**Square Peg commission opportunity**

*An open submission commission opportunity for a visual artist based in the North of England who identifies as being disabled.*

Square Peg is Artlink Hull’s wide-ranging disability and diversity arts programme commissioned and supported by Hull 2017 UK City of Culture. The final Square Peg project of 2017 is an open submission commission opportunity for an artist based in the North of England who identifies as being disabled. The selected artist or partnership will be commissioned and supported to create new work for a solo exhibition to be held at Artlink Hull in summer 2018. The Square Peg commission is intended to provide an opportunity for a disabled artist to create new work for exhibition which they may otherwise be unable to realise.

A shortlist from the submissions will be drawn up by a panel with personal and professional experience in art and disability including artists, curators and critics. Shortlisted applicants may be invited to interview before the selection of the final artist, for which communication and/or transportation support can be provided.

The commission value is £3,500 to include artist fee and materials and resources for the work/s to be created. Additional finance is available for communications and transportation support for the selected artist during the production process as well as for the realisation of the final exhibition.

The closing date for submissions is ??? February 2017.

Interested artists should submit their outline proposal for the commission along with details on their artistic development and supporting information via the portal on CuratorSpace **here**. If you require application information or your submission to be in a different format due to a disability, please contact us to discuss your needs at the below details.
Please read the project brief and conditions before submitting for more information.

**Project brief and conditions**

* The competition is open to artists who self-indentify as being disabled. A definition of disability under the 2010 Equalities Act is:“A physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.” Although we realise this is open to contention. This opportunity is intended to create a new opportunity for a disabled artist to create new work as, due to societal inequalities, disabled people frequently have reduced opportunities to actively participate in cultural life.
* We acknowledge that the ‘North of England’ is a subjective concept. However we consider their to be reduced opportunities for artists to make commissioned new work for exhibition in the North of England for artists and this is an additional barrier for disabled artists. For the administrative purposes of this opportunity we define the North of England as the area of land between the Scottish border and the southern boundaries of the counties of Yorkshire, Cheshire and Lancashire as well as the local authority areas of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire.
* Artists do not have to have been born in the North of England but must have been based there for at least a year. Artists born in the North of England but now based elsewhere are not eligible for this particular opportunity.
* The submitted idea does not have to relate in any way to disability but of course this can be a theme if the artist wishes.
* Collectives and partnerships may apply however the fees are fixed so would have to be shared.
* Applicants should fill in all sections of the application portal on CuratorSpace as well as attaching supporting information as indicated**.** If you require application information or your submission to be in a different format due to a disability, please contact us to discuss your needs.
* The application process is open to artists working in what can broadly be defined as the visual arts field. All submissions must be suitable for exhibition within Artlink’s gallery space for a period of around 3 months. More ephemeral or applied concepts will be considered but the applicants should consider how aspects of these could be made to work in an exhibition environment.
* Applicants can suggest to produce a single piece or a series of works for the commission fee. However consideration should be given to how the final piece/s would work in the exhibition space. Details and images of the Artlink Hull gallery space are available to download on CuratorSpace.
* The artist must create new work as part of the commission however past work by the selected artist could also be exhibited alongside the new commissioned work.
* We do not distinguish between amateur and professional artists in this context and students may also apply. Our judgement is based on the quality of the concept and on the strength of past work. Evidence of having previously created work for public exhibition is an advantage.
* The selected artist would be expected to take part in publicity for the commission and the final exhibition.
* We are unable to provide feedback to applicants for the commission who do not reach the shortlisting stage.

**Timeline**

* November 2017: opportunity launched and promotion begins
* Early February 2017: opportunity closes, shortlist drawn up
* Late Feb/early March 2017: final artist selected by panel
* March – June: artist is supported by an Artlink Creative Producer to realise the new work and exhibition
* Summer – Autumn 2017: solo exhibition for artist at Artlink Hull

**Budget**

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| **Item** | **Description** | **Amount** |
| **Artists fee** | Includes fee and costs for materials used in the creation of the artwork/s to exhibition standard | £3,500  |
| **Access and support costs**  | For submitting, shortlisted and the final selected artist/s’ transportation and access needs, for example, information in alternative formats, train fare, interpreters etc | £800  |
| **Exhibition costs** | Includes costs for transportation of work, exhibition resources such as frames, stands, materials rigging, paint etc. Fees for installation technicians, creation of signage and interpretation, event costs etc | £1700 |
| **Contingency**  |  | £1000 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **£7000** |

 **This project is funded by Hull 2017 UK City of Culture and supported by Shape Arts.**

 **Questions on application form**Please describe your artistic development and practice

If you were selected for this commission, what new work do you propose to create for exhibition in Artlink Hull’s gallery?

Would this new work be exhibited alongside past work you have created?

Describe your disability and how this impacts on your ability to create artwork?

What additional support if any would you require to realise this commission?

Why is this commission opportunity important to your artistic development?

What excites you about undertaking this commission?
 **Please attach an artist’s CV alongside up to 10 images of past work as well as links to any relevant websites. You may also if you wish attach indicative images of the new work you want to create but this is not compulsory.**