

**Call Out for SUSTAIN: models for artist exchange and growth**  
**ARTIST DIGITAL EXCHANGE**

**Castlefield Gallery & Aarhus Center for Visual Art**

Castlefield Gallery and Aarhus Center for Visual Art invite contemporary visual artists living and/or working in Greater Manchester and the Aarhus region to apply for one or both of a jointly programmed **Artist Digital Exchange** and **Slow Culture Residency Exchange** focussed on low carbon artmaking.

SUSTAIN is supported by Creative Industries Trafford, the Danish Arts Foundation and Manchester City Council.

**Deadline: 12 noon, Friday 3rd September**

**Introduction**

The artworld has long been wedded to carbon-intensive international movement and air travel – biennales, residencies, free ports, art fairs. However there is the start of a shift, as artists look for more sustainable ways to make art and to intervene in the developing ecological emergency.

SUSTAIN is a two-year programme of professional development and artist exchange focussed on low carbon artmaking. By this we mean making work using low carbon materials and production methods, and also low carbon methods of research and development (e.g. overland rather than air travel; public rather than private transport) and of showing work (e.g. low energy installations or low carbon transport of artworks). Low carbon artmaking can also encompass work made with an intention to help create a low carbon culture or a liveable future.

**Part 1: SUSTAIN Artist Digital Exchange**

Five artists from Greater Manchester and five artists from Aarhus will take part in a six-month programme of workshops, talks, visits, critical feedback and professional support focussed on low carbon artmaking.

**Part 2: SUSTAIN Slow Travel Residency**

1 artist from Greater Manchester and 1 artist from Aarhus will undertake a 2-month 'Slow Culture Residency', making use of only slow and low carbon travel to travel between Manchester and Aarhus.

**Overview**

SUSTAIN focuses on developing low carbon and ecologically aware ways of producing and experiencing art.

SUSTAIN will bring together 10 visual artists living and working in Manchester and Aarhus (5 from each location), to take part in a 6-month **Artist Digital Exchange** (October 2021 to March 2022). The exchange will focus on climate change and low carbon culture in the context of artistic production, work and consumption in an international context.

SUSTAIN will also invite 2 artists living and working in Manchester and Aarhus (1 from each location) to undertake a 2-month **Slow Culture Residency Exchange** (May/June in Manchester; August/September in Aarhus), making use of only slow and low carbon travel to travel between Manchester and Aarhus.

The participating artists will be supported to explore how their practice and the way they work can contribute to a low carbon culture and a low carbon future, in a professional context and, especially, re working internationally. Participants will develop their carbon literacy and explore strategies for low or zero carbon artistic production. Participants will be supported to develop peer-to-peer feedback and learning, so that over the course of the programme they learn how to self-sustain as a network of practicing artists working with low carbon artmaking. The participating artists will be supported to commit to action on alternative ways of producing and working, of thinking about how their work is encountered and experienced, and strategies for extending their learning and sharing it with their professional networks and the wider public.

SUSTAIN aims to facilitate:

- An international Manchester-Aarhus peer network of 12 visual artists (6 in Manchester and 6 in Aarhus).
- A set of relationships that focus on low carbon cultures and climate change in the context of artistic production, work and consumption.
- The creation of artistic products, actions, events and materials designed to share the participants' learning.
- An action research pilot with an emphasis on delivering better understanding of artist exchange and international working, cultural export and import, on a slow travel and digital exchange basis.

For more information about the Slow Culture Residency, please see the Call Out which is available at [www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk/news/call\\_out-sustain/](http://www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk/news/call_out-sustain/)

## **SUSTAIN Artist Digital Exchange, October 2021 to March 2022**

The SUSTAIN Artist Digital Exchange is a six-month programme of workshops, talks, visits, critical feedback and professional support focussed on low carbon artmaking, taking place from October 2021 to March 2022.

**What:** 5 funded places on the SUSTAIN Artist Digital Exchange

**Who can apply:** Contemporary visual artists living and/or working in Greater Manchester

**When:** October 2021 to March 2022

**Applications accepted from now until 12 noon, Friday 3rd September**

**Applicants notified:** Friday 17th September 2021

We are looking for 5 early to mid-career contemporary artists to participate in a six month-long programme of workshops, talks, visits, critical feedback and professional support. The artists will take part in the programme alongside 5 artists from Denmark, forming a network of artists interested in low carbon artmaking. Each participant will receive a £1,000 bursary.

We ask participants to find ways to embed their learning through some form of artistic production; the nature of this production to be determined during the course of the programme. We aren't expecting participants to create fully resolved artworks; however we do expect participants to generate ways of sharing their learning with the public and with wider networks of creative practitioners. This could be through talks, zines, events etc. There is budget available for production costs and Castlefield Gallery and Aarhus Center for Visual Art will provide promotional, social media and, where possible, practical support.

Participants will benefit from:

- Support via specialist speaker-led sessions and workshops from in- and outside the arts sector, such as academic researchers and relevant practitioners from other cultural fields.
- Access to critical feedback from organisation staff at Castlefield Gallery and Aarhus Center for Visual Art and from the other artists involved.
- Being equipped with skills and strategies for peer learning, enabling them to take forward self-led development and aiding dialogue, momentum and ideas generation.
- Support to establish as an international peer network of visual artists engaged in low carbon artmaking and equipped with intelligence, ideas and a voice of influence regarding their practice, careers and low carbon culture in an international context.
- Bursary of £1,000
- Access to a production budget with which to produce artistic outputs to share their ideas, experiences and learning with the wider public.

### **What we are looking for**

We are looking for early to mid-career visual artists with a demonstrable contemporary art practice, a desire to think and learn with others, and a strong interest in developing low carbon ways of artmaking. Artists need to be committed to collaboration, exchange, and principles of care and generosity, including sharing the learning they gain via the programme beyond the group. We are interested in artists who are committed to finding out more about low carbon artmaking but have limited experience of it, as well as those who have an established track record in this area. We welcome applications from artists across all the subdisciplines of the visual arts and those working in an interdisciplinary context.

Participants must be able to commit to the duration of the programme (on a part-time basis, approximately two days per month on average).

### **What we expect**

Successful candidates are expected to:

1. Sign an agreement committing to participate actively in the programme for the period from 1st October 2021 to 31st March 2022.
2. Take part in a minimum of 75% of the programme.
3. Communicate regularly with the programme co-ordinators.

### **Covid-19 Pandemic**

Please note all dates are provisional and subject to change in line with up-to-date advice from the British and Danish governments.

### **How to apply**

Applicants must be contemporary visual artists living and/or working in Greater Manchester.

Please read further information below and carefully note the eligibility and selection criteria.

Send the following to [leslie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk](mailto:leslie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk) marked 'SUSTAIN Digital Exchange' in the email header or by post to SUSTAIN Digital Exchange, Castlefield Gallery, 2 Hewitt Street, Manchester, M15 4GB:

- Completed **application form** saved as a pdf (with your name first in the title, eg Jan\_Smith\_SUSTAIN\_Digital Exchange)  
Please submit video or sound files as links in the application form or via WeTransfer <https://wetransfer.com>  
Please title any images, video and sound files with your full name, the title of the work and the year of production, eg Jan\_Smith\_Still Life in Strata (2021)\_SUSTAIN\_Digital Exchange\_Application).
- An up-to-date **CV** including links to relevant websites (in 1 pdf file, with your full name in the title e.g. Jan\_Smith\_CV)
- Completed [Diversity Monitoring Form](#) [also available to download below] (eg Jan\_Smith\_DMform)

**Applications must be received by 12 noon, Friday 3rd September**  
**Please note that we cannot accept late or incomplete applications.**

For those with access needs interested in applying, please contact [leslie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk](mailto:leslie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk) or call 0161 832 8034 and ask for Leslie Remonato.

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## FAQs

1. **Aims of the Programme**
2. **Logistics**
3. **Who is eligible?**
4. **Selection process and criteria**
5. **Key dates**
6. **Conditions**

### 1. Aims of the Artist Digital Exchange programme

- Support artists to develop ways of low carbon artmaking
- Forge working relationships that can contribute to a low carbon culture and the development of ecological awareness within the artworlds and wider world
- Share learning, especially on climate change and low carbon culture and artmaking, and generate debate on the role of visual artists and art in the future of our cities and surrounding areas.
- Connect Manchester and international artists, arts and cultural organisers and specialists in the field of climate change to develop knowledge, skills and ideas

- Deliver artistic and career development opportunities for visual artists with different practices and backgrounds in both Manchester and Aarhus
- Encourage peer learning and networking between the Greater Manchester and the Aarhus Region.
- Equip artists to effectively use their sphere of influence and share learning about low carbon artmaking with their peer networks and beyond.
- Enable cultural exchange between artists on an international, and particularly European, basis enabling experience of one another's practices, ideas and cultures.
- Explore and encourage medium to long-term opportunities for in-depth collaboration and exchange between the UK and Denmark, and forge relationships through which to achieve this.

## **2. Logistics:**

The programme is being co-ordinated by Castlefield Gallery and Aarhus Center for Visual Art .

Each artist will receive a bursary of £1,000. A small production budget is also available during the programme for the creation of shareable materials.

Sessions will take place either via Zoom or blended face-to-face and Zoom.

## **3. Who is eligible?**

Early to mid-career contemporary visual artists living and/or working in Greater Manchester.

## **Exclusions and requirements**

- You will be required to be available for pre-programme communications.
- Applicants must be available to attend for the full period of the programme.
- Applicants will be required, and must confirm agreement at the start of the programme, to engage and take part in post-programme evaluation.
- We will not consider applications from those currently engaged in full-time education.
- Any incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline of 12 noon on Friday 3rd September 2021 will be ineligible.

## **4. Selection process and criteria**

Selection will be made based on the strength of applications in the context of the programme aims and selection criteria; we will not be carrying out interviews.

The selection panel will be made up of Castlefield Gallery and Aarhus Center for Visual Art staff as follows:

- Helen Wewiora, Director, Castlefield Gallery
- Line Sandvad Mengers, Director, Aarhus Center for Visual Art
- Matthew Pendergast, Curator, Castlefield Gallery
- Sasha Rose Richter, Project Manager, Aarhus Center for Visual Art
- Jane Lawson, Castlefield Gallery Artist Development Co-ordinator

The decision to award a place or not is at the discretion of Castlefield Gallery and Aarhus Center for Visual Art. Outcomes of the decision-making process will be final and will be based on a scoring and balancing process.

Applicants will be reviewed against the following selection criteria:

- Demonstrating how participating in the programme will be valuable to their artistic and professional development, taking into account the aims of the programme.
- Commitment to developing their understanding of low carbon artmaking; applicants do not need to have an established track record of “low carbon” artmaking, but do need to show interest and motivation in this area – this may be through non-art activities.
- Demonstrating how their network of peers and the wider public might benefit from their participation in the programme, taking into account the aims of the programme.

## **5. Key Dates**

- Applications accepted from now until 12 noon, Friday 3rd September
- Applicants notified: Friday 17th September 2021
- Induction session: Tuesday 5th October
- Session 1: Monday 11th October 1:30-4:30
- Session 2: Monday 25th October 1:30-4:30
- Other sessions to be confirmed
- Programme ends by 31st March 2022

## **6. Conditions**

In submitting an application, you confirm you meet the eligibility criteria and are not excluded by any of the exclusions listed above.

We unfortunately cannot provide support to develop applications or feedback on unsuccessful applications.

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