



**National
Trust**

Quarry Bank Artist in Residence 2017 Quarry Bank, Wilmslow, Cheshire

Call for Applicants

Deadline: Wednesday 1 March 2017, 11am



OVERVIEW

This summer the National Trust is offering its first visual artist residency and commission opportunity at Quarry Bank, Cheshire through its Trust New Art programme. This is an opportunity for an emerging to mid-career artist to develop their practice in a unique and beautiful setting. UK based visual artists, working in any discipline (or across them), and not currently studying are welcome to apply.

Built in 1784 Quarry Bank was one of the world's first factories and became a thriving cotton mill at a defining moment in our history, complete with workers' village, child apprentices' accommodation, owner's house, pleasure grounds and gardens.

The residency will take place from June – July 2017, with an exhibition/presentation period from September – November 2017. The artist will be provided with accommodation on site. Outdoor locations within the garden can be considered for the final outcome.

We are seeking applications that highlight the contemporary relevancies of Quarry Bank through the hobbies and interests of its founding family the Gregs. Artists need not apply with a fully formed project as the residency provides time and space to research and develop ideas.

There is an artist fee of £3000 and a production budget of £4500 to cover the residency period and delivery of the presented outcome. The outcome will be part of the wider 'Arts and Wonder' season at Quarry Bank for which we anticipate an audience of 26,000. Arts and Wonder will feature 'Changing Places', a touring exhibition of contemporary artists' video that links the industrial transformations occurring across South Asia with buildings of historic significance in Britain. Curated by FVU: Film and Video Umbrella.

The selection panel for this open call will be made up of National Trust staff and guest selector Helen Wewiora, Director of Castlefield Gallery, Manchester.

This opportunity is delivered by the National Trust through Trust New Art and supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Trust New Art

This commission will be part of Trust New Art (TNA), the National Trust's programme of contemporary arts inspired by our places. National Trust has been working with living artists since the 1980s, and in 2009 created Trust New Art through a partnership with Arts Council England. The programme makes contemporary arts available in National Trust places; builds new and diverse audiences; and offers new opportunities to artists to work in new contexts.

Trust New Art has developed contemporary arts commissions & projects at 100 + places, reaching audiences of over 2.2 million. In 2015 we worked with 200 + artists nationally delivering new work by emerging to established artists across art forms including visual arts, literature and performing arts among others.

Trust New Art North is managed by Hannah Pierce, Contemporary Arts Programme Manager. Six properties across the North region delivered contemporary arts commissions during 2016, including new work by Matt Collishaw, Freya Pocklington, Liz West, Alice May Williams and Amanda Loomes. TNA extends to 10 North of England venues in 2017.

Quarry Bank



Built in 1784 by Samuel Greg, Quarry Bank was one of the world's first factories and became a thriving cotton mill, complete with workers' village, child apprentices' accommodation, owner's house, pleasure grounds and gardens. Fundamentally unchanged from this period and overflowing with the atmosphere of the Industrial Revolution, Quarry Bank stands as a monumental reminder of our powerful industrial past and of the people who lived and worked here.

In 1939 Alec Greg bequeathed Quarry Bank to the National Trust but this gift excluded some significant parts of the estate. In 2006, the National Trust acquired Quarry Bank House and garden. Four years later we acquired the glasshouse and upper garden. These purchases provided us with the missing links. Quarry Bank is currently in year 3 of a major project. This offers a unique opportunity to transform Quarry Bank from a series of component parts to one cohesive story; of a self-sufficient community established during the early Industrial Revolution; of mill owners and workers; adults and children; industry and ingenuity; landscape and agriculture; labour and leisure.

Our project is the National Trust's most important Visitor Experience investment and will transform Quarry Bank through:

Visitor Experience – Visitors will be able to explore new areas of the site and discover the full story of the people who lived and worked here. We will develop more events, exhibitions and learning activities based on the history and stories of Quarry Bank so visitors have a different experience every time they visit

Conservation – we will restore key areas of the site including the glasshouse and upper garden, northern woods, the mill owner's house and a worker's cottage to ensure their future for generations

Community Engagement – we will work with our local communities of Styal, Wythenshawe and Wilmslow to support their engagement with heritage and provide further opportunities for learning and training

Capital Works – we will revolutionise Quarry Bank physically, upgrading the operational infrastructure and opening previously hidden parts of the site. Access will be transformed by a network of new footpaths and for the first time, lift access in the mill.



The Apprentice House

Styal Village

Garden

Quarry Bank House

2 THE COMMISSION

2.1 Commission aims, objectives and key themes

Aims:

- To take a fresh, creative look at the stories of Quarry Bank and its archive. Responding to the Greg family's hobbies and interests, reflected in their letters and objects from the Quarry Bank collection – to create an artistic response that engages our visitors in a new and different way.
- To 'teach, move and inspire' visitors through something unexpected to prompt new perspectives and understandings of Quarry Bank and the National Trust.

Objectives:

- To activate an outdoor location within the garden at Quarry Bank by creating engaging and accessible artwork/s that respond directly to Quarry Bank and Greg family's hobbies and interests.
- To engage visitors and online audiences through open social media, and maintaining regular updates on the progress of the residency on the Quarry Bank website.
- To embrace the possibilities and restrictions of the sites to create an site responsive piece that meets National Trust's conservation requirements.
- To deliver artwork for an outdoor site which can be displayed from September until November and withstand autumnal weather conditions.
- To deliver at least two sessions with local partnership schools.
- To deliver 1 x public artist talk.
- To engage National Trust staff and volunteers in the development and process of the project through talks, informal meetings and updates.

Key Themes

- Arts, science and self-improvement were valued by both the Greg family and the workers and are key to how we can tell our story today.
- The Greg family were widely travelled, for business and pleasure, with links throughout Europe and the growing Empire.
- The Gregs had a wide range of scientific interests, which included the study of astronomy, geology and minerology.

The artwork will be part of our Arts and Wonder season, which will also feature 'Changing Places', a touring exhibition of contemporary artists' video that links the industrial transformations occurring across South Asia with buildings of historic significance in Britain. Curated by FVU: Film and Video Umbrella.

2.2 Key Dates

Residency and Exhibition Dates

1 June – 31 July 2017	Residency period
w/c 5 June 2017	Induction to Quarry Bank and archive
w/c 17 July 2017	Commission proposal due to project team and signed off
August – September 2017	Artwork Fabrication (off site)
20-22 September 2017	Exhibition installation
23 September – 19 November 2017	Arts and Wonder season - Exhibition Period
20 November 2017	De-install and return shipping

It is not expected that the artist will be at Quarry Bank for the full duration of the residency, although they are welcome to spend as much time as they want to on site. The minimum time commitment during the residency should equal 10 days researching/developing new work, engaging with Quarry Bank staff, volunteers, visitors and delivering events as below.

Events Dates

22 September 2017	VIP Launch- Arts and Wonder, staff and volunteer pre-preview
23 September 2017	Public launch event for Arts and Wonder

2 x Sessions with community schools —1 in June/July during the residency and 1 in October/November 2017 during the Arts and Wonder season
1 x Artist talk/workshop - TBC

2.3 Art form and resources

The project team are open to all art forms, apart from outcomes using film or moving image. We are particularly keen to receive proposals from artists who are keen to develop engaging and accessible projects that are informed by and are sensitive to site.

The artwork will need to be robust enough to survive outside for 8 weeks with no maintenance and we are interested in the idea of it being interactive or something that can be activated in some way, but this is not a necessity of the application. The artist need not have prior experience working in a heritage or outdoor context as they will receive support in developing a proposal that reflects the sites conservation needs throughout the residency.

2.4 Community, Education and Participation

Engagement with National Trust staff and volunteers is vital to the success of the residency and commission and it is essential that the artist is open to discussing their ideas at all stages with Quarry Bank's staff and volunteer community and visitors. Three informal presentations to staff/volunteers will be scheduled during the residency.

- 1 x introductory meeting to staff and volunteers
- 1 x mid-point update to staff and volunteers
- 1 x exhibition launch pre-preview staff and volunteers tour or drop in session.

Volunteers can also be engaged by the artist in research, development and delivery of the project or accompanying activity.

3. BUDGET / TIMELINE / ACCOMODATION

Budget

Interview attendance

The National Trust will reimburse the travel costs of up to 4 artists to attend interviews at Quarry Bank on Friday 17 March 2017.

Artist Fee: £3000

The successful applicant will receive an artist fee of £3000 (paid in two instalments). This fee covers

- The residency period and delivery of the commissioned artwork.
- Engagement activity - as detailed in 2.4 Community, Education and Participation.

- Guidance and sign off of interactive interpretation to be delivered by National Trust staff and volunteers.

Travel Grant: £250

To reflect the travel that will be required to and from Quarry Bank a travel grant is available to cover costs of the artists travel during the residency/exhibition/events/install and de-install period. This will be paid in a single payment to the artist to manage. No further travel expenses will be covered beyond this grant.

Materials: £4500

There is a budget of £4500 to be managed by the artist for the residency and commission delivery. This includes any costs that may be related to delivery of the commission and events including but not limited to: materials, sub-contractor fees, equipment, labour, installation, de-installation, packing materials and artwork transportation to and from Quarry Bank. An outline of how budget might be spent should be included in the application.

All budget figures stated above are inclusive of any VAT. Further budget will be managed by the National Trust for marketing, interpretation and documentation.

Timeline

Wednesday 1 March 2017 11am	Deadline for applications
10 March 2017	Artists shortlisted for interview informed
17 March 2017	Artist Interviews at Quarry Bank
Monday 3 April 2017	Artists informed of interview outcome
1 June – 31 July 2017	Residency period
June 2017	Introductory meeting to staff, volunteers and induction
July 2017	Commission proposal due to project team and signed off
August – September 2017	Artwork Fabrication (off site)
22 September 2017	VIP Launch event, and staff and volunteer pre-preview for Arts and Wonder
23 September 2017	Public launch event for Arts and Wonder
23 September – 19 November 2017	Arts and Wonder season – Exhibitions period
20 November 2017	De-install and return shipping

Accommodation

Accommodation is provided on site and comprises a shared, 3 bedroom ground floor apartment within the converted former mill shop in Styal Village, part of the Quarry Bank Estate. The apartment has a private bedroom, shared bathroom, living area and small kitchen. It is suitable for a single artist only. The accommodation will be shared with two Long Term Volunteer Rangers.

4. PROJECT OVERVIEW

4.1 Artist Selection Process

UK based artists at any stage of their professional career (not currently studying) are eligible to apply for this residency. Up to four artists will be invited to Quarry Bank 17 March 2017 to discuss their application in more detail. The selection panel will be made up of the project team and guest selector Helen Wewiora, Director, Castlefield Gallery, Manchester.

To make an application please send the following as ***a single PDF file*** to kate.picker@nationaltrust.org.uk using the subject line **'Quarry Bank – Trust New Art Project'**.

- A current CV (maximum two sides of A4).
- An initial response to this brief (maximum one side of A4) describing your current artistic practice, the reasons for your interest in this residency and how you would use the time during the residency.
- 5 examples of your recent work. Images of artwork should be provided with artwork details (title, year, materials, dimensions). Any film or audio work/documentation should be submitted as a link to a showreel uploaded to Vimeo or Youtube. Audio work should be submitted as a link to Soundcloud. Total Video/audio showreels should be max. 5 minutes in length.
- An indicative budget of how the materials budget would be spent and a project timeline.

**N.B Our email attachment limit is 10mb so anything larger will not be received.*

The project team and guest selector will review and select artists for interview taking in to account

- The quality of your artistic practice and ideas.
- A considered understanding of the key themes and objectives outlined in this brief.
- Your interest in Quarry Bank and in making new work for this heritage site.
- Your willingness to share your ideas and engage with a wide range of people including visitors and volunteers.
- Realistic forecasting of budget and delivery timelines.
- A consideration of conservation requirements, and the limitations of infrastructure on site.

Free access is offered to individual artists who wish to undertake a site visit for research prior to submitting an application. Please email Kate Picker (as below) if you wish to take up this offer with details of when you wish to visit.

National Trust wants to ensure that all artists have the best opportunity to secure an opportunity with us. If you have any specific access requirements please let us know prior to making an application so that we can discuss possible support for participating in the interview process and residency. Please note that given the nature of Quarry Bank as a heritage site we cannot guarantee that we will be able to meet all requirements. Any information that you provide about your requirements will be handled separately from your application and in confidence.

If you have any questions about the residency please email Hannah Pierce as below.

Project Team Members

Kate Picker, Visitor Programmes and Formal Learning Manager, Quarry Bank, National Trust

kate.picker@nationaltrust.org.uk

Hannah Pierce, Contemporary Art Programme Manager, National Trust – Hannah.Pierce@nationaltrust.org.uk

Amanda Lunt, Visitor Experience Manager, Quarry Bank, National Trust

Supporting the project

Helen Wewiora, Director, Castlefield Gallery, Manchester

Sarah Witts, Head Gardener, Quarry Bank, National Trust

FURTHER INFORMATION

The National Trust is Europe's largest conservation charity and believes in the importance of nature, beauty and history in people's lives. We are dependent on the support of our members and the visitors we welcome each year to ensure we can continue caring for special places, forever, for everyone. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Trust New Art is the National Trust's programme of contemporary arts inspired by our places. National Trust has been working with living artists since the 1980s, and in 2009 created Trust New Art through a partnership with Arts Council England. The programme makes contemporary arts available in National Trust places; builds new and diverse audiences; and offers new opportunities to artists to work in new contexts. nationaltrust.org.uk/trustnewart

Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2015 and 2018, we plan to invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. Further details at www.artscouncil.org.uk

Helen Wewiora has been recently appointed to the role of Director at Castlefield Gallery & Agency, joining the organisation in January 2017.

Helen trained in Art History, graduating from UCL and then completing her MA at the Courtauld Institute whilst working for Tate, receiving an MA in Contemporary Art History in 2001. Following a period in London she returned to the North West, to her home city of Manchester, and has since worked in a range of capacities, including as Programme Manager for the Foundation for Art & Creative Technology (FACT), joining FACT at a pivotal moment as it launched its state of the art FACT centre in 2002. Helen was then appointed to the position of Media Curator at Cornerhouse (now HOME), delivering programmes across the gallery, cinema and public spaces, and commissioning new live and digital works from regional, national and internationally based artists for the public realm, in collaboration with the BBC Big Screen Network and national partners.

In 2010 Helen joined Arts Council England's North West team as Visual Arts Officer, going on to take up the role of Relationship Manager, Visual Arts, for Arts Council England, North. Whilst with the Arts Council she led on strategic programmes with partners including the Forestry Commission, the National Trust, and with Local Authorities and Higher Education, holding portfolios of funded organisations including Grizedale Arts, Liverpool Biennial, Whitworth Art Gallery, a-n, New Contemporaries, Bluecoat and many more. In more recent years her role with the Arts Council has focused on support for individual visual artists in the North West and nationally, including on matters of 'fair pay' for artists, practice and career development, studio and production provision.

In 2013 Helen, with Elizabeth Wewiora, established a curatorial and producing agency, wewioraprojects. wewioraprojects has delivered exhibition, commission and engagement programmes in ranging settings across the country, including in the public realm, museum, library and hospital contexts, working in collaboration with a broad range of artists, and partners based across the arts and cultural sector, health, wellbeing, social housing, and media sectors.

