

### **Open Call for Medway Artists**

Cement Fields are inviting submissions from artists based in Medway, to work on a new work by Bob and Roberta Smith, a co-commission between Cement Fields and Medway Council, for *Estuary 2021*, which will take place 22 May - 13 June 2021.

Location:	Remote and on site in Chatham, Kent
Freelance fee:	£1,000 (anticipating a day rate of £200 per day) plus a materials budget of £300
Application deadline:	Extended until 9am Friday 26 February 2021
Interview date:	w/c 8 March 2021 (held online via Zoom/Whereby)

### **Overview of *Estuary 2021***

*Estuary 2021* will be the second edition of the large-scale arts festival that celebrates the lives, landscapes and histories of the spectacular Thames Estuary. Taking place on the river, and along the 83 miles of South Essex and North Kent coastline, contemporary artworks, discussion and events will explore and respond to powerful themes resonant to the Estuary.

Postponed from September 2020, Estuary festival will now run from Saturday 22 May to Sunday 13 June 2021, with a press day on Friday 21 May 2021.

Installations, exhibitions, events and an accompanying film and talks programme will respond to the region's industrial heartland, nationally important heritage sites, protected marshes and wildlife, alongside seaside fronts and port towns.

Artworks will be set in the landscape, online and within COVID-19-safe venues, exploring the Estuary in relation to climate justice, protest and rebellion, imperial legacy and the rich, often overlooked stories of its communities, bringing new audiences to significant sites to foster a deeper understanding of the Estuary.

*Estuary 2021* is an ambitious, transformational programme of work, linked to an innovative skills programme delivered by a wide range of arts and agency partnerships across the region.

*Estuary 2021* is led by a partnership between Estuary-based arts organisations Metal in South Essex and Cement Fields in North Kent, and made possible through Creative Estuary, an ambitious long-term project to develop the Thames Estuary into the world's largest creative hub; a world leader for the creative and cultural industries.

*Estuary 2021* is made possible by Creative Estuary, with funding from The Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Cultural Development Fund.

### **About the project**

Artist Bob and Roberta Smith (London and Ramsgate based) will create a temporary structure sited by the river in Chatham for the duration of *Estuary 2021*, entitled *Draw Hope*. The work is a co-commission by Cement Fields and Medway Council.

Smith will issue invitations for 'art tasks', through social media, videos, and live events (dependent on COVID-19 restrictions) for people to join in to make a large-scale collective artwork made up of many, many individual elements over the four weeks of the festival.

The temporary outdoor pavilion will gradually gather drawings and objects made by members of Medway communities, through workshops and making sessions, and daily drop-in events, held throughout the festival, and by visitors from further afield. Five Medway-based artists will also be commissioned to create participatory workshops.

The work is about finding hope and creativity even in times of crisis. The idea is to draw on everyone's unique individual creative voice and to emphasise that we all need to look after this voice, especially in times of personal or widespread crisis, including climate change and the current pandemic. Among the different things that give us hope, some of the 'art tasks' will focus on us all depicting our families in various ways, slowly building up a picture of our Medway communities over the festival.

The message is that art, art education, and self-expression are important and nourishing, and that art makes us powerful.

### **About this opportunity**

We are seeking five Medway based artists to commission for the engagement programme of *Draw Hope*.

Each artist will receive £1,000 to plan and deliver four workshop sessions for groups/families during the festival dates, to take place on site at the pavilion (COVID-19 dependent, an alternative plan for online workshops will be developed if in-person workshops aren't possible).

You will work closely with Bob and Roberta Smith, and Cement Fields staff, to develop the workshops, ensuring that the project as a whole is coherent and suitable for participants. Artists may wish to develop workshops for particular groups or for a broad public. Participants are expected to be predominantly people living in Medway, but people from elsewhere will be welcome. We are particularly interested in working with young people.

We are interested in artists' submissions from artists who work in any medium within the arts (including visual artists, musicians, filmmakers, sound artists etc). We are looking for innovative, exciting, creative ways to work with participants.

### **Freelance fee and terms**

Freelance fee: £1,000, anticipating a day rate of £200 per day, for five days work.

The above number of workshops/days at the pavilion may need to be revised to reflect the number of days work. Festival dates are 22 May - 13 June.

1 day working with Bob (which maybe spread over more than one day) and project debrief, 2 days planning workshop, 4 workshops at half day each (or recording of workshop session/s).

There is also a materials budget of £300 for each artist.

### **How to apply**

To apply, please email the following to [info@cementfields.org](mailto:info@cementfields.org):

- CV and short text (no longer than one page) outlining your practice and previous experience of engagement/running workshops
- Equal Opportunities Form ([download here](#))

Deadline for applications: Extended until 9am Friday 26 February 2021

Interviews: w/c 8 March 2021

Interviews will be held online via Zoom/Whereby

### **Access requirements**

If you have access requirements, and would prefer to apply in a different format, or would like us to make reasonable adjustments to the interview process, please contact [info@cementfields.org](mailto:info@cementfields.org) or call Catherine on 07957 575794 (text to request a callback).

Cement Fields is an equal opportunities employer. We acknowledge the structural exclusion in the arts, and are striving to make our organisation more inclusive. We actively encourage applications from people who may face barriers to employment in the arts.

## **Contact**

Please get in touch with the team at [info@cementfields.org](mailto:info@cementfields.org) if you have any questions about the role.