

Art Assembly, *City as Art School* Manchester 2022

**Open call for artist applications for the Art Assembly co-commissions
Open to contemporary visual artists living and/or working in Greater Manchester**

Applicant Information and Guidance

Application deadline: 12 noon, Tuesday 30 November 2021

**Eight artists and/or artist collectives will receive a fee of £2,500.
A production budget will also be available for each co-commission.**

- Are you a contemporary visual artist living and/or working in Greater Manchester?
- Do you have an interest and commitment to collaboration and co-producing art and cultural projects with other individuals and groups?
- Would you like to co-produce new work with children and young people and learning collaborators (schools, college, and university settings) in the cities of Manchester and Salford?
- Do you have a track record of ambitious high-quality production of contemporary visual arts and culture?

Art Assembly, Manchester

Art Assembly, Manchester, is organised by a collective of Castlefield Gallery, HOME, Manchester Art Gallery, the Whitworth, and The Manchester College at Shena Simon Campus, working in partnership with the Art Fund.

Art Assembly will be a one-day festival in Manchester city centre on **18 June 2022** that will explore how art and culture can shape our understanding of the world. The opening provocation for Art Assembly in 2022 will explore ***City as Art School***. As a process and platform, Art Assembly will seek to rethink the way we embrace culture as a city and as a society, and champion how art and culture can play a part in educational experiences for all people, and vitally in extending what we might learn together, and how.

The day will coalesce around a series of exciting **co-commissions and interventions**. These will be presented alongside a podcast debate, live programme, and digital content intended to continue the conversation long after the day itself.

Art Assembly and the co-commissions will ask questions including:

- How can the arts participate in the education of all people?
- What doesn't get taught in the context of curriculums or formal learning settings but should, and concerns us?
- Is there an alternative or another possibility or choice?
- Where does learning happen? Including within 'Art Schools'.
- How can we share with a wider public what 'Art Schools' are all about?

This day-long event will celebrate Manchester as a place of artistic exchange and draw a diversity of voices into the process of developing the festival and its delivery. The programme is an opportunity to raise the profile of both visual arts and cultural production in Manchester and the city region.

Art Assembly was first delivered in Walthamstow, London, in 2019. For further information see: [Art Assembly - Art Fund](#)

Artist co-commissions

What

We are calling for applications for the Art Assembly co-commissions from contemporary visual artists living and/or working in Greater Manchester. The co-commissions and the festival will have an inclusive ethos, so it is important that they are genuinely and meaningfully co-developed and delivered with learning groups and individuals. It is also important that the co-commissions feel relevant to those directly engaged in the process of their development and production, as well as members of the public encountering them.

2022 will be the city of Manchester's *Year of the Child*.

The co-commissions should ignite imaginations for those directly involved in their development and production, and for audiences and participants attending the Art Assembly festival day in Manchester, in June 2022. The Art Assembly co-commissions will sit at the heart of the programme, intended to act like a golden thread running through the one-day festival, provoking discussion, thinking and sparking ideas that might empower all to be able to engage in the Art Assembly podcast debate.

Whilst to be informed and led by the learning groups and artists working together, we anticipate the co-commissions will engage with and explore some of the key issues of our time, from global to local concerns. Whilst to illustrate only and not limited to, this might include climate change and justice; race, equality and social justice; movement and migration; happiness, health and wellbeing; care and community, identity, body image and body positivity.

Where

Manchester Art Gallery and Shena Simon Campus (The Manchester College) are already confirmed as key sites for the day, including for the co-commissions. We equally encourage approaches that extend the co-commissions presence around the city, so they might be found in expected and unexpected places. Whilst not limited to, for example:

- works that encourage direct public participation and/or might be ephemeral in nature, interventions in public space; perhaps their legacies are realised in digital or broadcast form, zines, print for poster, billboard, and banner sites
- works that are striking, ambitious in commanding public attention, provoke and ask questions that might enable a greater number of voices to genuinely engage and be heard at the Art Assembly podcast debate
- works that can be successfully shared with the public in both traditional museum and art gallery settings, including Manchester Art Gallery, and equally on campus at Shena Simon, (The Manchester College), in off-site and non-traditional settings, or in the public realm, with street presence, intervention or digitally.

Who

We wish to appoint eight artists and/or artist collectives to develop eight co-commissions, one commission per appointment. Each commission will be co-developed and delivered with learning groups engaged in learning settings across the cities of Manchester and Salford.

We welcome applications from artists working across mediums in the visual arts including, but not limited to drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture, installation, artist's film, moving image, sound, live art, public art, socially engaged practices, design, craft.

Groups the appointed artists will work with will be engaged in education with the Art Assembly learning collaborators: Manchester Schools through MADE, The Manchester College, Manchester School of Art at Manchester Metropolitan University, and the School of Arts and Creative Media at the University of Salford. Art Assembly also looks to connect these groups and artists with the city of Manchester's public visual arts organisations, including Castlefield Gallery, HOME, Manchester Art Gallery, and the Whitworth. The aim is to promote the importance of a vibrant interconnected arts ecology across the city and city region.

We would welcome applications from artists and/or artist collectives who both have and haven't worked with learning groups before. However, some level of experience of collaborative production is preferable. Training will be provided as part of the project.

We are keen to hear from contemporary artists and artist collectives living and/or working in Greater Manchester who are genuinely passionate about collaboration and interested in working with educational groups in which they will be embedded to incorporate democratic principles in how the commissions are developed.

What we expect

Successful candidates are expected to:

1. Sign an agreement committing to participate actively in the programme for the period from 10 January to 30 June 2022.
2. Commit to 60-70% of the commission project timing to consist of working directly with learning groups and individual learners.
3. Be registered as self-employed and able to provide a UTR (Unique Tax Reference), have your own 'office / workplace set up', have in place your own relevant insurances for yourself and working with others including with the public and in public settings
4. Be willing for DBS checks to be undertaken, especially in view of ensuring the safeguarding of children and young people
5. Communicate regularly with the Art Assembly, Manchester Producer, partners and relevant collaborators.

Access, Equality and Diversity

We are aware that not everyone has internet access and access to IT equipment at home and will take steps to make sure that this is not a barrier to anyone's participation.

If you have access needs that could be a barrier to applying or participating and want to discuss this, please contact Leslie Remonato at leslie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk or on 0161 832 8034.

If you need to contact us by phone, please phone 0161 832 8034 and leave a voicemail with your name, what you are calling about and your contact number and we will call you back as soon as we can. Please note Castlefield Gallery office hours are Tuesday–Sunday, 10am–6pm. Castlefield Gallery offices are closed on Mondays.

Equal Opportunities

Equal Opportunities Castlefield Gallery is an Equal Opportunity Employer and will not accept unfair discrimination or less favourable treatment on the grounds of race, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity or trade union activity. Castlefield Gallery’s Equality Policy is underpinned by the Equality Act (2010) which provides a legal framework to protect people from discrimination, harassment and victimisation in the workplace and wider society.

Castlefield Gallery is committed to the promotion of equal opportunities in all aspects of our work, including management, employment practices with both paid workers and volunteers, access to services and service provision. We fully support the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion. We recognise that groups and individuals in society are disadvantaged due to discrimination directed against them by both direct and indirect discrimination.

We aim to remove any barriers, bias or discrimination that prevents individuals or groups from realising their potential and to develop organisational cultures that positively value diversity. Our venue is fully wheelchair accessible and assistance dogs are welcome.

Covid-19 Pandemic and Health & Safety

All activity is planned to be predominantly delivered in person; however, we will need to be responsive to any changes to Covid-19 regulations. All involved will need to work with the Health & Safety policies and guidance of the Art Assembly partners, and as applicable, the collaborators.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Art Assembly, *City as Art School* co-commissions are only open to contemporary visual artists living and/or in Greater Manchester (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, and Wigan).

Application deadline: **12 noon, Tuesday 30 November 2021**

HOW TO APPLY

Please send your application to Leslie Remonato, Castlefield Gallery & Volunteer Coordinator, by email to leslie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk. Please put **Art Assembly, Manchester co-commission application** in the email header.

You can also apply by post to Castlefield Gallery, 2 Hewitt Street, Manchester M15 4GB, to arrive no later than **12 noon on Tuesday 30 November 2021**.

Your application should include:

1. Your completed **application form** (with your full name saved in in the file name, e.g. Alex_Green_Art Assembly, Manchester co-commission_application) including **images** and/or **video/sound files** of your work (**maximum 5 items**).
 - 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 Alex_Green_Still Life in Blue (2017)_Art Assembly, Manchester co-commission application)
2. Your up-to-date **CV** including links to relevant websites (in 1 pdf file, with your full name in the title e.g., Alex Green_CV).
3. We also kindly request applicants complete an Equality Monitoring Form which is anonymised and can be completed via this link Castlefield Gallery Diversity Monitoring ([google.com](https://www.google.com))

Please note that we cannot accept late or incomplete applications.

FAQs

1. **Aims of the Programme**
2. **Who can apply? – eligibility and selection criteria**
3. **Key dates**
4. **What is the selection process?**
5. **Conditions**

1. Art Assembly, Manchester aims are:

- To support, develop and promote the importance of a vibrant interconnected arts ecology so that art is visible and valued, and art and culture can be everywhere. This, in support of our belief that the city is a hub for creative lifelong learning.
- To champion the role of art and creativity in understanding the world and broaden what we mean by education and learning, in so doing point to MADE's campaign for cultural education and ambition to rethink the way we embrace culture as a city and as a society.
- To ask where does learning happen? Who and what might we learn from? How do and might we learn? What's not in the curriculum and doesn't get taught but concerns us? To explore and unpack the overlap between art and culture and supposedly 'incompatible subjects', such as the sciences, including, biology, physics, chemistry, geography and maths, or

computer science, history and religious studies, with artistic thought.

- To pose an alternative position to government-endorsed notions of Art as a 'luxury' subject, having less value than STEM subjects for example.
- To raise the profile of contemporary visual arts to a wider public audience in presenting a stimulating one-day festival.
- To actively generate new artist commissions by contemporary visual artists living and/or working in Greater Manchester working in collaboration with the learning groups in which they will be embedded.

2. Who can apply? – eligibility and selection criteria

- Contemporary visual artists, living and/or working in Greater Manchester (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, and Wigan).
- Applicants must be registered as self-employed and able to provide a UTR (Unique Tax Reference).
- Applicants will need to have your own 'office / workplace set up'.
- Applicants will need to have in place their own relevant insurances for themselves and working with others including with the public and in public settings.
- Applicants must be willing for DBS checks to be undertaken, especially in view of ensuring the safeguarding of children and young people

Artists will be selected against the following criterion:

- Demonstrating how they will develop an ambitious and high quality co-produced commission.
- Their creative ideas for realising the co-commission and how they evidence their commitment and interest in co-producing with others, supporting their development and engaging with their interests - specifically those engaged in formal learning settings.
- Their demonstration of their understanding of the aims of Art Assembly, Manchester, 2022.

Exclusions and requirements

- We cannot consider applications from artists currently engaged in full-time education.
- Applicants must be available to participate over the full period of the programme, thus between 10 January – 30 June 2022. If they are not and/or not able to commit to 60-70% of the commission project time being spent working directly with learning groups and individual learners, it is unlikely that your application will be successful.

Any incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline of **12 noon on Tuesday 30 November 2021** will be ineligible.

3. Key Dates

Deadline for applications: 12 noon, Tuesday 30 November 2021

Shortlisted Applicants notified: by Wednesday 8 December 2021

Interview Dates: Monday 13, Wednesday 15 & Thursday 16 December 2021

4. What is the selection process?

- Selection will be made based on the strength of applications in the context of the programme aims and selection criteria. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview.
- The decision to award commissions or not is at the discretion of the Art Assembly, Manchester Selection Panel. Outcomes of the decision-making process will be final and will be based on a scoring and balancing process.

5. Conditions

- In submitting an application, you confirm that you meet the eligibility criteria.
- Unfortunately, we cannot provide support to develop applications, other than for those with access needs, or give feedback on unsuccessful applications.

Art Assembly Funding Partner

Art Fund_

Project Partners



HOME

**Manchester
Art Gallery**

the **Whitworth**

