

WHITSTABLE BIENNALE

Whitstable Biennale 2022 Open Call

We are inviting proposals for two new works to be part of the next Whitstable Biennale, which will be held in June 2022. There are two commissions available, and from this open call our curators will select one work for each.

We're looking for proposals from artists who are in the early stages of their career. Broadly, this means artists who are in the first 10 years of establishing their practice, who have reached an important phase in their development, and for whom this opportunity would represent a significant step in their career.

There is no fixed format for proposals, they can be for fully developed projects that haven't been shown before, but we are also keen to see early ideas, still in development.

Two commissions will be selected and each artist will receive a budget of £2,000, inclusive of fees and materials. We will provide equipment and installation support (within reason), but proposals must realistically reflect this budget.

The festival will take place over nine consecutive days from 11-19 June 2021, with the programme including one-off performances and screenings, together with installations and exhibitions that are open throughout the festival.

We encourage you to have a look at our online archive at whitstablebiennale.com to see the type of work we have commissioned in the past. Artists previously selected from the open call include; Sophie Lee, Sarah Wood, Louisa Martin, Rachel Reupke, Oreet Ashery, and Mike Chavez-Dawson.

Proposals must be either for the 'Town Commission' or for the 'Boat Commission' - please see below for further details. You may apply for both commissions, but you must submit proposals for each separately.

Open Call: Town Commission

We are looking for proposals for a work that will take audiences on a journey through Whitstable town. This could be a linear journey (with a fixed start and end point) or a non-linear journey for which audiences design their own route. For example, the journey could take the form of an audio walk, a guided tour, or a series of objects to find around the town.

Open Call: Boat Commission

We are looking for proposals for a work that will be experienced by passengers onboard one or more of the boat trips run by a local company. Proposals should respond playfully to the existing format of the boat trip.

The boat will be provided by Whitstable Boat Trips (www.whitstableboattrips.co.uk) who run several regular boat trip packages from Whitstable Harbour. The routes available for the commission are: the trips around Whitstable Bay; or the trips to the Red Sands Sea Forts and the offshore wind farm (see their website for details). Their boat has capacity for 12 passengers, plus crew, and passengers can be seated or standing (see their Gallery page for photos).

About Whitstable Biennale

Whitstable Biennale is a contemporary visual art festival that brings people together to experience some of the most exciting new visual art being made in the UK today in film, performance and sound. Founded in 2002, the next edition in 2022 will be our tenth.

We work closely with artists early in their career to create new and experimental work, providing crucial time, space and support so they can take risks with their artistic practice, enabling them to develop new ideas and artworks at important moments in their careers.

As a small fishing town on the Kent coast, Whitstable has no big city infrastructure of cinemas, large gallery spaces and empty buildings, so we work with artists to find ways to weave their artworks into the fabric of the town, the idiosyncratic halls and huts, the alleyways and oyster beds, pubs, newsagents, beach huts, and bingo clubs, the working harbour and the steep shingle shoreline, and to work closely with the people who live and work there.

Whitstable Biennale is part of Cement Fields, our new umbrella organisation founded in 2019, which works closely with artists and communities along the Thames Estuary from Dartford to Whitstable. To find out more about Cement Fields, and our wider programme, please visit www.cementfields.org.

How to apply

To apply, please email us a proposal outlining your idea. Proposals can be up to 1 page of A4 and must include your full name, email, postal address, and telephone number.

If you would like to submit supporting material, you are welcome to send up to 5 images (preferably jpgs) or short audio/video excerpts (no longer than 5 minutes). You are free to

link to longer works in your proposal, if necessary, and/or your website. You may also include your CV, although this is optional.

Email your proposal to info@cementfields.org. Please use the subject line 'Open Call: Town Commission' or 'Open Call: Boat Commission', as applicable.

Deadline for submissions: 9am, Monday 10 January 2022

Access

If you would prefer to apply via a format not listed above or have any other access requirements, please contact us at info@cementfields.org.

If you would like to, please submit an access document that includes an outline of your needs, alongside your application. See www.accessdocsforartists.com for more information and guidance.

Contact

Please get in touch with the team at info@cementfields.org if you have any questions about this opportunity.