a three-month nomination process in Summer of 2017 and nominations can be seen here: [www.newgeographies.uk](http://www.newgeographies.uk)

We are now seeking expressions of interest from artists who have experience of working with community engagement and/or in the public realm in response to places or sites. The call is open to artists living and working both nationally and internationally and we are aiming to appoint ten artists to the project.

Each commission will be managed by one of the New Geographies partners. The commissions will be jointly delivered by Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge, Art Exchange, University of Essex Colchester; East Gallery, Norwich University of the Arts; Firstsite, Colchester; Focal Point Gallery, Southend; Kettle's Yard, University of Cambridge; Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery; originalprojects; Great Yarmouth; and UH Galleries, University of Hertfordshire. All the organisations are members of the ECVAN (East Contemporary Visual Arts Network). Additional support comes from community outreach partners. This project also continues to strengthen ECVAN's international relationship with artists, curators and directors from the Netherlands who will also be helping to select the chosen artists.

We envisage that each commission will be different but that all will in some way respond to the map, locations and stories; either individual locations, themes or other unexpected connections.

### **Brief**

To develop a new commission in response to the sites and places nominated by the public (identified on [www.newgeographies.uk](http://www.newgeographies.uk)), which could explore histories, localities, themes and a myriad of contemporary issues. The final commissions can take any form and may involve working with the public or local communities, but we are open to innovative or unique ideas which encourage us to think about the idea of place in new ways.

### **Duration**

Commissions will be delivered over the next two years starting in Summer 2018 and finishing by Winter 2019. Exact timings will depend on the nature of each project, its location and the lead commissioning organisation/s.

### **Available Budget:**

Up to £25,000 (inclusive of VAT) per commission. This includes an artist fee and production.

For artists who are VAT registered there is some flexibility on VAT in relation to the fee; subject to conditions being met.

[www.newgeographies.uk](http://www.newgeographies.uk)

Follow #Newgeog for social media updates on the project.

  @newgeog

## **Submission Process**

In the first instance please send Expressions of Interest. This should include:

- A statement explaining why you would like to be considered and how your experience is appropriate for a project of this type (max 300 words)
- Your initial response to the map, sites, and locations and how you would approach the commission (max 500 words). Please refer to [www.newgeographies.uk](http://www.newgeographies.uk) when developing your response.
- Your CV (max 2 pages)
- A Portfolio of your previous work, relevant to this commission (up to 10 images/videos and-or 1 pdf up to 5 pages).

**Deadline for submission: Sunday 28 January 2018 at Midnight.**

**Please upload your EOI to Submittable here - <http://bit.ly/2zAaEYH>**

It is recommended that you apply with enough time to approach us with any questions or queries in using the Submittable website.

## **Selection Process**

Representatives from each partner organisation will be involved the shortlisting and selection process. We aim to ensure a wide spread of shortlisted locations across the East of England as well as include artists, from the open submission and through solicitation, who are from diverse backgrounds, experiences and geographical locations. Shortlisted artists will be asked to work up a more detailed site-responsive proposal for up to three sites to bring to a Stage 2 interview in early March 2018. A fee will be available for second phase development work.

## **Key messages of the project:**

### **What is the project?**

- An international partnership between 9 arts organisations in the East of England and The Netherlands
- The creation of a new map of the East, made by those who live here
- A chance for artists to explore overlooked and unexpected places across the region, inviting us to see them in new ways
- An opportunity to encounter excellent art in unexpected places through a series of commissions across the East

### **What do we want to achieve?**

- To make art part of the everyday for more people
- To build more audiences for art
- To think of the idea of 'place' in new ways
- To raise the profile of the local partner arts organisations based in the region
- To highlight the east of England and make it more of a cultural destination
- To provide opportunities for artists to make new work
- To bring people together to share stories

### **How do we want it to look, feel and be talked about?**

- With a sense of adventure and journey
- By being curious and asking questions
- With a belief that every voice is different – there is no uniformity
- By celebrating the beauty and challenges of the region (from vast skies to coastal erosion)
- With the informality of the everyday
- By embracing multiple languages and nationalities

[www.newgeographies.uk](http://www.newgeographies.uk)

Follow #Newgeog for social media updates on the project.

  @newgeog

Any questions, please email [info@newgeographies.uk](mailto:info@newgeographies.uk)

### Art Exchange

Placing the artist at its core, Art Exchange is a space where art, artists and audiences can meet. Their programme of exhibitions, talks and events creates a platform for ideas to be exchanged and connections to be made. Since 1989 they have been showing international contemporary art by established and emerging artists, historic figures who continue to inspire, and group shows relevant to current debate. Sited at the University of Essex in Colchester, Art Exchange are inspired by an intellectually curious audience, while the research and study around them feeds into the programme of talks, films and debate. Combined with family days, workshops with schools and outreach activity, they offer ways for everyone to get involved and enjoy great art.

### East Gallery<sup>NUA</sup>

East Gallery<sup>NUA</sup> is an exciting contemporary exhibition space in Norwich city centre, funded by Norwich University of the Arts. The gallery hosts a range of exhibitions with a focus on contemporary art, design, architecture and media practice that broadly reflect the taught specialisms of the University. Shows range from major national touring exhibitions such as the *British Art Show 8*, to shows originated by the University. The gallery has a wide range of national and international partners including commercial galleries, trusts and foundations. Norwich University of the Arts has developed and held the influential show, *East International* from 1991 onwards.

### Firstsite

Founded in 1994, Firstsite is a public contemporary art gallery in Colchester, Essex. Over the last fifteen years it has gained a strong reputation, presenting ambitious work to new audiences in the East of England and beyond. Situated in Colchester's 'cultural quarter,' the present building was designed by Uruguayan architect Rafael Viñoly, and opened in 2011. Firstsite is a partner of Plus Tate, which uses Tate's resources to contribute to a network of arts organisations across the country, and to increase public access to the national collection of British and international modern and contemporary art.

### Focal Point Gallery

Focal Point Gallery is south Essex's gallery for contemporary visual art, promoting and commissioning major solo exhibitions, group and thematic shows, a programme of events including performances, film screenings and talks, as well as offsite projects and temporary public artworks. The organisation currently produces up to seven gallery exhibitions each year, in which artists and curators are given a platform to make new work in response to the gallery's unique location on the ground floor of the town's new library and learning facility, The Forum.

### Kettle's Yard

Kettle's Yard is an internationally renowned house and gallery at the University of Cambridge. The house, with its beautiful display of twentieth century art, furniture and found objects, opened in 1957. It was the home of Jim Ede (1895 – 1990), a former curator at the Tate Gallery. Since 1970, Kettle's Yard has presented a dynamic programme of exhibitions, music, events and activities, often inspired by the house and collection. Kettle's Yard is currently closed at Castle Street for a major building project. The closure has been an opportunity to display art from the collection in new places and spaces in Cambridge and across the UK, as well as instigate innovative creative programmes with schools, young people and local communities.

### Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery was built by the Normans as a Royal Palace over 900 years ago. It is now a museum and art gallery and home to some of the most outstanding collections of fine and decorative arts, archaeology and natural history, not only in the region but the country. Norwich Castle has an established reputation for staging innovative and engaging contemporary art exhibitions of national significance that have enabled regional audiences access to art of the highest quality. Artists based regionally, nationally and internationally have been showcased via partnership exhibitions, ambitious new commissions, international residencies as well as smaller scale events and discussions. Over the next few years, major investment from the Heritage Lottery Fund is set to transform the Castle's iconic Keep into a world-class visitor experience.

# New GEO GRAPHIES

## originalprojects;

originalprojects; began work in Norwich in 2002 as an amorphous group of artists working to deliver a range of projects that provided opportunities for artists and the public to present and share ideas. The organisation has just undertaken *Eastern Prospects*, a 6-month research project supported by public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England, Norfolk County, with additional support from Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust. Building relationships with local stakeholders, originalprojects; are currently formalising their organisation and obtaining premises in Great Yarmouth that will act as a social space for hosting and presentation, and a base to deliver their work, collaborating with artists, local communities, industries and heritage in order to produce extraordinary outcomes.

## UH Galleries

UH Galleries is a department of the University of Hertfordshire and operates as a de facto independent contemporary art gallery delivering a programme led by the most innovative developments in contemporary visual arts, design and the crafts across two public gallery spaces in St Albans (currently under construction as the New Museum and Art Gallery) and Hatfield. Having operated for over 20 years, UH Galleries is also a major contributor to the landscape of touring exhibitions in the English regions and has successfully collaborated with numerous nationally significant galleries in the realisation of major projects and accompanying publications with emerging British and international artists.

## Wysing Arts Centre

Wysing Arts Centre is a registered charity that provides a range of programmes for artistic research, experimentation, discovery and production, out of which emerges an ongoing programme of exhibitions, public events, activity for young people, families and schools. Our large rural site near Cambridge includes a gallery, educational facilities, artists' studios, project spaces, a 17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse, a growing collection of outdoor sculpture and an on-site cafe. Wysing is a member of the prestigious Plus Tate network, the Exchange Values network of national galleries which deliver The Syllabus, and is chair and coordinator of the East Contemporary Visual Arts Network.

[www.newgeographies.uk](http://www.newgeographies.uk)