

IN THE NOW AND THE FAR

North East Open Call 2024

MIDDLESBROUGH ART WEEK

From 26th September - 5th October 2024 the North East's largest annual contemporary art festival returns. Middlesbrough Art Week (MAW) continues to bring exciting contemporary art to Middlesbrough. For MAW24 we are seeking artist proposals for the North East Open Call (NEOC). We are sharing our thinking behind the wider MAW 2024 programme below, but as artists ourselves, we understand that arts practices are wide-ranging and do not always fit neatly into boxes. In the spirit of this, we do not expect proposals to be a direct response to ideas or themes. **You do not need to crowbar your practice into this open call.** There is no specific medium/ media criterion, artists make work, we want to show it!

MAW are seeking applications for existing work by artists and creatives either based in the North East or who have a connection to the area for an exhibition that forms part of MAW24. The selected artists will show their work in a group exhibition or in appropriate interventions across Middlesbrough. The selection will be made by Penny Payne, NEOC Curator & NEOC Alumni Artist, curators from MAW, and additional selectors tbc. (Past selectors have included Helen Welford, Exhibition and Collection Curator (MIMA), Chris Clarke, Senior Curator (The Glucksman Museum, Ireland), Robin Klassnik, Director, (Matt's Gallery, London))

IN THE NOW AND THE FAR

The title for this year's festival, IN THE NOW AND THE FAR, seeks to negotiate the overlap and differences between cultural production and political action. Who has the right to take action? What does art & social practice look like? When is the moment and who is in the room? We are thinking about the attitudes, frameworks and timescales that inform the way that we make and share work, and in turn, how this helps us reimagine the communities we live in. We are also considering how uneven distribution (of power, time, resource, capacity) has shaped social movements of the past, and how this in turn might act as the imaginative scaffold for the future. We have chosen the title 'IN THE NOW AND THE FAR' to explore what unfolds as we gather energy to take action, a tension that exists between the hope required to imagine different futures, and the urgent demands of social justice to address past and present inequity. At its heart will be programmes to support artistic practice in the North East and to join up conversations and actions towards sustaining these voices long-term. In a year of political elections near and far, we will also seek to amplify voices that have been underrepresented historically, to expand our work with and by communities across the wider North East region, to reflect on and promote the creative spirit needed to reconfigure our relationships in the now and for the future so we can better stay (and play) with the trouble.

Middlesbrough Art Week was born in 2017 as an artist-led festival powered by The Auxiliary Project Space, a small growing team of artists, curators and coordinators, and fuelled by wide reaching partnerships. MAW supports artist ecologies in the North East, connecting artistic practice and ideas with like-minded peers nationally and internationally, and is committed to practice and not just preach principles of fair work and social justice.

Application Process

Part 1. Simply apply to the email address below with a link to a specific work on your website, Instagram or any online portal or file transfer service that shows your work. If linking to social media ie instagram, please make sure we know which work you are pointing us to. You are also welcome to submit a short text (max 200 words) in the email body, explaining your work. As ever, there are exceptions: for large scale works and extensive installations please contact us prior to applying. If you are submitting work for a specific intervention, or performative work etc, additional contextual information can also be submitted in the first instance. If you would like to apply with an alternative format then please contact us. Applications can be made via video & audio.

Part 2. From the initial open call, 20 artists will be invited to apply with a more detailed proposal. They will be offered a fee of £75 to cover some of the costs involved.

What we offer selected artists

- Exhibition: A group exhibition that forms part of MAW's core programme
- Artist Fee: £500
- Professional Development: Virtual studio visit with selection partners to be announced. In previous years these have included Helen Welford, Exhibition and Collection Curator at MIMA, Chris Clarke, Senior Curator at The Glucksman Museum, Ireland, Robin Klassnik, Director, Matt's Gallery, London and the MAW curatorial team.

Who's involved in selecting the artists? Selectors include curators and directors of partner organisations, and artists who were previously selected for the NEOC. Middlesbrough Art Week selectors are Liam Slevin, MAW festival Director and co-founder of The Auxiliary Project Space, Middlesbrough, Kypros Kyprianou, MAW curator and artist, and Penny Payne, previous NEOC exhibiting artist and NEOC curator

What happens if you aren't selected for the North East Open Call?

Whilst we can only fund a small amount of artists with this particular opportunity, we are always keen to hear from artists for potential future partnerships. Please indicate if you are also happy for us to keep your contact details on file for future opportunities from Middlesbrough Art Week and The Auxiliary Project Space. Our aim is to listen to artists and seek out potential opportunities for showcasing existing work or providing new opportunities, so do let us know if you're happy for us to contact you in the future.

All applicants will receive feedback on their submission.

How to apply

Email projectmanager@theauxiliary.co.uk with a link to your work. Please use the subject header: NE Open Call 2024

Timeline for North East Open Call

- 1st March: Open for applications
- 31st March: First Round Open Call Closes
- 15th April: Shortlisted artist invited to apply with full application
- 7th May: Deadline for invited full proposals
- 20th May: Finalists announced
- June Feedback period
- July/August: Professional Development: Virtual studio visits
- 26th September - 5th October 2024 Exhibition dates.