

**Call out for expression of interest – opportunity to develop a collaborative artwork with young people for the new exhibition *Where There's Space to Grow*.**

Sunderland Culture's arts leadership group Celebrate Different, for young people aged 13 – 25 years, are curating a new exhibition *Where There's Space to Grow* which will be shown at Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens from 15 January – 13 March 2022. The exhibition reflects on the social impact of Sunderland's industrial decline in the 1980s, while looking forward to a shared progressive future where there is space for everyone to grow.

Alongside artworks chosen from the Arts Council Collection (ACC), Celebrate Different are commissioning artists to work with groups of young people from Sunderland to create new artworks that bring new voices and perspectives into the exhibition space.

The artwork *Casual(ty?)* by artist Liv Preston is the focus of this commission, alongside other artworks in the exhibition that explore the themes of youth unemployment and family breakdown. *Casual(ty?)* is a reclaimed caving helmet which needs to be displayed on the floor in the space so its torchlight shines onto another artwork.

Celebrate Different are seeking an artist to work alongside a young people's group called 1-2 Youth Crew based at Young Asian Voices in Sunderland in December 2021 to create a collaborative artwork that *Casual(ty?)* can shine onto, exploring the challenges facing young people today.

**Please write to us, letting us know:**

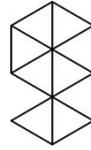
- A bit about you – a short bio or link to your website
- How you would respond to the artwork *Casual(ty?)* and the theme of challenges facing young people today, to create an artwork (please see following pages for artwork details). **Max 150 words.**
- 1-2 paragraphs outlining your ideas and how you would work collaboratively with the young people to include their voices and ideas. **Max 150 words.**

**Notes for applicants:**

- Celebrate Different are interested in different approaches to this commission and your response to the themes.
- The artwork needs to include something that responds to or is changed by light.
- The battery on the head torch runs flat each day and needs to be replaced. This could inform your artwork idea.
- The maximum wall space for the commission is 1 metre wide by 2.5 metres tall. It could also be a floor-based sculpture, plinth mounted work (plinth max 50cm high) or wall mounted work.



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- 1-2 Youth Crew meet on Tuesday evenings 5.30 – 7pm and you would need to have time to meet with the group for a minimum of 2 sessions for approx. 2 hours per session in December.
- The artwork would need to be ready to install w/c 10 January 2022.
- Celebrate Different will be shortlisting the work on 24 November and applicants will be informed w/c 29 November. The successful artist will be invited to attend the Celebrate Different meeting on Wednesday 1 December from 5 – 6.30pm at Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens in person or via Zoom.

**FEE: £1250**

To include planning time, sessions with the 1-2 Youth Crew, materials, liaison via e-mail and in person and/or Zoom meetings with Celebrate Different and Sunderland Culture staff.

**KEY DATES:**

Deadline for expressions of interest: **2pm on Wednesday 24 November 2021**

Chosen artist will be contacted by **Friday 26 November 2021**

Planning meetings: **w/c 29 November, Wednesday 1 December, 5 – 6.30pm to meet Celebrate Different**

Workshops with 1-2 Youth Crew **2 x 2-hour sessions by end of December 2021**

Deadline for artwork to be ready and delivered to Museum for install: **Monday 10 Jan 2022**

Please send expressions of interest to Jennie: [jennie.lambert@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:jennie.lambert@sunderland.gov.uk). This is a competitive process and the successful artist will be chosen by Celebrate Different, supported by Sunderland Culture staff. Feedback can be given on request.

Any questions? Please contact [jennie.lambert@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:jennie.lambert@sunderland.gov.uk)

**ABOUT THE EXHIBITION**

*Where There's Space to Grow* is an exhibition curated by Celebrate Different Collective, a group of young people living in Sunderland, which creatively reflects on the industrial decline of the 1980s in North East England, while looking ahead to a shared progressive future.

Arts Council Collection artworks sit alongside new works created by local Sunderland residents which reveal stories that encourage us to dig deep. Championing diversity in a shifting cultural and physical landscape, this exhibition asks: *how can we create space for all of us to grow?*

*Where There's Space to Grow* is the third and final of a series of exhibitions curated by young people across the Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme.



Firstsite, Colchester presented *House Share* curated by Young Art Kommunity (YAK) from June to September 2021, and Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange will open their exhibition, *SEEN* co-curated by young LGBTQIA+ people from Cornwall, in October 2021 until January 2022. The exhibitions aim to bring young people together from across the country, connecting them with each other and with the Arts Council Collection.

## **ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARTNERS PROGRAMME**

The National Partners Programme was launched in 2016 to mark the 70th anniversary of the Arts Council Collection by creating a network of regional galleries and museums to present and curate exhibitions drawn from the Arts Council Collection.

As part of the second round of the programme running from 2019-2022, Sunderland Culture was chosen as one of three regional galleries and museums to present and curate exhibitions drawn from Arts Council Collection. The other partners are Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange, and Firstsite in Essex.

Funded by the National Lottery, the programme aims to build a deeper relationship with regional audiences by building a UK-wide network across regional partners, connecting local visitors to their national collection.

## **ABOUT ARTS COUNCIL COLLECTION**

Spanning 75 years, the Arts Council Collection the Arts Council Collection is the most widely circulated national loan collection of modern and contemporary British art spanning paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings, performance and moving image. It supports and promotes British artists by acquiring art at an early stage of their careers and is seen by millions of people in public spaces from galleries and museums to hospitals, libraries and universities. Representing one of the most important collections of British modern and contemporary art in the world it includes work from a diverse range of artists from Barbara Hepworth, Tracey Emin, Anish Kapoor and Henry Moore to Mona Hatoum, Anthea Hamilton, Lubaina Himid, and Grayson Perry. Arts Council Collection was founded in 1946 and is managed by the Southbank Centre, London and includes Longside located at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

## **KEY ARTWORK 1**

***Casual(ty?)*, 2021**

Liv Preston

Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © the artist

Liv Preston is heavily influenced by the material language and attitudes of West Yorkshire, where she grew up. With an obsessive interest in video games and the

subterranean, her practice combines sculpture with conceptual gestures. She identifies and mines collections of objects, which may appear as inventories. Their forms of display, however, resist this traditional method of installing artworks, as they may be difficult or awkward to access. They often also imply mischief or danger in their presentation, deliberately undermining themselves in relation to their environments. *Casual(ty?)*, 2021, is made from a well-used Petzl caving helmet. Although it may appear to be discarded, the work is in fact displayed on the floor to illuminate a nearby work with its torches. It references video game architecture, in which it's common to encounter objects on the ground upon the completion of a goal or defeat of an enemy.

[Casual\(ty?\) | Arts Council Collection](#)

## KEY ARTWORK 2

***Untitled***, 1994 - 96

Richard Billingham

Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © the artist

This is a portrait of the artist's father, Ray, and is one of a series of photographs of Billingham's parents, brother and pets in their West Midlands flat. Billingham has explained that his father is a chronic alcoholic and his mother, Liz, later left due to Ray's incessant drinking and moaning. Billingham began to take these photographs in the early 1990s as reference material for his paintings. He then realised that through the photographs he could look at his family 'from the outside, in a different light', and in the process he could understand both them and himself more fully. In 1996 he published the photographs in a book entitled *Ray's a Laugh* (Scalo, Zurich). The photographs of this tragi-comedy of domestic life are poignant and startlingly direct. Billingham writes about his series of photographs, 'I never wanted to shock people with my work. I wanted to surprise them, perhaps, but not to shock them. I wanted the book to be like a play that moves the viewer.'

[Billingham, Richard | Arts Council Collection](#)

## KEY ARTWORK 3

***Untitled from Youth Unemployment***, 1981

Tish Murtha

Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © the artist

Stark and dynamic, the photographs in Murtha's *Youth Unemployment* series were taken over an 18-month period in the mid-1970's in the run-down West End area of Newcastle upon Tyne. She was motivated by a desire to show the social consequences of the poverty and unemployment she saw in the area in which she was living. Concentrating on young people suffering from the extremely high rates of

unemployment, she reveals their boredom, despair and confusion as they kill time in shopping precincts and derelict areas.

10 of these images will be displayed in the exhibition.

[Home \(tishmurtha.co.uk\)](http://tishmurtha.co.uk)

## KEY ARTWORK 4

***1=66,666 (March 1983 - Georgiana Collection VI)*, 1983**

Stuart Brisley

Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © the artist

Stuart Brisley's sculpture entitled *1=66,666 (March 1983 - Georgiana Collection VI)*, 1983 is made up of a steel cage inside which are hanging 66 gloves all retrieved from the London Underground Lost Property Depot. The cage itself is supported by two Work Mates, one at either end. Each glove filled with plaster, labelled and hung from the ceiling of the cage represents 66,666 people out of work. The 66 gloves are the numerical data of the unemployed in the summer of 1983, the year when the work was made. Although each glove seems to have its own identity and evokes the life and history of an individual person, this is overshadowed by the clinical and brutal treatment which these gloves have undergone. Like severed hands, they seem completely detached from the real lives and experiences of their previous owners and make us question the meaning and implication of everyday sayings like 'idle hands are the devil's work'.

[1=66,666 - Works - 80s - STUART BRISLEY](#)