

# Scotland + Venice

## Open Call for Proposals for Scotland + Venice 2019

### Background

The Scotland + Venice partners are beginning preparations for participation in the 58<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition, the Venice Biennale, in 2019. For the artist/s selected, Venice provides a significant opportunity for the development and presentation of new work. For the partners, Venice is an important project that helps to build Scotland's profile and reputation as an international centre for the visual arts.

### Objectives

We are seeking notes of interest from experienced curators and/or visual arts organisations who will produce an ambitious and imaginative project that will run during the Biennale (May to November 2019).

The selected project should generate:

- A unique opportunity for the selected artist/s to stage ambitious work, considering the challenges and opportunities of Venice and the wider context of the Biennale.
- High impact and visibility within the busy and expansive environment of the Biennale, achieving good attendance figures and high levels of audience engagement, that build on the experience of previous projects.
- Strong and positive critical/professional responses from within Scotland, and crucially, from the rest of the UK and internationally.

In addition, we would expect the following to be achieved:

- Effective project and budget management, meeting agreed Biennale / partner deadlines and ensuring effective communication and liaison with all those involved in delivery.
- A warm and informative welcome to all visitors, ensuring that access and other needs are addressed appropriately.
- A series of professional / career development opportunities that build on the experience gathered through previous projects and the partnerships established with Scotland's universities and colleges



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- High public press and media / digital profile within Scotland - and in the rest of the UK and internationally
- Public engagement opportunities within Scotland - during the period of the Biennale and beyond - including options to restage and / or tour elements of the project.
- Increased profile / presence for the visual arts community in Scotland, seizing the opportunity that Venice affords to increase professional interest in the artists and arts organisations based here.
- Strong, collegiate and co-ordinated liaison with the UK in Venice partners, including the organisers of the British Pavilion and Wales in Venice.

## Who can apply

We are seeking proposals from individuals and/or organisations that have the knowledge, ambition and expertise to produce an exceptional project in an intense and challenging environment. The partners are keen to build on the experiences of previous projects while being open to fresh perspectives and new approaches.

Applicants need to demonstrate a depth of knowledge and understanding of the visual arts sector in Scotland. Any applicant from outside Scotland must be able to demonstrate how they will work with key individuals and organisations based here to achieve the best outcomes for the project.

Galleries who represent artists commercially will need to demonstrate a clear and strong public benefit in their proposal and to demonstrate how they will address any conflicts of interest that might arise.

Partnerships and collaborative proposals are welcome.

## Budget

Creative Scotland has earmarked £350,000 towards this project and there is the possibility of some in-kind support from the partners. The core budget is expected to cover the main project costs including fees to the artist/s and curatorial partners (where applicable), venue and production costs, Biennale registration, and external press/ PR support.

The costs of invigilation should be factored into the budget. In previous years, to offset these costs, the project has secured funding from several universities/colleges to support the participation of their students in the learning/professional development programmes delivered through Scotland + Venice.



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There is an aspiration to grow the core budget through fundraising, but all proposals will need to demonstrate that they can be achieved within the available resources - or show how other funding will be secured by the applicant. A budget template showing anticipated items of expenditure and indicative figures from 2017 is available for information.

## Venue

Scotland + Venice is a collateral event of the Biennale and it does not have a fixed venue or base. For each edition of the project the partners work with established contacts in Venice to identify suitable options. It is increasingly important that we consider issues of access, visibility and affordability during the venue search.

## Application and selection process

Outline proposals should be completed using the templates provided and submitted to Amanda Catto, Head of Visual Arts at [amanda.catto@creativescotland.com](mailto:amanda.catto@creativescotland.com) by **5pm on Friday 4 May 2018**. Whilst we appreciate that artists may not be able to confirm their ability to participate in the project at this early stage, we would ask that applicants have a conversation with any artist/s that they wish to work with to ensure that they are comfortable with being put forward for the opportunity.

A shortlist of a maximum of 6 proposals will be established and we will invite the selected applicants to discuss these in more detail at an interview to be held in Edinburgh the week of 14 May 2018. Applicants may be required to participate in a second interview the week of 21 May 2018. The selection panel will be made up of representatives from the partnership as well as 2 external advisers.

## The partnership

Scotland + Venice is a partnership between Creative Scotland, British Council Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland. Representatives of these organisations sit on the Steering Group that oversees the successful delivery of the project. For information on past projects please visit [www.scotlandandvenice.com/](http://www.scotlandandvenice.com/)



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