



# VIEWPOINTS ARTISTS' BRIEF 2019

THE FESTIVAL OF THRIFT / TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY



ARTISTS' BRIEF

Ian Kirkpatrick, *Crossroads*, 2018, Middlesbrough

## INTRODUCTION

Viewpoints by Festival of Thrift offers artists an exciting opportunity to create new temporary work in the public domain in response to a broad brief.

A key theme of Festival of Thrift 2019 is 'Clean Air' and we are particularly keen to see artists' responses to this theme. We will also welcome responses to the wider theme of future sustainability, where ideas will be expressed in particularly fresh and intriguing ways.

We will invite low carbon industries working in the Tees Valley to welcome selected artists on site for short residencies to explore their ethos, location, techniques and/or workforce, then locate the resulting temporary artworks for all to enjoy.

The works selected will be sited in accessible locations in the Tees Valley and open to the public from September 12th for at least one week.

## VIEWPOINTS

Now in its second year, with continued support from Tees Valley Combined Authority, (TVCA) Festival of Thrift is inviting artists to propose these temporary public artworks for our wider programme. The Festival itself will take place in Kirkleatham, Redcar in September, and these commissions are intended to build new partnerships with industry to extend the reach of the event across the Tees Valley and to raise both the profile of the region and awareness of issues around sustainability.

Proposals should explore aspects of the unique ecology, technology, landscape, history or industries of the Tees Valley. The title *Viewpoints* has been chosen both because we will site the finished work in a location where it may be best viewed, but also because we intend that the work produced might also offer a fresh viewpoint or change people's views on an environmental or sustainability issue and how industry is tackling it.

We are seeking creative ideas that are high quality, engaging and accessible, but also challenging and thought provoking. Proposals can be for large, medium or intimate installations, but we are particularly interested in those which make a strong relationship with the site. Artists must demonstrate both that the work is relevant to the context of the Tees Valley and also that it properly responds to the theme.



Lee Berwick and Robert Olins, *Sonic Anomaly*, 2018, St. Hilda's Church, Hartlepool

## POINTS TO CONSIDER

Artworks may be in any medium but must include a physical presence.

We are keen to hear of Tees Valley companies you may have already identified with whom you wish to work. However, lack of an identified partner will not be a barrier. We are working with TVCA and other partners to identify companies willing to host an artist.

You may wish to submit a collaborative proposal with another named artist or artists - these will also be welcomed.

We welcome proposals which include an element of community engagement or participation in advance of the event. Please detail this in your proposal if applicable. Support in making links with local schools and/or community groups will be available.

We are particularly keen to reduce our carbon footprint and would welcome proposals that do not need to be powered in any way or which utilise low energy formats and consider transport distances.

We will undertake PR, produce print and online marketing of the project and a video of work in progress and in situ. We will ask you to participate in this and be prepared to be interviewed.



Wilton Industrial site, Redcar

## LOCATIONS

We have not specified locations for the work, though we suggest that you either identify a specific location in the Tees Valley (Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees, Darlington, Hartlepool or Middlesbrough) or that you suggest the ideal type of location for us to help you identify ( e.g. beach, riverfront, lake, hill, car park, municipal building, alley etc.) We can help to connect you to people and resources via our producer and we will then work with you to gain permissions for temporary display of the work. You will need to be flexible to make this process work.

You may wish to undertake your own site visit in advance of submitting a proposal, but this will be at your own expense. There will be a familiarisation trip for all shortlisted artists.

## KEY PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The most important practical consideration is how any piece will work within the proposed context and location and for potentially large or irregularly attending audience numbers.

Weather conditions may be challenging – rain and wind are likely! All artworks must be able to reliably withstand these conditions for the duration of the event.

If you wish your work to be visible during night time please consider how it will be presented in the dark. Technical / lighting design support can be provided. You may wish to consider a particular occasion when lighting is appropriate. Equally, if your work is projection based, please give consideration as to how it might be accessed or visible in the daytime.

Please be mindful of the need for stewarding, power usage, health and safety and transport in your plans and budgets.

The development process for the commissions may take place in the identified company or in your own facilities or spaces. If these are at a distance some support may be identified through partners to identify local facilities.



*Last Ditch Attempt, 2018,  
Lucien Anderson  
and David Lisser*

## **KEY PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS (CONTINUED)**

Artists will deliver the artworks to FOT for their installation or final onsite production with support from the production and technical team. Practical support may also be available from the company with which you are based.

The installation period is likely to be in the region of 1-2 days if required. De-install will be over 1-2 days.

The works will be left in-situ during the day for the duration. The locations are likely to be open to the public over this time. There is scope for some security presence and/or barriers if required.

Support includes:

Producer and Production Manager support and advice throughout the development and making process.

Technical support for the install, duration and de install. Advice on community engagement.

## **BUDGET**

In total we will be commissioning/programming 3-5 pieces within a budget range of £3,000 – £8,000 per work.

The commission total is inclusive of all artists fees, materials, transport, power, travel and accommodation costs associated with installation / decommission so your initial indicative budget will need to demonstrate this. We accept that engaging with a wider public in the planning and making will increase costs, and welcome proposals that include these activities.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

The application is by online submission. Artists are welcome to submit two proposals if you so wish.

Shortlisted artists will be invited to undertake a site visit (expenses covered) if it is felt appropriate before the final selection is made.



Roseberry Topping

**TIMELINE**

EOI deadline: <b>Mid day March 12th 2019</b>	Short listed proposals developed for full submission(if necessary): <b>Early May</b>
Shortlisting: <b>Week of March 16th</b>	Short listed artists informed if commissioned or not: <b>Mid May</b>
All applicants informed if shortlisted or not: <b>March 23rd</b>	Programme confirmed and announced: <b>Mid July</b>
Site visits for shortlisted artists: <b>Mid April</b>	Event dates: <b>Sept 12th for minimum one week</b>

**PROPOSALS**

Expressions of interest must be submitted via our online portal, which can be found here: [docs.google.com](https://docs.google.com)

if you have access requirements please contact us so that we can arrange an appropriate format for your submission.

You will be asked for an Expression of Interest of around 750 words describing your proposal.

You can also upload a limited number of images, which can be visuals in support of your EOI and/or examples of previous work, including a short video.

You will be asked to upload an outline budget. Budget should include: fees, materials, consumables, space hire for production/rehearsal, equipment hires and/or purchase needed to realise the piece, transportation to and from the location, travel and accommodation for your team and insurance of the work.

**CONTACT**

Please ensure that all parts of the form are completed and a valid email address and phone number are provided, together with your website details. Please refer closely to the brief when filling in the form. Thank you.



## BACKGROUND

The Festival of Thrift, 2018

### THE FESTIVAL OF THRIFT

A celebration of sustainable living, The Festival of Thrift is the UK's national award winning large-scale festival, encouraging us all to live creatively together. The Festival ([www.festivalofthrift.co.uk](http://www.festivalofthrift.co.uk)) is a CIC, established to carry out activities beneficial to the community. It began in 2013 at Lingfield Point, Darlington, once home to Patons and Baldwins – the world's largest wool producer. After three award winning years, we were invited to relocate to Kirkleatham in neighbouring Redcar and Cleveland. Since we began we have attracted over 250,000 people from all over the North East and across the UK to visit and be inspired to upcycle, recycle and reuse, and to share and learn new skills together.

The Festival is committed to putting the Tees Valley firmly on the national map and placing artists and individual creativity at the heart of a shared, sustainable future.

### OUR AIMS

- Build a unique and distinctive, fun, sustainable national event which draws positive media attention to our partners, Tees Valley and the North East.
- Celebrate the heritage & contribute to the future prosperity of Tees Valley & its industry.
- Ensure wider economic benefit through encouraging extended visitor spend on travel, accommodation, restaurants and businesses.
- Contribute to community cohesion through targeting communities with less access to culture.
- Highlight the skills & creativity of the region's artists & craftspeople & inspire all ages to learn old & find new ways to be creative in their everyday lives.
- Promote the concept of sustainable living and be a voice for sustainable issues, globally and locally.



MIMA, Middlesbrough

## INNOVATION IN TEES VALLEY

The Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) is a statutory body for Tees Valley. The five Tees Valley local authorities, Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton, alongside the business community and other partners, unite within the Combined Authority to improve the economic potential of the area through development, transport, infrastructure, skills and most importantly through culture. The Combined Authority creates a single voice for the area on these key matters, providing greater power and resources for the Tees Valley area. It builds on the areas' existing assets and helps to strengthen the local economy, bringing with it new business investment, the creation of more jobs, improved transport links and improved local skills.

Our cultural programme is developed in partnership with arts and cultural organisations that are closest to our communities and span the Tees Valley geography and demography and offer the opportunity to build communities and engagement. We aim to use culture to create genuine, shared and positive sense of place and identity across Tees Valley. This identity informs our local social and economic policies. The Tees Valley communities will explore and celebrate the artistic life and heritage that's meaningful to them and place our communities and arts and heritage organisations at the heart of delivery in the Tees Valley. These commissions, as part of our partnership with the Festival of Thrift, are part of our work engaging local communities and bringing a wider audience from across Tees Valley to the principles of the Festival and the understanding of new ways of living.

## MIMA

Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art has a civic agenda to connect art, people and ideas to make the world a better place. Part of Teesside University, we are a useful museum.

We wish to have an influence on society, taking a leading role in addressing current issues within politics, economics and culture. Our programmes encompass urgent themes such as housing, migration, inequality, regeneration, and healthcare.

We offer changing exhibitions, collection displays, learning activities, projects, and community-focused initiatives that involve many artists and publics. These programmes promote creativity for everyone in ordinary life, through education, debate and making.

We have been developing relationships with constituencies in Middlesbrough and beyond. Our ambition is that these help us shape who we are: a public site, open and accessible, diverse and inclusive, and used by all.





Navigator North



Palace Arts, Redcar

## PALACE ARTS

Palace Arts is a Community Interest Company based in Redcar which aims to support and be a part of cultural activity in the region. Palace Arts believes that cultural investment can raise confidence, civic pride, aspiration, wellbeing and contribute to regional economic stability.

Palace Arts Gallery, on Redcar's seafront Esplanade, opened in 2013. It showcases the work of local artists through a series of open-submission shows as well as offering solo exhibitions and opportunities for community groups to exhibit their work. In addition it has brought the work of major international artists, both living and deceased, to Redcar.

Palace Arts also provides well-equipped space suitable for running workshops in a variety of media, hosting meetings or pursuing personal projects. It will become the Viewpoints Hub during the week of Festival 2019, and will launch the programme, provide information and show contextual exhibits for the works chosen for this year's programme.

## NAVIGATOR NORTH

Navigator North are a Tees Valley based, artist led organisation who initiate activities to raise the profile of artists and creative practice in the North East – inspiring visual artists and creative communities to thrive. Formed in 2010 and directed by arts professional and curator, James Lowther and artists Vicky Holbrough and Nicola Golightly they manage a range of studio spaces across Tees Valley and curate exhibitions, events and residencies in alternative spaces.

Amongst their aims they seek to offer artists the opportunity to produce work, curated to specific themes that engage with non art audiences as well as those interested in the arts through non-conventional exhibition channels, encouraging the widest possible audience for the work.

Through regular projects Navigator North also offer professional development opportunities and support artists to make and show work. This has most recently included COLLIDERSCOPE, in partnership with Festival of Thrift and Creative Fuse North East.

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