

Re-imagining multiple sculptures: Commission for Artists

Artist Brief

Fee: £5000 per artist

Number of Commissions: Four

Location: Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire

When: Commissions delivered between January and March 2014

Application Deadline: 9.00 am Friday 8 November 2013

Introduction

Three Ways East is seeking four experienced artists to work with us on developing artist-led and designed multiple sculptures.

Artists will address the challenge of devising a work that can both be created in multiple, and that invites a response from other artists. Works will respond to the need to be delightful, simple and extraordinary in order to engage with audiences. Artists will push the artistic ambition and excellence of the multiples concept, whilst retaining fun, quirkiness, colour and family-friendly appeal.

Sculpture trails using a multiple sculpture concept are increasingly popular. Whichever shapes are referenced (often animals) are traditionally decided upon by curators or committees. Artists are only then invited to design and then decorate them. We believe that multiple sculptures would benefit hugely from placing artists at the heart of their design and interpretation, allowing them to become more creative and impactful vehicles for audience and artist engagement.

We are offering four research commissions to develop these ideas. It is anticipated that the outcomes of these commissions will inform and inspire a series of events and activities in 2014, with one multiple sculpture concept arising from these four commissions being selected to form the basis of a major temporary multiple sculpture trail across Hull and the East Riding in summer 2015.

Overview of the Commissions

We are offering four research commissions for individual or artist partnerships. We welcome applications from artists at early and mid-career stages, as well as from established artists.

We aim to support a range of approaches to these commissions, for example:

- **Different media** - We are open to applications from artists working in a range of media, including film, performance, sculpture, sound etc. We also welcome partnerships between visual artists (including film and photography) and those using other media (sound, written word, performance etc).
- **Different Approaches** - ranging from research, conceptual, community engagement and/or responding to themes identified from investigating the local culture and landscape. Each approach is not mutually exclusive.

There are two key elements to the commissions. You will be developing an approach, object or concept for the sculpture trail which:

1. is delightful, simple and extraordinary, and engages with wide range of audiences;
2. invites and inspires other artists to respond creatively, to give each piece a unique identity for the sculpture trail.

We hope this is an exciting and inspiring opportunity for artists seeking to research and develop high quality and appealing work to attract and engage peers and audiences.

You will be familiar with multiples trails such as Superlambananas and Larkin with Toads. These trails have been hugely successful and popular, but we feel the idea is ripe for reinvention, while retaining the retaining fun, quirkiness, colour and family-friendly appeal.

Swerving East – our anticipated sculpture trail in 2015 will be located throughout Hull and East Yorkshire. Consequently, your research will respond to this area's unique history, people and place.

There is an expectation that you will share your research, both during development and in presenting the final outcome in the following ways:

- Regular Blog
- Peer review with the other commissioned artists
- Final locally toured exhibition which supports community response to the ideas

What you will need to deliver

Three Ways East is the client and works in wide partnership with a range of communities, organisations and businesses, many of whom are offering support for the commissioned artists.

Three Ways East will facilitate these relationships and will form the first point of contact for the artist.

Task List:

- Research and explore the concept of multiple artworks
- Produce scale models/working drawings of your proposed approach to multiples
- Attend minimum 2 events with other commissioned artists
- Attend CPD workshops
- Contribute regularly to the dedicated blog

You may also be invited to:

- Deliver artist talks
- Take part in community focused workshops and discussions
- Present to our private sector partners

Practical Support

Access to resources will be supported by the Three Ways East project manager and facilitated by project partners.

The Three Ways East team will provide support in considering issues relating to practical realisation of artwork from the concepts developed.

Physical resources available to all commissioned artists include:

- Basic studio space
- Meeting facilities

Relationship brokering:

Three Ways East will provide introductions and broker relationships with local communities and interest groups where required.

We are aware that the artist's choice of approach and community connection may require extra support and resources. These will be negotiated on an individual basis.

During the residency, Three Ways East will support the four commissioned artists to come together to share ideas, issues and approaches.

As part of the commissions, specialist CPD workshops will be available which complement the focus and aims of the research, and support artist development. These include:

- Town Planning and Design
- Materials workshops - relevant materials for replicable sculptures in public spaces
- CAD support – realising concepts and drawings

The outcome of the commissions will also be shared through a dedicated blog and partnerships with ixia, AN, Royal Society of Arts, Hull University and others.

The outcome of the commissions will be shared with audiences across Hull and East Riding through a touring exhibition and events.

Three Ways East will work to support artists in considering practical aspects of their work within the commission.

Practical Parameters for the Research

It is anticipated that the outcomes of these commissions will inform and inspire a series of events and activities in 2014, with one multiple sculpture concept being selected to form the basis of a major temporary multiple sculpture trail across Hull and the East Riding in summer 2015.

To facilitate this, the outcome of your research will result in a concept or sculpture that will need to be replicable within the following parameters:

- The base artworks for the multiple trail must be able to be manufactured at a maximum cost of £750 each. (Assuming a minimum of 70 base artworks).
- When replicated, the budget for other artists to respond to your idea – as part of the sculpture trail - is likely to be in the region of £600.
- The physical construction of the artworks must enable them to be displayed in either indoor or outdoor spaces during the sculpture trail for a period of up to 16 weeks.

- Interaction with audiences and maintenance during the display period should be considered – ie graphite and vandal proof

You need to consider the visual impact of the work in both urban and rural settings. It will need to have a presence that will attract audiences to it. Sculptural shapes probably need to be a minimum of a 1m cubed, but other media may need alternative considerations.

Ownership and copyright

Three Ways East will own all the commissioned works. Copyright will be shared by the artist and Three Ways East.

The visual concept may also be used in merchandise and miniature, limited edition forms. Licensing and copyright arrangements will be agreed as part of the contracting for this commission.

As previously stated, we anticipate that the concepts resulting from the four commissions will be used to inform a programme of events and activities throughout 2014 and 2015. This work will be part of a separate arrangement as a funding for this second phase is yet to be secured.

Timescale

Date	Project Activity
Friday 8 November 2013 9.00am	Deadline for Submission of Proposals
22 nd November 2013	Interviews
31 March 2014	Commissions Complete
April/May 2014	Touring Exhibition of Commission Outcomes

Budget

We are offering a fee of £5,000 per commission inclusive of VAT.

The fee is inclusive of all expenses including travel and material costs.

A separate budget is reserved for the presentation of the work for the exhibition following completion of the commissions. This will not include printing of photography or additional model making.

Selection Criteria

Criteria will be assessed via information you supply with your application material (A) and interview (I) as noted below

Area	Essential – must meet these criteria	Desirable
Creative skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to refine and present a clear creative vision and concept • Ability to produce high quality, innovative and context-specific art works that respond to people and place (A) • Demonstrable knowledge and skills in your chosen media (A) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to sensitively interpret people’s thoughts and feelings into high quality creative projects • Ability to develop a concept or approach that engages peers / other artists (I)
Knowledge		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of Health and Safety and Risk Assessment methods
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of three years practicing as an artist demonstrable through significant deliver of activities such as project work, exhibitions, commissions or other structured work practice (A) • Experience of delivering all activity to a high artistic quality (A & I) • Experience of managing budgets (A & I) • Experience of working with other artists (A & I) • Experience of delivering to the requirements of a brief (A & I) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of delivering high quality and appropriate community involvement work (A & I) • Experience of building and maintaining good relationships with communities • Understanding of the challenges and issues for creating work for public settings. (I)
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of creating a body of work over a period of time (min 3 years) 	

Area	Essential – must meet these criteria	Desirable
Personal attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventiveness and resourcefulness • Excellent communication and presentation skills • Reliable, trustworthy, friendly and able to relate well to a diverse range of individuals and organisations • Flexibility and negotiation skills (I) • Ability to establish strong working relationships • Ability to work to tight deadlines (A) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to reflect and evaluate your practice • Desire to bring fun, joy or quirkiness to an artistic concept
Personal circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to regularly drive/travel to Hull and East Yorkshire 	
Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time you anticipate to be available for the commission (including time to be in Hull and East Yorkshire) 	

Application:

All applications should include:

- **A document (max 750 words) which:**
Outlines your proposed approach to this brief and an indication of the media with which you intend to work and addresses any criteria not covered in your CV, as well as an indicate the amount of time you anticipate being able to commit to this project.
(NB Unfortunately we will not able to read beyond the specified 750 word maximum, and encourage you to bear this in mind when writing your approach document)
- **A CV** which demonstrates your previous experience and working practice.
(Where an application is being made as a joint approach, please include a CV for each artist in the team)
- **Appropriate visual/sound media** etc demonstrating no more than 3 specific bodies of work or projects you have created. Please supply the following as appropriate:
Up to 10 jpeg images
Up to 3 min film/digital showreel.
Up to 3 min audio showreel.
*Please note that we are not able to accept internet links
Please ensure that film/digital/audio files can be read using Windows Media Player.*

If you have any questions regarding this brief, please contact us via email at 3wayseast@gmail.com and one of the team will get back to you

Please submit your application electronically to 3wayseast@gmail.com by 9.00am on Friday 8 November 2013.

Shortlisted artists will be contacted by Friday 15 November 2013 to make interview arrangements.

Interviews will take place on Friday 22nd November 2013 in Hull.

Unfortunately we will not be able to provide feedback on applications that are not shortlisted. In the event that we have not contacted you by 16 November, please assume that you have not been successful.