

# OPEN EYE GALLERY



## Freelance Photographer in Residence - Collaborative Photography in Prison

### Call out for expressions of interest

#### About the project

Following on from a pilot programme, and successful funding from Arts Council England Project Grants, Open Eye Gallery is working in partnership with NOVUS to deliver a collaborative photography project with learners and their families at HMP Thorn Cross in Cheshire. The project will combine on-site sessions at HMP Thorn Cross, and offsite sessions at Open Eye Gallery.

#### About Novus - [www.novus.ac.uk](http://www.novus.ac.uk)

Novus is part of the LTE Group, the first integrated education and skills group and largest not for profit social enterprise of its kind. LTE Group exists to improve lives and drive economic success and comprises:

- NOVUS - The leading education provider in the criminal justice sector
- MOL - A leading provider of professional corporate development
- TOTAL PEOPLE - A leading provider of apprenticeship training
- THE MANCHESTER COLLEGE - The largest further education college in the UK

Novus is the market leader in the provision of skills, employability and learning support to offenders and other 'hard to reach' individuals. With over 23 years of experience of delivering in a custodial setting, they currently deliver from 53 prisons, 4 Young Offender Institutions and a Secure Training Centre.

NOVUS' principal areas of activity are as follows:

- Skills, employability and education services in the adult prison estate
- Education Services to Young People in Custody
- Resettlement services
- Vocational training workshops
- National Employment Brokerage Service

### **About Open Eye Gallery - [www.openeye.org.uk](http://www.openeye.org.uk)**

We believe photography is for everyone and can be meaningful, informing our present and inspiring positive futures. Open Eye Gallery works with people to explore photography's unique ability to connect, to tell stories, to inquire, to reflect on humanity's past and present, and to celebrate its diversity and creativity.

Right now, we're working towards becoming a more useful gallery for all, putting socially engaged photography practice at the heart of what we do. We believe passionately in delivering projects, which take a co-authored approach to practice, where artists and those they collaborate with share agency in the work produced. We welcome working applications, which demonstrate collaborative methods of working with staff, learners from the Criminal Justice Setting and their family members to explore their own personal narrative and context through photography.

### **About HMP Thorn Cross**

HMP Thorn Cross is a category D prison based in Warrington, Cheshire. The open prison holds over 400 men. At Thorn Cross there are options to study or take workshops and training courses in a range of subjects, including construction trades, hospitality, catering, Art, Family Learning, ICT, Maths and English.

### **Aims and objectives of the project**

NOVUS believes creative expression can build confidence and enhance lives, as well as developing skills related to employment. Prisons can be quite insular and with restrictions on access to equipment and modern technology - including the internet and social media, - it can be very challenging to prepare our learners for the real world.

Not only do NOVUS recognise the use of photography for creativity and self expression, we also recognise the advantages of learning new technical skills for an image focused world. The opportunity will also develop the learners transferable skills, including responding to a brief, and time management.

The opportunity to question and work alongside an operating professional in any field gives learners a fresh insight into the real working world but also support in-staff to refresh their own standard skills and techniques. We see this as a development opportunity for staff, which in turn may have positive impact on future learners.

NOVUS and Open Eye Gallery understand the benefits of collaborating with high quality critically engaged photographic artists, and will continue to develop arts as a tool for rehabilitation.

Through this project we aim to:

- To build socially engaged processes of creative practice within the HMP setting, positively fostering creative learning for all involved
- Explore to what extent the accessibility of photography can transcend barriers to creativity
- Create an opportunity for two-way learning between cultural organisations and external freelance artists with in-house staff within HMP settings. Can this process inspire new approaches to existing curriculum?
- Explore how public showcases of work produced can change wider public perceptions, e.g. reducing stigma of those in and affected by the criminal justice sector.
- Connect to family members of learners, opening up opportunities for future family focused groups at Open Eye Gallery.
- Creatively experiment and collaborate with photographers and staff to produce work, which is meaningful to them.

## PHOTOGRAPHER'S BRIEF

The Photographer will be expected to:

- Deliver 8 half-day photography based sessions with learners within the HMP setting.
- Deliver 4 half-day photography based sessions with family members at Open Eye Gallery.
- Deliver 2 'show and tell' family days with learners and family members in the HMP setting.
- To attend up to 2 internal review and reflection meetings (to be negotiated between the community and Social Practice Programme Producer for dates).
- Attend up to 2 wider artist sharing labs during the projects duration to share feedback and peer review of other current projects being delivered within the Paul Hamlyn funded programmes.
- Attend initial site visit and training sessions for working within a HMP setting if appropriate.
- To work with the Open Eye Gallery's Social Practice Programme Producer, HMP and Novus delivery team and project participants to discuss the selection and preparation of their work for a physical and digital exhibition if participants wish to showcase work produced (please note this may be within the HMP setting and / or gallery setting).
- Contribute to the monitoring data and evaluation reporting
- Contribute 1 written reflective blogs about the project, for Open Eye Gallery's website and associated Socially engaged photography network (SEPN)

Open Eye Gallery and NOVUS are keen to work with the best photographer/s interested in exploring the power of photography to develop meaningful personal narratives. We recognise that photographers will have established different processes for engaging with different participants/ collaborators, which may range from the co-authoring of the projects (including creating work in dialogue with those participants from start to finish) and / or supporting participants in creating photographic stories themselves and supporting the editing process – or a mixture of all of these.

## BUDGET

Artist fee based on x18 sessions @ £200 (x14 prep and delivery, x4 to include review meetings, showcase and evaluation) - **£3600**

Materials for workshops and delivery - **£500**

Artist travel - **£520**

\*There is an additional budget for participant access costs, marketing and exhibition production costs, which will be discussed and finalised with the successful candidate.

## SUBMISSION DETAILS AND SCHEDULE

Deadline for submission of interest: **Sunday 14 March, Midnight**

- Please submit up to 2 A4 sides describing why you are interested in the role, what skills you can bring to the project and the potential lines of enquiries / approaches to delivering you would take when working with a) the HMP based learners and b) the family groups. Please note we envisage family groups to initially include work with Children as well as partners/ parents but this may shift as the project develops and based on the focus from the family members involved.
- Please consider Open Eye Gallery's approach to co-authoring photography as a model of practice and NOVUS's focus on supporting their learners to increase self-expression, and find new modes of creativity through this project.
- A current CV including a website link if you have one.
- Up to 8 images / video links exemplifying your work which you feel is most relevant to this

project.

- Please complete the anonymous Equal Opportunities Form via the Google Form, do not attach this to your application:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1gA9Q2s8NSfhI3KyyrLowlu2SKOj0ysDNbyxvqtSYHms/edit>

Shortlisted candidates will be notified no later than Friday 19 March

**Interviews will take place on Wednesday 24 March via Zoom - please let us know if you have any access requirements**

Project start date: April 2021

Evaluation and reporting – Autumn / Winter 2021

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION VIA EMAIL TO: [jobs@openeye.org.uk](mailto:jobs@openeye.org.uk)**

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the development and championing of socially engaged photography practice, we can provide feedback on applications if unsuccessful via email, if requested.

**This project has been supported by**



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

