

Open Call: Creative Team for Scotland's Presentation at the 62nd International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia (May–November 2028)

Scotland + Venice invites Expressions of Interest from curatorial teams working with an identified artist or artists to create and deliver an ambitious exhibition for the 62nd International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia (May–November 2028).

This is a two-stage application. The deadline for Stage One is 5pm on Monday 30 November 2026.

Scotland + Venice is a major international project at La Biennale di Venezia, promoting the best of contemporary art from Scotland on the world stage. It positions Scotland as a distinct, dynamic and diverse centre for creative excellence. The project fosters ambitious, innovative work in contemporary art strengthened through international dialogue, professional exchange, critical review and public engagement. The Scotland + Venice partners are Creative Scotland, British Council Scotland and National Galleries of Scotland.

Scotland + Venice aims to make a strong, distinctive and artist-centred contribution to La Biennale di Venezia. It provides a supportive and collaborative opportunity for the selected artist or artists to research, develop and present new work. In Venice, the project seeks high visibility and audience engagement, alongside a warm, inclusive and accessible visitor experience. Scotland + Venice offers professional development to early-career practitioners, supports a more diverse workforce, and creates opportunities for public engagement in Scotland during and after the Biennale, including restaging or touring elements of the work.

In 2028, Scotland + Venice celebrates 25 years of presenting art from Scotland at the world's most famous contemporary art festival. To mark this milestone, we are seeking bold, distinctive and contextually relevant exhibition proposals that showcase Scotland's strength in producing artists of exceptional global standing.

This high-profile commission calls for experienced curatorial and artistic teams with a proven track record of delivering complex projects to tight timelines within public funding frameworks. International experience is not essential, but you must demonstrate that you can manage a major, public-facing commission in a global context.

Proposals should demonstrate:

- A clear and compelling curatorial and artistic vision.

- Strong collaboration between curator(s) and artist(s), with confirmation of the artist(s)' interest in and availability for the project.
- Experience in commissioning, production, budget, and team management.
- An embedded commitment to sustainability, accessibility, equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI), and Fair Work principles.
- A realistic understanding of the scale and pressures of working in the city of Venice.

Who can apply?

- Applications must come from a team that includes at least one curator or producer and at least one artist.
- Applicants can be individuals, organisations, partnerships or collectives.
- At least one key team member (curator or artist) must be based in Scotland or demonstrate a sustained connection to the Scottish visual arts sector.
- Commercial galleries may apply in partnership, but must show public benefit and avoid conflicts of interest.
- Applicants must demonstrate deep knowledge and understanding of Scotland's visual arts sector. Those based outside Scotland must clearly outline how they will collaborate with Scotland-based individuals and organisations to ensure strong project outcomes.
- Staff of public bodies, including the Scotland + Venice Partner organisations are eligible to be part of teams applying. Applications will be assessed through the same process and against the same published criteria, with any conflicts of interest addressed as required.

Stage One: Expression of Interest

Please submit a curatorial and artistic proposal in no more than two pages, a summary budget, CVs for each collaborator, the artist's portfolio, the lead applicant's contact details and confirmation that you are available to meet the project timeline.

Your proposal should cover:

- Who you are.
- Who the artist(s) are.
- Your curatorial and artistic vision for the exhibition (please do not include images in this section, this will be covered by the artist's portfolio).

Please also include a short paragraph on each of the following:

- How you will address sustainability and environmental impact in the production, delivery and end cycle of the exhibition.

- How accessibility is embedded in the way you work, including with audiences in the city of Venice and at home in Scotland.
- How you will engage with our Professional Development Programme (our programme for early career visual arts practitioners based in Scotland who will support the day-to-day delivery of the exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia).
- Any potential partners for the onward UK tour of the exhibition.

Budget

You will be awarded £330,000. Please note that around £140,000 is committed to fixed costs, including but not limited to the venue, Biennale entrance fee and administration fees, municipal permits and marketing. The total commission budget is approximately £190,000.

Scotland + Venice will manage the budgets for communications, the Professional Development Programme and onward touring, as well as any costs incurred by the delivery team outside the creative team. For details of who forms the delivery team, please see the figure in the Governance and Delivery Structure section below.

At Stage One, we would like to see a summary budget that embeds the principles of Fair Work, sustainability and accessibility.

It should cover the following budget lines:

- Artist fees
- Production
- Curatorial and project management fees
- Travel and accommodation
- Insurance, installation, and technical support
- Environmental sustainability measures
- Accessibility

Example budget:

Expenditure	Amount	Fixed Cost	Income	Owner	Notes
Venice Biennale Event Registration Fees	25,000	YES	Grant	Creative Team (CT)	
Venice Venue Rent	95,000	YES	Grant	CT	This is an estimate
					The CT will pay electricity costs but the amount is variable
Venice Venue Running Costs	5000	YES	Grant	CT	
SV signage in Venice (Banner, Totem and associated taxes)	4,000	YES	Grant	CT	
Translation Services	1,000	NO	Grant	CT	required for biennale entrance and inclusion in biennale publication
Artist Fees	30,000	NO	Grant	CT	This is based on a single artist.
Curators Fee	15,000	NO	Grant	CT	
Production/ Materials	55,000	NO	Grant	CT	
Installation/Deinstallation (Venice)	20,000	NO	Grant	CT	
Local suppliers (Venice)	15,000	NO	Grant	CT	
Exhibition Signage	2,000	NO	Grant	CT	
Preview	10,000	NO	Grant	CT	
Transportation of work (Venice)	20,000	NO	Grant	CT	
Travel and Accommodation to/from Venice (Creative Team)	15,000	NO	Grant	CT	
Professional Development Programme Curatorial Training	1,000	NO	Grant	CT	
International Bank Transfer Fees	1,000	NO	Grant		
Sub Total	314,000				
Contingency 5%	15700				
Total	329,700				
Grant Income	330,000				
Surplus	300				
Other Expenditure managed by S+V					
Comms/PR	55000	YES	S+V Partnership (S+V)	S+V	Contracted by S+V. It is separate to the budget available to CT
					Not secured. The S+V Programme Manager will manage it, and it is separate from the budget available to CT
Professional Development Programme Delivery	70000	YES	HE/FE Partners	S+V	Not secured. The S+V Programme Manager will manage it, and it is separate from the budget available to CT
Tour	100000	NO	S+V Partnership (External)	S+V w/ CT	

Please tell us if you intend to fundraise. Scotland + Venice will support fundraising for the onward tour of the exhibition, and potentially for the commission itself. We will discuss this with you if your application is successful.

Venue

We are currently in discussions about the venue for 2028 and hope to have confirmation of the venue before interviews for Stage Two begin. Floorplans and technical specifications will be shared with the relevant parties when available.

Selection Panel

We will shortlist three to five applications for Stage Two. Shortlisted applicants will be notified by **week beginning 14 December 2026**.

For 2028, the Scotland + Venice selection panel will include:

- Emma Nicolson (Creative Scotland)
- Simon Groom (National Galleries of Scotland)
- Norah Campbell (British Council Scotland)
- Plus, two independent panellists with experience of working on an international platform.

Deadline for Stage One Applications: 5pm Monday 30 November 2026.

Stage Two

Shortlisted teams will receive further specifications and budget guidelines and will be asked to submit a full project application by **5 pm 1 February 2027**. Interviews will be held in the **week beginning 8 February 2027**.

Each shortlisted team will receive £3,000 to develop their ideas into a full application and prepare for interview. We expect the fee above to contribute towards costs such as artists' and freelancers' time, staff buyout for writing the application, and associated expenses such as travel. These examples are indicative only.

The successful team will be notified shortly afterwards, and we aim to confirm the project team by the end of February 2027.

How we will assess your proposal

Shortlisting decisions will be based on the information submitted at Stage One and considered consistently against the following criteria:

- Artistic and curatorial ambition – the strength, distinctiveness and relevance of the proposed artistic and curatorial vision.
- The artist/curator collaboration – the strength of the proposed team and evidence of a clear and meaningful collaborative approach.
- Experience and ability to deliver – evidence that the team has the skills and experience to develop and deliver an ambitious, complex and public-facing project within the available budget and timeframe.
- International context and potential – the potential for the proposal to represent the ambition and quality of contemporary visual arts in Scotland within the international context of La Biennale di Venezia.
- Equality, diversity, inclusion and accessibility – how these considerations are embedded within the proposed approach.
- Environmental sustainability and Fair Work – evidence that these principles will inform the development and delivery of the project.

How will you work with us

Scotland + Venice is delivered by a consortium of public partners. The selected team will report to the Scotland + Venice Partnership Board and work closely with Creative Scotland's Head of Visual Arts, who provides specialist and strategic visual arts leadership, and the Scotland + Venice Programme Manager, who manages the programme and its delivery. Together, they will offer specialist and practical support throughout the development and delivery of the commission.

Scotland + Venice aims to:

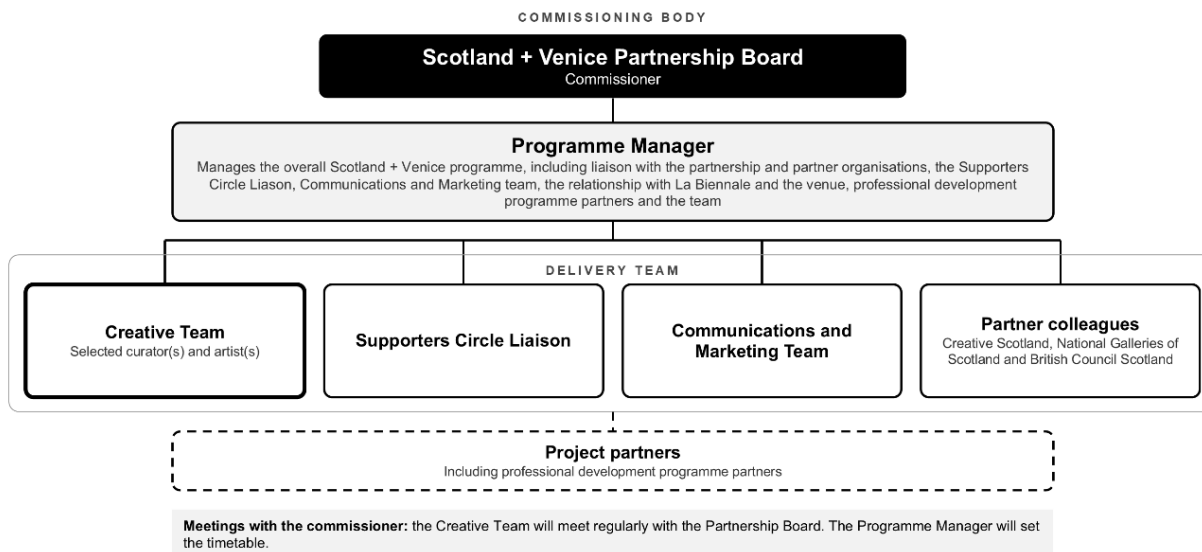
- Present high-quality, contextually relevant contemporary work from Scotland
- Create international opportunities and visibility for artists, curators and producers
- Present a unique opportunity for the selected artist/s to stage ambitious work on the international stage
- Embed sustainability, equality, diversity, and inclusion at every stage
- Develop new public engagement and legacy pathways (e.g., exhibition return or re-presentation in Scotland)
- Deliver a strong Professional Development Programme for early-career pathways
- Strengthen long-term infrastructure for international cultural collaboration

The objectives of Scotland + Venice are to:

- Make a strong, distinctive, artist-centred contribution to La Biennale
- Create a uniquely supportive and collaborative opportunity for the selected artist(s) to research, develop and present new work
- Actively address issues of diversity, access and inclusion
- Achieve high visibility and audience engagement in Venice's busy environment
- Demonstrate a commitment to ethical, sustainable and environmentally responsible practices
- Offer professional development opportunities to early-career practitioners, supporting workforce diversification
- Ensure a warm, inclusive and accessible visitor experience
- Show robust project and budget management, with clear roles and communication mechanisms
- Create opportunities for public engagement in Scotland during and after the Biennale, including restaging or touring elements
- Raise the profile of Scotland's visual arts community, enhancing professional interest internationally

Governance and Delivery Structure

Biennale Arte 2028



The selected team will be responsible for delivering the exhibition and its associated public events and programme, and for managing the project budget.

Indicative Timeline (subject to change)

- Stage One deadline: 5pm, Monday 30 November 2026
- Stage Two shortlist notification week beginning 14 December 2026
- January 2027: Shortlisted teams develop their proposals for Stage Two, supported by a £3,000 fee towards the cost of preparing their application.
- Stage Two proposal submission 5pm Monday 1 February 2027
- Stage Two interviews week beginning 8 February 2027
- Notification of successful applicant shortly after interview.
- Announcement of creative team: week beginning 22 February 2027
- Artistic development: March–July 2027
- Production of exhibition: July–December 2027
- Professional Development Programme training and recruitment: September–November 2027
- Submission of final exhibition layout and technical specifications to La Biennale di Venezia: November 2027
- Campaign launch: February 2028
- Opening of the 62nd International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia: May 2028
- Exhibition run: May–November 2028
- Return exhibition: from early 2029



- Onward tour: 2029–2030

How to apply

Deadline for Stage One Applications: **5pm Monday 30 November 2026.**

Please submit your application as a single PDF to gayle.meikle@scotlandandvenice.com, including:

1. A two-page proposal
2. A summary budget
3. A CV for each collaborator
4. The artist's portfolio
5. The lead applicant's contact details
6. Confirmation that you are available to meet the project timeline

Please review our website, scotlandandvenice.com, where you will find a link to the 2024 review, our sustainability report and information about previous editions.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please email gayle.meikle@scotlandandvenice.com by 23 November 2026.