

PRESS RELEASE

Rosie Cooper announced as the new Director of Wysing Arts Centre



Portrait of Rosie Cooper by Thierry Bal, 2021.

Wysing Arts Centre is delighted to announce that Rosie Cooper has been appointed as the new Director from September 2021. Currently Head of Exhibitions at De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill-on-Sea, Cooper brings with her extensive experience of working in the UK visual arts sector, and a strong record of championing art as a tool for social change. She succeeds the late Donna Lynas MBE who was Wysing's Director from 2005 to 2021.

Rosie Cooper said, "It is a huge honour to take up the role of Director of Wysing Arts Centre. I see Wysing as a beacon for the freewheeling, radical imagination: an environment that empowers artists, communities and publics to re-make the world. Wysing is an exceptional organisation known for its generosity, integrity and inclusivity – qualities we need more than ever. I look forward to collaborating with Wysing's brilliant team, board, artists and publics to build on Donna Lynas' extraordinary legacy, constructing the organisation's future together, with great optimism and care."

As Head of Exhibitions at De La Warr Pavilion, Cooper developed an ambitious new vision for the visual arts underpinned by a high profile programme of exhibitions including the group shows *Still I Rise: Feminisms, Gender, Resistance Acts 1-3* (2019), co-curated with Irene Aristizabal and Cédric Fauq, and *How Chicago! Imagists 1960s & 70s* (2019), co-curated with Sarah McCrory. She also established significant new partnerships with national and international cultural institutions, universities and grassroots organisations, as well as leading on De La Warr Pavilion's application to the Plus Tate network in 2019.

Prior to De La Warr Pavilion, as Head of Programmes at Liverpool Biennial, Cooper led a year-round programme of interdisciplinary art commissions, socially engaged projects, residencies,

and education and publishing projects, collaborating with major arts and civic organisations across the city and further afield, and successfully bringing an international audience to the city.

Cooper is also a trustee of IntoArt, a visual arts organisation based in south London working with people with learning disabilities, and a trustee of Home Live Art, producers of performance and community gatherings across south east England and beyond.

The Trustees and staff of Wysing Arts Centre said, "We are all extremely excited to be working with Rosie. We were impressed with her ideas and her collaborative approach to the team. New leadership means a new chapter for Wysing, and we are confident that under Rosie's direction, Wysing will continue to situate artists at the core of our work."

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For interview requests, images and further information please contact Janette Scott Arts PR, on janette@janettescottartspr.com or 07966 486156.

About Wysing Arts Centre

Established in 1989, Wysing Arts Centre's large site in rural Cambridgeshire encompasses artists' studios, a large gallery, a music recording studio, educational and project spaces, onsite accommodation, ceramics facilities, and an outdoor space with sculpture. Wysing hosts experimental residencies for UK and international artists and delivers a critically acclaimed public programme of gallery exhibitions and events including conferences, symposia, workshops and music events. Through its innovative work, Wysing influences the development of the visual arts sector in the UK. As a respected and well-connected institution operating outside the usual gallery system and urban context, Wysing is uniquely positioned to develop programmes that provide opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and ideas, and which reflect on the role of art, artists, and arts organisations in society. Wysing is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation, and part of the Plus Tate network. www.wysingartscentre.org

