

bOlder 2021/22

Greater Manchester Visual Artist Development Programme for Artists 50+

Castlefield Gallery

Open to contemporary visual artists living in Greater Manchester

Application deadline: 12 noon, Monday 29th November 2021

Are you a contemporary visual artist over 50 years of age living in Greater Manchester?

Are you unemployed or economically inactive* and not a full time student?

Do you have a track record of recent activity as a visual artist?

Do you want an injection of critical and professional support to move your practice on to the next level?

bOlder 2021/22 is a talent development programme for contemporary visual artists aged 50+, funded by the European Social Fund Community Grants Scheme. It follows the successful bOlder 2019/20 programme, commissioned by GMCA as part of Great Place GM in 2019, and bOlder 2020/21, funded by the ESF Community Grants Scheme in 2020.

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 and craft.

About the European Social Fund

The European Social Fund (ESF) was set up to improve employment opportunities in the European Union and so help raise standards of living. It aims to help people fulfil their potential by giving them better skills and better job prospects. The ESF Community Grants Scheme is aimed at unemployed or economically inactive people, aged 16 years and over who are from the hardest to reach communities and who are legally resident in the UK.

About Castlefield Gallery

Established in 1984, Castlefield Gallery supports artists and creatives in Greater Manchester and beyond. We help them develop their practice and careers, and find ways not just to make art, but to make a living. We do this through: our gallery and its free exhibitions and events that are open to all; through the tailored careers support offered by our 200 strong artist associate scheme; through the provision of low cost studio space; through commissions; and through collaboration with universities. For 35 years, we have supported artists at all stages, connecting them to each other and to our network of curators, arts organisations, artists and collectors.

Introduction

This programme is aimed at artists aged 50+ living in Greater Manchester who are currently unemployed or economically inactive*. It is for artists with a practice that demonstrates an engagement with contemporary visual arts. We aim to select one artist from each Greater Manchester borough/city to take part in a programme of individual and collective development. Each artist will receive support towards their costs of up to £250, 1-to-1 sessions with Castlefield Gallery Director Helen Wewiora and Castlefield Gallery Curator Matthew Pendergast, coaching sessions with a qualified artist coach and professional development workshops.

***NB Economically inactive means not currently engaged in paid work and not actively seeking work.**

What we are looking for

We are looking for contemporary visual artists aged 50+ with a demonstrable contemporary art practice who will benefit from an intense period of professional and creative development support. The artist must be able to commit to the duration of the programme (on a part-time basis; participating in the programme will take around two days per month).

What we expect

Successful candidates are expected to:

1. Sign an agreement committing to participate actively in the programme for the period from 13th December 2021 to 30th April 2022
2. Take part in a minimum of 75% of the professional development programme.
3. Communicate regularly with the programme co-ordinator.

Covid-19 Pandemic

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

We anticipate that bOlder 2021/2022 will start in December 2021 and at the moment we are planning for activities to take place face-to-face, subject to the situation with Covid-19. We are aware that some applicants may not be able to attend face-to-face sessions and where necessary we will arrange online access to the programme.

Access, Equality and Diversity

Should we have to deliver sessions online, 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.

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. Castlefield Gallery fully supports the principle of equality and diversity.

Castlefield Gallery recognises that certain groups and individuals in society are disadvantaged due to discrimination directed against them. We aim to remove any barriers, bias or discrimination that prevents individuals or groups from realising their potential and to develop an organisational culture that positively values diversity.

Castlefield Gallery is fully wheelchair accessible and assistance dogs are welcome on site. If you have access needs that could be a barrier to applying or taking part in this programme, please contact Jane Lawson at jane@castlefieldgallery.co.uk or on 0161 832 8034.

Please note Castlefield Gallery office hours are Tuesday–Sunday, 10am–6pm. Castlefield Gallery offices are closed on Mondays.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The bOlder 2021/22 Greater Manchester Visual Artist Development Programme for Artists 50+ is only open to artists living in Greater Manchester (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan).

Application deadline: **12 noon, Monday 29th November 2021**

HOW TO APPLY

Please send your application to Leslie Remonato, Castlefield Gallery & Volunteer Co-ordinator, by email to leslie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk, to arrive **by 12 noon, Monday 29th November 2021**. Please put **bOlder 2021/22 Application** in the email header.

You can also apply by [online form](#) or by post to Castlefield Gallery, 2 Hewitt Street, Manchester M15 4GB, to arrive **by 12 noon, Monday 29th November 2021**. Please let us know if you would like us to send you a hard copy application form and diversity survey.

Your application should include:

1. Your **application form** with your full name in the file name, e.g. Jan_Smith_bOlder_Application, including **images** and/or **video/sound files** of your work (**maximum 6 items or five minutes total of video/sound**).
 - 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, e.g. Jan_Smith_Still Life in Blue_2020.
2. Your up-to-date **CV** including links to any relevant websites (in 1 pdf file, with your full name in the title e.g. Jan Smith_CV.
3. A completed [diversity monitoring survey](#)

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. Aims of the Programme

The bOlder 2021/22 programme aims are to:

- Promote creativity in later life.
- Support artists aged 50+years to progress towards being economically active creative professionals.
- Support the creation of high quality contemporary art in Greater Manchester.
- Support vibrant and diverse cultural activity in Greater Manchester by fostering greater cultural participation.

2. Who can apply? – eligibility and selection criteria

- Contemporary visual artists aged 50+, living in Greater Manchester (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan).
- Applicants must be unemployed or economically inactive. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are not in any kind of paid employment. If an applicant is registered as self-employed, they must cancel that registration before being accepted onto the programme.
- Applicants can be in receipt of benefits or pensions.

- Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have the legal right to live and work in the UK; this is a requirement of the European Social Fund.

Artists will be selected against the following criterion:

- Demonstrating how participating in the programme will be valuable to their creative and professional development, taking into account the aims of the programme.

Exclusions and requirements

- We cannot consider applications from those currently engaged in full-time education.
- Applicants must be available to participate over the full period of the programme and must take part in a minimum of 75% of the professional development programme.

Any incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline of **12 noon, Monday 29th November 2021** will be ineligible.

3. Key Dates

Deadline for applications: 12 noon, Monday 29th November 2021

Applicants notified: by Monday 6th December

Group induction session: Monday 13th December, at either 4.30-5.30pm or 6.30-7.30pm

Individual enrolment session with Castlefield Gallery Artist Development Co-ordinator Jane Lawson: 6th, 7th or 13th December

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; we will not be carrying out interviews.

The selection panel will be made up of Castlefield Gallery staff as follows:

- Matthew Pendergast, Curator, Castlefield Gallery
- Jane Lawson, Artist Development Co-ordinator, Castlefield Gallery
- Julia Griffin, bOlder 2020/21 artist

The decision to award places on the programme or not is at the discretion of Castlefield Gallery. Outcomes of the decision-making process will be final and will be based on a scoring and balancing process.

We aim to select one artist from each of the Greater Manchester boroughs. In the event that there are no suitable applicants from a borough, the place will transfer to the next shortlisted artist, independent of which borough they are from.

5. Conditions

- In submitting an application, you confirm that you meet the eligibility criteria.
- Before starting the programme, successful applicants will need to supply us with evidence of their legal right to live in the UK during the period of the programme, such as a passport, residency permit or marriage/civil partnership certificate. If you're unsure about whether you have the right evidence, please see this list of [allowable evidence](#) or contact Leslie Remonato at leslie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk or 0161 832 8034.
- Before starting the programme, successful applicants will need to demonstrate that they are unemployed or economically inactive. Examples of suitable evidence would be evidence of pension income, a DWP/Jobcentre Plus benefits decision notification letter or a referral from Careers Service or

similar. If you're unsure about whether you have the right evidence, please see this list of [allowable evidence](#) or contact Leslie Remonato at leslie@castlefieldgallery.co.uk or 0161 832 8034.

- Unfortunately, we cannot provide support to develop applications, other than for those with access needs, or give feedback on unsuccessful applications.