

The social role of the artist

Brief for creative micro-commission

Brief: Creative micro-commission for visual response to research digest

We invite proposals from practising artists and creative practitioners to develop a visual response to a new research digest on artists' role in society. The research digest and the visual response will be published on the Centre for Cultural Value's website.

Proposal submission deadline: Friday 21 July 2023

Fee: £2000 (This amount must include all related expenditure and VAT if applicable. If you have any access needs please contact us at ccv@leeds.ac.uk). The Centre for Cultural Value recognises the positive value of diversity, promotes equality and challenges discrimination. We encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people.

In submitting a proposal, you must be able to commit to the following timeline if successful:

Briefing meeting: **week commencing 31 July 2023**

Check-in meeting with initial ideas: **week commencing 16 August 2023**

Submission of visual response: **Friday 8 September, 1pm**

The selection process will be made by a panel consisting of two members of the Centre for Cultural Value team and an external representative from Compass Live Art.

Background

The [Centre for Cultural Value](#) is building a shared understanding of the differences that arts, culture, heritage and screen make to people's lives and society. We want cultural policy and practice to be based on rigorous research and evaluation of what works and what needs to change.

We recognise that there are diverse perspectives about culture and cultural values. We believe that everyone values culture of one kind or another, even if they don't always have equal opportunities to participate in the cultural activities they value the most.

We are working in collaboration with partners across the UK to make existing research and evaluation more relevant and accessible so its insights can be understood and applied more widely within the cultural sector.

What is a research digest?

Our research digests are based on a rapid assessment of published literature to present a 'snapshot' of cultural value research across core themes.

Our research reviews are shaped in consultation with practitioners, researchers and policymakers to ensure they are as valuable and relevant as possible. We invite people to participate through surveys, interactive workshops and policy round tables, helping us to develop research review questions that we can find answers to in the literature.

The reviews present an overview of key findings, what we know for certain, where there is emerging evidence and where further research is needed. We use the evidence gained through the review process to make conclusions about the current state of the evidence and what implications this has for the future.

Previous research digests published by the Centre include:

[Everyday creativity](#)

[Older people – culture, community, connection](#)

[Young people's mental health](#)

The social role of the artist research digest

The research digest summarises current evidence relating to the social role of the artist.

The role of artists in our society is broad and complex. It ranges from artists working with town planning departments to schools and the healthcare system. Many ongoing debates depict the artist as both disrupter of the 'status quo' and complicit in maintaining power imbalances.

Many of these debates focus on the social value and impacts artists can make in different areas of society. Indeed, it could be argued that 'the' social role of 'the' artist is misleading: there seem to be many social roles and definitions of artists.

This digest focuses on artists working in socially engaged ways or those specifically funded to produce social outcomes.

Key themes and questions emerging from the digest that you may want to consider are:

- **Artist's livelihoods** - how can artists be better funded and supported?

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- **Socially engaged art** - what is it that socially engaged artists do? Where is the value for society?
- **Artist's relationship to policymaking and funding** - do current funding models, which include social impact outcomes, maintain power structures?
- **Collective and alternative practices** - different governance models, managing resources and shifting power dynamics.

What are we looking for?

- A piece of visual art responding to the research digest's key themes (as stated above). The final submission will be hosted online and can be a visual artwork, film or moving image. The final artwork will appear on the title page of the research digest and will also be used to promote the key findings of the research.
- This work needs to be original but can draw from relevant work that you have undertaken.
- The successful candidate will have access to an executive summary and highlights from the digest to further develop their concept.
- Final work must be provided as mp4/jpg/png file types, bearing in mind the artwork will be hosted online. The final artwork will appear on our social media platforms and our website (Twitter, LinkedIn and WordPress).

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How to apply

Please submit your proposal by email with the subject line: **Creative micro-commission proposal** to ccv@leeds.ac.uk by midday on **Friday 21 July**.

Please include the following details:

- A short outline of your approach to the commission (no more than 250 words).
- Visual references related to your idea or examples of your visual style.
- Up to three recent examples of your work and your role in its production. For example did you design and deliver the entire work or were you responsible for a single element. (web links are acceptable).
- We will ask for a reference from the successful candidate.