

PIVOT

Programme information for applicants

PIVOT: an 18 month development programme for mid-career artists living and working in the North West of England, developed and delivered by Bluecoat and Castlefield Gallery

Open to contemporary visual artists living and working in the North West of England, Bluecoat and Castlefield Gallery welcome applications from artists working across mediums in the visual arts including, but not limited to: drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture, installation, artists film and film & video, sound, live art, public art, socially engaged practices, design, craft.

The North West of England is one of nine official regions of England and consists of the five counties Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside.

Application deadline: 12 noon, Wednesday 30 September 2020

Interviews: Thursday 8 and 9 October 2020

Introduction to PIVOT

Applicants will have a professional practice and be able to demonstrate a strong track record in the field of contemporary visual art.

PIVOT will award five artists with a £5000 cash* bursary in two instalments over the 18month period.

PIVOT is built around a core development programme that includes:

- 1-2-1s with the PIVOT team at Bluecoat and Castlefield Gallery
- Group CRIT and CPD sessions
- Artist coaching
- Specialist communications support

PIVOT will also support artists with bespoke strands of activity, tailored to each participating individual's needs, including specialist mentoring.

Initially the programme will take place by video conferencing, however over the 18 month period we will regularly review this.

PIVOT is delivered in partnership by Bluecoat and Castlefield Gallery, developed to support artists further on in their career and in recognition that artists benefit from practice and career development across all their career stages. Bluecoat and Castlefield Gallery share the vision that the North West of England is a place where artists are able to live and work whilst experiencing national and international success.

***NB.** we will assume the cash bursary will support successful applicants with the cost of living so as to enable them to fully engage with the PIVOT programme. If you have personal circumstances that mean receiving a cash bursary would be problematic, we can organise purchases or vouchers to support travel, subsistence, arts materials, etc. for the equivalent amount of the bursary and on the artist's behalf.

PIVOT aims

- Enable contemporary visual artists living and working in the North West of England, at a mid-career stage, to access timely and relevant practice and career development.
- Grow relationships and connections for contemporary visual artists living and working in the North West of England, with those operating outside of the region, to enhance their knowledge, skills and experience and their overall long-term resilience and sustainability.
- Support the production of ambitious contemporary visual art in the North West of England, where applicable enabling artists to explore and resolve artistic questions or challenges with their work.
- Increase exhibition, commission and other career development opportunities for contemporary visual artists living and working in the North West of England.
- Enhance exposure and the profile of contemporary visual artists living and working in the North West of England, nationally and internationally.
- Develop new audiences for the work of contemporary visual artists living and working in the North West of England.
- Contribute to the North West of England being a place where a diversity of contemporary visual artists can live and work whilst experiencing national and international success.

Who is PIVOT for?

PIVOT: an 18 month development programme for mid-career artists living and working in the North West of England. Applicants will have a professional practice and be able to demonstrate a strong track record in the field of contemporary visual art. North West England is one of nine official regions of England and consists of the five counties Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside.

- Mid-career: whilst there is no fixed definition of mid-career, applicants must be able to demonstrate a track record of working as a professional contemporary visual artist** for at least 5 years, and have a body of work that evidences a mature practice.
- You will likely have reached a key moment where you might be looking to explore new directions with your practice, perhaps looking for contact with specialists outside your field?
- You might feel you have exhausted opportunities locally accessible to you and are looking to broaden your experiences, contacts, or increase your exposure including growing exhibition and commission opportunities outside of the North West of England without having to permanently relocate.
- We are particularly interested to hear from artists with specific concerns, goals or questions to resolve within their work.
- Artists applying will be familiar with the contemporary visual arts, continuing or re-establishing momentum eg. your career may not have been continuous, you might have had a career break and need to re-establish momentum. You may have commenced your artistic career later in life.
- You do not need to have formal qualifications to apply, you might be self-taught for example.

****NB.** by contemporary visual artists we mean those with a contemporary practice working across mediums in the visual arts including, but not limited to: drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture, installation, artists film and film & video, sound, live art, public art, socially engaged practices, design, craft.

Access, Equality and Diversity

Bluecoat and Castlefield Gallery are committed to the promotion of equal opportunities in all aspects of our work, including management, employment practices with both paid workers and volunteers, access to services and service provision. We fully support the principles of equality and diversity. We recognise that groups and individuals in society are disadvantaged due to discrimination directed against them. We aim to remove any barriers, bias or discrimination that prevents individuals or groups from realising their potential and to develop organisational cultures that positively value diversity. Our venues are fully wheelchair accessible and assistance dogs are welcome on both sites.

We are aware that not everyone has internet access and access to IT equipment at home, and will take steps to make sure that this is not a barrier to anyone's participation.

If you have access needs that could be a barrier to applying or taking part in this programme, please contact pivot@thebluecoat.org.uk. We will endeavour to get back to you within 48 hours or sooner.

Exclusions and what we expect

- We cannot consider applications from those currently engaged in full-time education or who will commence a full-time education course during the 18 month PIVOT programme which will commence in November 2020.
- Successful candidates will be expected to sign an agreement committing to participate in the programme for the full 18 months, from November 2020 – May 2022, on a part time basis.
- Candidates will be expected to take part in a minimum of 80% of the core development programme and communicate in a timely way with the PIVOT Coordinator.
- Any incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline of 12 noon on Friday 2 October 2020 will be ineligible.

Application Process

- See application form [here](#)
- Applicants demonstrating most strongly in their applications how participating in PIVOT will be valuable to their artistic and professional development, taking into account the aims of the programme, will have the greatest likelihood of success.
- We are aware that not everyone has internet access and access to IT equipment at home, and will take steps to make sure that this is not a barrier to anyone's participation.
- If you have access needs that could be a barrier to applying or taking part in this programme, please contact pivot@thebluecoat.org.uk We will endeavour to get back to you within 48 hours or sooner.
- You can ask about the programme by email, phone and Zoom or equivalent across September. If you have any questions, please contact pivot@thebluecoat.org.uk We will endeavour to get back to you within 48 hours or sooner.

Key Dates

- **Deadline for applications:** 12 noon, Wednesday 30 September 2020
- **Interviews:** 8 and 9 October 2020
- **Induction session:** this will either be on 2 or 3 November 2020
- **Initial 1-2-1s:** these will be on either 12, 13 or 17 November 2020
- **Initial coaching sessions will be in** December 2020

What is the selection process?

- The selection and interview panel will be made up of two artist guest selectors, Simeon Barclay and Chara Lewis, Bluecoat and Castlefield Gallery curatorial teams, and a representative of the Brian Mercer Charitable Trust.
- Selection will be made based on the strength of applications and interviews, and in the context of the programme aims and applicant criteria.

- The decision to award places on the programme or not, is at the discretion of the panel. Outcomes of the decision-making process will be final and will be based on a scoring and balancing process.
- Unfortunately, we cannot provide feedback on unsuccessful applications from the long list but we can provide feedback to those who are selected to interview stage.

Applications must be submitted by 12 noon, Wednesday 30 October 2020.

About Bluecoat

Bluecoat, Liverpool's centre for the contemporary arts, has a rich artistic heritage having been founded by artists in the turn of last century. We offer a year-round programme of exhibitions and events. As custodians of a historic building we are home to around thirty artists, collectives, arts organisations and creatives, as well as print and dance studios.

Our ambition is to become an artists' hub for the North and wider UK, increasing the visibility of and opportunities for the region's artists and internationally recognised for our residency and exchange programmes. Of equal importance is our role in connecting artist practices to audiences.

Bluecoat has supported and championed UK artists across the decades including Sonia Boyce, Keith Piper, John Akomfrah, Jeremy Deller, Mark Lecky, Larissa Sansour, Grace Ndiritu, Elaine Mitchener and Sean Edwards, as well as with leading artists from the North Jade Montserrat, Frances Disley and Emily Speed.

Within our wider artistic community we have Blue Room - Bluecoat's inclusive arts programme. Bluecoat established Blue Room over ten years ago to provide weekly inclusive opportunities for neurodiverse adults to access high quality arts experiences. Supported by artist facilitators, this ongoing project has led to opportunities for Blue Room artists to collaborate with others and to share their work both nationally and internationally. This includes UK and international solo exhibitions for members Joshua Henderson and Veronica Watson.

Our commitment to artist development is enduring and inclusive.

Bluecoat is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and a Liverpool City Council partner.

<http://www.thebluecoat.org.uk>

About Castlefield Gallery

Est. 1984, at Castlefield Gallery we make new art possible. We are dedicated to the advancement of contemporary visual art. Set up by artists, we are artist-facing. We work with artists and creatives in Greater Manchester and beyond, at all career stages. We support them to develop their practice and careers, and to find ways not just to make art, but to make a living. We do this through: our gallery, and its free exhibitions and events that are open to all; through tailored career and practice

development support; through our 200-strong artist Associates scheme; through the provision of low-cost studio and project space; through commissions and co-commissions; and through collaboration with universities, including annual graduate programmes that provide mentoring, coaching and more. For 35 years, we have supported young and older artists, new graduates right through to established artists, connecting them to each other, and to our international network of curators, arts organisations, artists and collectors. Castlefield Gallery's international work is focused on exchange between artists in the North West of England, and the rest of the world. We have an established track record in public art commissioning and public realm animation and activation.

We are a female led organisation and a registered charity.

Castlefield Gallery is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and Manchester City Council Cultural Partner. Our Artist Patron is the celebrated Ryan Gander, OBE.

www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk

PIVOT is supported by: Brian Mercer Trust, The Fenton Arts Trust, The Granada Foundation, Estate of Fanchon Fröhlich, Castlefield Gallery Commissioning Patrons.



Bluecoat and Castlefield Gallery funders:



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