

# Turner Contemporary

England's  
**CREATIVE  
COAST**

PRESS RELEASE  
Thursday 14 May 2020

## ***England's Creative Coast postponed to spring 2021***

***England's Creative Coast*, a landmark partnership project between arts organisations along the South East coast, will now take place in spring 2021 due to the Coronavirus pandemic**



Birling Gap, East Sussex

In collaboration with partners, Turner Contemporary and Visit Kent have decided to postpone *England's Creative Coast* due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The *Waterfronts* art commissions, a series of seven new temporary outdoor works made in response to the Essex, Kent and East Sussex coastlines by leading contemporary artists – Andreas Angelidakis, Mariana Castillo Deball, Holly Hendry, Jasleen Kaur, Katrina Palmer, Pilar Quinteros and Michael Rakowitz – will now take place in 2021, launching in the spring and running until late in the year. The project is principally funded by Arts Council England and VisitEngland through the Discover England Fund and was originally due to take place from April to November 2020. New launch dates and further information on *England's Creative Coast* will be announced later in 2020.

The decision has been made following guidance from the Government and Public Health England and in agreement with partners — Cement Fields, Creative Folkestone, De La Warr Pavilion, Metal, Hastings Contemporary, Towner Eastbourne — and the project funders. This was not a decision taken lightly, but the government lockdown to date and social distancing measures have had a severe impact on the project logistics and timescale. Ensuring that visitors, artists, fabricators and staff remain safe and well is our priority.

Victoria Pomery OBE, Director of Turner Contemporary, states:

“Art plays a vital role in people’s lives, fostering well-being and connecting people. We look forward to the time when it is safe to travel again and to share the beauty and creativity of the coast.”

Visit Kent Chief Executive Deirdre Wells OBE, said:

“Despite the challenges felt by the tourism, hospitality and cultural industries over the last few months, we and our partners have been working hard to build on the huge amount of creativity and innovation in our destinations which will ensure that *England’s Creative Coast* is the most exciting cultural experience possible in 2021.”

The ambitious public art commissions created for Margate, Folkestone, Eastbourne, Gravesend, Hastings, Bexhill-on-Sea and Southend-on-Sea each respond to the natural, historical and social aspects of their particular location, bringing diverse responses to this rich and varied region which spans 1400km of dramatic shoreline and has inspired artists for centuries.

By collaborating with artists, galleries, arts organisations and tourism providers, *England’s Creative Coast* aims to connect people and places, celebrating the importance of creativity alongside the uniqueness of being and living by the coast. Following the unprecedented events of 2020, Turner Contemporary, Visit Kent and partners will continue to work together and with our coastal communities to create a relevant and ambitious cultural experience across the region.

**For further information on *England’s Creative Coast*, images and press enquiries, please contact Pickles PR:**

Gair Burton: gair@picklespr.com; 00 44 (0)7402 784 470

Media kit: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gui27ycaaj4er1d/AAAI1HY5ljTp4DJyZa\\_SiNJ2a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gui27ycaaj4er1d/AAAI1HY5ljTp4DJyZa_SiNJ2a?dl=0)



## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **About England's Creative Coast**

Seven new outdoor artworks by leading contemporary artists and the world's first ever art digital geocaching tour will connect outstanding galleries and arts organisations across the Kent, Essex and Sussex coastlines.

Driven by the region's world-class culture, the arts organisations that have contributed to the creative economy of the area — Turner Contemporary in Margate, Cement Fields in North Kent, Creative Folkestone, Bexhill-on-Sea's De La Warr Pavilion, Hastings Contemporary, Metal in Southend-on-Sea and Towner Eastbourne — are joining forces for the first time to create a new cultural experience for visitors and residents. cultural tourism experience.

*England's Creative Coast* is led by Turner Contemporary and Visit Kent and is principally funded by Arts Council England and VisitEngland through the Discover England Fund with support from a number of key investors, including; South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), East Sussex County Council, Kent County Council, Essex County Council, Visit Essex, Southend Borough Council, Experience West Sussex, Historic Dockyard Chatham and Southeastern.

[www.englishcreativecoast.com](http://www.englishcreativecoast.com)

### **Turner Contemporary**

Turner Contemporary in Margate is one of the most distinctive galleries in the UK; its impact stretches beyond culture-led regeneration and the showcasing of world-class exhibitions, to pioneering change by making the arts more vital and connected to daily life. Since opening in 2011, Turner Contemporary has:

- Generated over £80 million for the local economy
  - Led to the opening of over 150 new businesses
  - Safeguarded 155 jobs
  - Attracted over 3.5 million visits
- 
- In copy please refer to Turner Contemporary and not 'The Turner Contemporary' Gallery  
Turner Contemporary is closed until further notice
  - Opening times: Closed on Mondays. Open Tuesday – Sunday: 10am – 5pm (autumn/winter), 10am – 6pm (spring/summer)
  - Admission to the gallery is free
  - Address: Turner Contemporary, Rendezvous, Margate, CT9 1HG
  - Information: + 44 (0) 1843 233000, [turnercontemporary.org](http://turnercontemporary.org)
  - Turner Contemporary is a charity, receiving public funding from Kent County Council and Arts Council England.

### **Visit Kent**

Visit Kent Ltd is the Destination Management Organisation for Kent (the Garden of England), welcoming 65 million visitors a year, championing the county's £3.8 billion tourism industry and supporting more than 77,000 jobs.

It is recognised as one of the country's leading DMOs, targeting UK and overseas markets to raise Kent's profile as a premier destination, improving quality and skills within the industry, and growing investment in tourism. Visit Kent is a public/private sector partnership supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, district and borough councils, and the leading sector tourism businesses in Kent.

## Funders

### **Cultural Destinations programme**

Cultural Destinations is an initiative that was developed by the Arts Council England as a result of a three year partnership with VisitEngland, the national tourist board. It aims to increase the reach of those experiencing arts and culture, the sustainability of cultural organisations in local destinations, and to encourage the public and private sector to work together to support the growth of the local visitor economy. A total of £3.28million will be invested in 16 projects across England.

Culture and the visitor economy are intertwined. Cultural attractions, including theatres, art galleries, festivals and museums, attract visitors to a place. Their resulting spend not only helps to sustain these cultural venues and organisations, but also contributes to the local economy. And at the heart of it all is an ambition to ensure more people from all backgrounds experience the arts and culture.

### **Arts Council England**

**The Arts Council** is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to visual art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

### **Discover England Fund**

- In November 2015, the Government announced a £40 million Discover England Fund; an unprecedented opportunity for English tourism. The Fund aims to deliver world-class bookable tourism products joined up across geographies and/or themes; including integrated transport solutions to provide an end-to-end customer experience.
- The Fund supports the growth of one of England's most successful export industries, inbound tourism. Tourism is an industry that delivers jobs and economic growth across the English regions – contributing some £106bn each year to the economy and supporting 2.6 million jobs.
- The Fund supported a number of pilot projects in year one (2016/17) that tested product development approaches. In years two and three, 2017-19, the fund supported:
  - A number of large-scale collaborative projects to be delivered over the two-year period 2017-2019 that created a step-change in bookable English tourism product for international consumers,
  - A smaller funding pot for new one year pilot projects (in year two), and
  - Continuation funding for existing year one projects that demonstrated early learnings (in year two).

### **VisitBritain/VisitEngland**

- VisitBritain/VisitEngland is the national tourism agency – a non-departmental public body funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)
- Working with a wide range of partners in both the UK and overseas, our mission is to grow the volume and value of inbound tourism across the nations and regions of Britain and to develop world-class English tourism product to support our growth aspirations. For further information and to access the latest in-depth market intelligence and statistics visit [www.visitbritain.org](http://www.visitbritain.org) or [www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com) and [www.visitengland.com](http://www.visitengland.com) for consumer information

### **South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP)**

The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) is a genuine 'coalition for growth' between business, government and education. We put the role of enterprise – as the driving motor of the economy – at the heart of everything we do; and we work in partnership with central government and its key agencies to pursue and attract major investment into the South East to deliver significant economic growth.

One of 38 LEPs established by the government, our role is to forge a partnership which properly understands the economic challenges and opportunities of our area, encourage an environment which delivers prosperity and to be directly accountable to local people and local businesses. LEPs decide what the priorities should be for investment in roads, buildings, and facilities in the area as part of an integrated approach to growth and infrastructure delivery.

We represent the largest LEP area in England outside London, in terms of population and economic output, and cover an area encompassing the local authority areas of East Sussex, Essex, Kent, Medway, Southend and Thurrock. For more information visit [www.southeastlep.com](http://www.southeastlep.com).

### **East Sussex County Council**

East Sussex County Council provides services used by all residents in East Sussex, including providing care and support to children, families and the elderly; maintaining the roads and providing library services; and working to boost the local economy by delivering sustainable economic growth. We have a long-term track record for delivery, producing excellent results for the public, maximizing resources, and having strong and effective partnerships.

### **Kent County Council**

Kent is one of the largest local authorities in the UK, and home to nearly 1.6m people. Kent County Council delivers services that impact on the lives of every single person in Kent, working in partnership to make sure we commission the right services and ensuring that every pound spent in Kent is delivering better outcomes for Kent's residents, communities and businesses. Kent County Council works with people who need care and support; aims for Kent to be the best place for children and young people to grow up and achieve and plays a major role in making Kent a better place to live, work and visit.

### **Essex County Council**

Essex County Council's Culture and Green Spaces Team supports creative and heritage activities across the county, developing programmes of work and events with a range of partners, in sectors such as tourism, regeneration, health, older people and education. Essex has a vibrant cultural scene making it a great place to live, work and visit.

### **Southend-on-Sea Borough Council**

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council has continually supported the development of a culture led regeneration across Southend. We are home to two Arts Council national portfolio organisations METAL and Focal Point Gallery (FPG). Focal Point are uniquely embedded in the council's organisational structure and located in the country's first combined academic and public library space 'The Forum' bringing together a creative powerhouse that is set to expand further in 2021. The council's commitment to supporting the arts and culture is demonstrated with many projects and support in a town where the increasing cultural tourism offer complements the traditional seaside attractions of one of the country's top visitor destinations.

## **VisitEssex**

Visit Essex is a leading destination management organisation responsible for developing and promoting the visitor economy in Essex. We position Essex as a desirable, accessible year-round destination for visitors and residents, and work in partnership with the public and private sectors to increase in the value of tourism to the county's economy which currently stands at £3.4billion.

## **Southeastern**

Southeastern allows passengers to discover the rolling hills, stunning beaches, innovative art and cultural gems around Kent and East Sussex, many just a short walk from a Southeastern train station.

Southeastern run train services to/from London, Kent and East Sussex, and operates the UK's only domestic high speed service. Southeastern's Javelin trains can travel at speeds of up to 140mph from St Pancras International or Stratford International to many stations in Kent – including Canterbury, Margate, Ramsgate, Dover, Gravesend, Whitstable and Folkestone. <https://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/>

## **Historic Dockyard Chatham**

The Historic Dockyard Chatham is one of Kent's finest heritage attractions and a great day out for the whole family. SWING through the hatches on HM Submarine Ocelot – the only British submarine you can explore in Kent! Explore main deck on the Victorian sloop, HMS Gannet and stand on the open bridge of HMS Cavalier. Experience the awe-inspiring ¼ mile long ropewalk and explore the 10 museum galleries that tell the 400 year story of the Royal Dockyard at Chatham. <https://thedockyard.co.uk/>

## **Partners**

### **Cement Fields**

Cement Fields brings people together to experience outstanding new art in north Kent, along the Thames Estuary from Dartford to Whitstable. Cement Fields supports early-career artists to develop ambitious, risk-taking new art, and supports children and young people to develop imagination, skills, and routes into creative careers. We stage festivals, long-term projects, events and learning opportunities that involve and engage a diverse range of artists, participants and audiences.

### **Creative Folkestone**

Creative Folkestone is a visionary arts charity dedicated to producing and enabling the very best creative activity that has transformed Folkestone and East Kent and continues to do so. We make the town a better place to live, work, play and visit. We believe that everyone is creative, and that creativity has the power to change people and places for the better. With this passion at its heart, Creative Folkestone enables people's creativity to flourish, enriching the town and those who live in or visit it.

Established in 2002, and formerly known as Creative Foundation, Creative Folkestone has a remarkable record of success and looks after five projects: Folkestone Artworks, Folkestone Book Festival, Creative Quarter, Folkestone Triennial and Quarterhouse. Through all these projects we enable people to get creative. [www.creativefolkestone.org.uk](http://www.creativefolkestone.org.uk)

### **De La Warr Pavilion**

The De La Warr Pavilion is a 1935 Modernist building overlooking the sea in Bexhill, East Sussex. It is a pioneering centre for the arts and a place for everyone to enjoy culture and entertainment. Open every day, it presents exhibitions by contemporary artists and designers, live music and comedy gigs, film screenings and a dynamic programme of learning activities and outdoor events. Good food and a great atmosphere can be found in our Café Bar and there are modern spaces to hire for conferences, weddings and private events [www.dlwp.com](http://www.dlwp.com).

With its unique social history as the 'People's Palace', De La Warr Pavilion believes that the arts, heritage and creativity are vital tools for making positive changes in society. As such it is a regional champion and cultural hub for skills development, health and well-being, socio-economic equality, tourism and creative industries.

### **Hastings Contemporary**

Hastings Contemporary, formerly the Jerwood Gallery, will champion modern and contemporary art in an international context through an ambitious expanded programme and will explore all forms of modern and contemporary art, as well as continuing to champion the medium of painting, for which it has built a strong reputation. The gallery will present a broad range of works by historically important and internationally renowned artists, emerging practitioners, as well as exploring the rich cultural history of artists from the South East. [www.hastingscontemporary.org](http://www.hastingscontemporary.org)

### **Metal**

Metal was founded in London in 2002 by Jude Kelly CBE, working with current Artistic Director and CEO, Colette Bailey since its inception. It has been active in Liverpool since 2004, in Southend-on-Sea since 2007 and in Peterborough since 2012. In each place, we work from buildings of historic significance that we have transformed from empty or derelict spaces into vibrant cultural community hubs. From these bases, Metal works to provide the catalyst that can transform the potential of people and places through great art and inspiring ideas. Metal was highlighted as a case study in the DCMS Cultural White Paper, published March 2016. Metal hosts year-round artists-in-residence to develop large and small scale cultural events in response to place. These include, pop-up events and cafes, music festivals and NetPark, the world's first digital art park, where you can use your smart phone or tablet to find 15 artworks hidden in the landscape, created by artists, musicians and writers. Metal also created Village Green festival that brings the town alive with art and music. To date, they have run ten editions. <http://www.metalculture.com/>

### **Towner Eastbourne**

Founded as an art gallery for the people, Towner Eastbourne presents exhibitions of national and international importance to audiences across the UK and beyond. Showcasing the most exciting developments in modern and contemporary art, Towner develops and supports artistic practice, and provides a place for experiencing, creating and discussing art and culture. The gallery welcomes over 150,000 visitors a year and collaborates with individuals, communities and organisations to deliver an inclusive and accessible associated public programme and learning offer. Their acclaimed Collection of nearly 5000 works is best known for its modern British art – including the largest and most significant body of work by Eric Ravilious (1903-1942) – and a growing collection of international contemporary art. In 2014, Towner became an independent charitable Trust, supported by a Board of Trustees, chaired by David Dimbleby. Towner is supported by Eastbourne Borough Council and Arts Council England through its National Portfolio Programme. [www.townereastbourne.org.uk](http://www.townereastbourne.org.uk)