



Exchange Residency

Artist Brief

CELEBRATING
Hidden
MIDDLESBROUGH

Celebrating Hidden Middlesbrough is a programme of artist residencies, commissions and opportunities for communities to engage with creative and cultural activity on the High Street delivered by Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership.

We will uncover hidden histories of Middlesbrough by bringing archive collections to the public, researching and exploring the past through art and creativity, giving communities a place to connect and giving artists opportunities to present stories in new ways.

It draws inspiration from Middlesbrough's High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) to explore the wider heritage stories of the town and people. It will illuminate how the buildings, industries, people and communities have influenced the broader culture of the town and might offer us alternative ways to think about and use the High Street in the 21st Century.



In partnership with
Historic England



PLATFORM-A

Exchange Residency

We are inviting artist applications to a year-long residency scheme exploring the cultural life of a historic centre of the town - Exchange Square. This area was the hub of commercial activity during the town's rise to prominence and remained an important exchange point, either from commerce or transportation with both the railway station and the bus stations located in this district, through until the 1980s. (See Appendix for further information on Exchange Square)

Tees Valley Arts and Navigator North as part of Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership are seeking an artist who will be "resident" to the square over a 12-month period, exploring the hidden heritage narratives of this place and the communities who continue to use it.

This opportunity is open to artists working across any discipline including (but not limited to) the visual arts, crafts, creative writing, performing arts and dance. The successful application will bring an interest in understanding how the arts can be used to research and celebrate a region's heritage. We are not expecting the artist to be physically based within the Heritage Action Zone but rather would look at staged interventions over the course of the year structured around engaging with residents of the area, gathering stories and developing

work in response to their research. There is also the opportunity for the artist to become involved in the capital development of Exchange Square through the HSHAZ programme.

The artist will work alongside a researcher in residence who will undertake further historical research and we envisage the opportunity for collaboration between the different approaches and outcomes that these roles will offer. There are a number of venues situated within and around Exchange Square which can offer potential exhibition outcomes. These include The Masham hosted by Navigator North and the newly imagined Tunnel Gallery - an online and physical space based around Middlesbrough Railway Station.

We welcome applications from artists who are resident within the Tees Valley as well as those who live further afield. Support will be offered in finding accommodation and space within the town if required although additional funding is not at this stage available (please see details of fee and expenses below). We expect that a blend of remote and on location activities will be necessary in response to the requirements of the artist, communities and the evolving Covid situation.



This residency will

- Offer an artist an opportunity to research and respond to the hidden heritage narrative that exists within the town.
- Connect with communities to uncover and celebrate heritage stories in a meaningful way.
- Become part of a growing archive of responses to the heritage of Middlesbrough, made by artists and the wider community
- Develop exhibition or public realm outcomes in association with Tees Valley Arts and Navigator North. (as programme leads)
- Work with the Researcher in Residence to consider other avenues for dissemination of research including, but not limited to, academic routes.
- Engage with the relevant steering panels to help envisage the future of the Heritage Action Zone and ensure that its communities' stories are reflected (supported by Tees Valley Arts and Navigator North)
- Agree outcomes with programme leads in advance.





Engagement and audiences

Archival and community connections will form the basis of the research and development aspect of each commission with the aim of engaging with the community, its heritage and collections.

The artist residency will offer opportunities for diverse audiences to engage with and inform the work. Audiences will include visitors to Middlesbrough Town Centre, High Street communities and businesses, artists, and the creative community. Online interaction will take place through Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership as well as partner websites, newsletters and social media. The residency will encourage engagement through active participation, dialogue or creation of a response.

Further details

Fee -£11,000 based on 44 days @ £250/day

Timescale – The residency should take place between August 2021 and August 2022. We are open to artists suggesting within their proposal how they might allocate the number of days during this time.

Artform – Visual, Craft, Creative Writing, Performing Arts, Dance.

Additional support – Studio space can be provided in Middlesbrough town centre if appropriate, with Navigator North.

To apply

Please outline in no more than 2 sides of A4 or a short 5 minute max. video/audio clip the following

- Specific starting point for your research.
- How this residency will support your practice.
- How you propose to allocate the days during the residency period.
- Where you will base your research and whether you require a particular location or type of space to be available.
- What engagement opportunities can you, your research and the work itself offer to communities and the public.
- Relevant previous experience and related work.

Send this to us along with

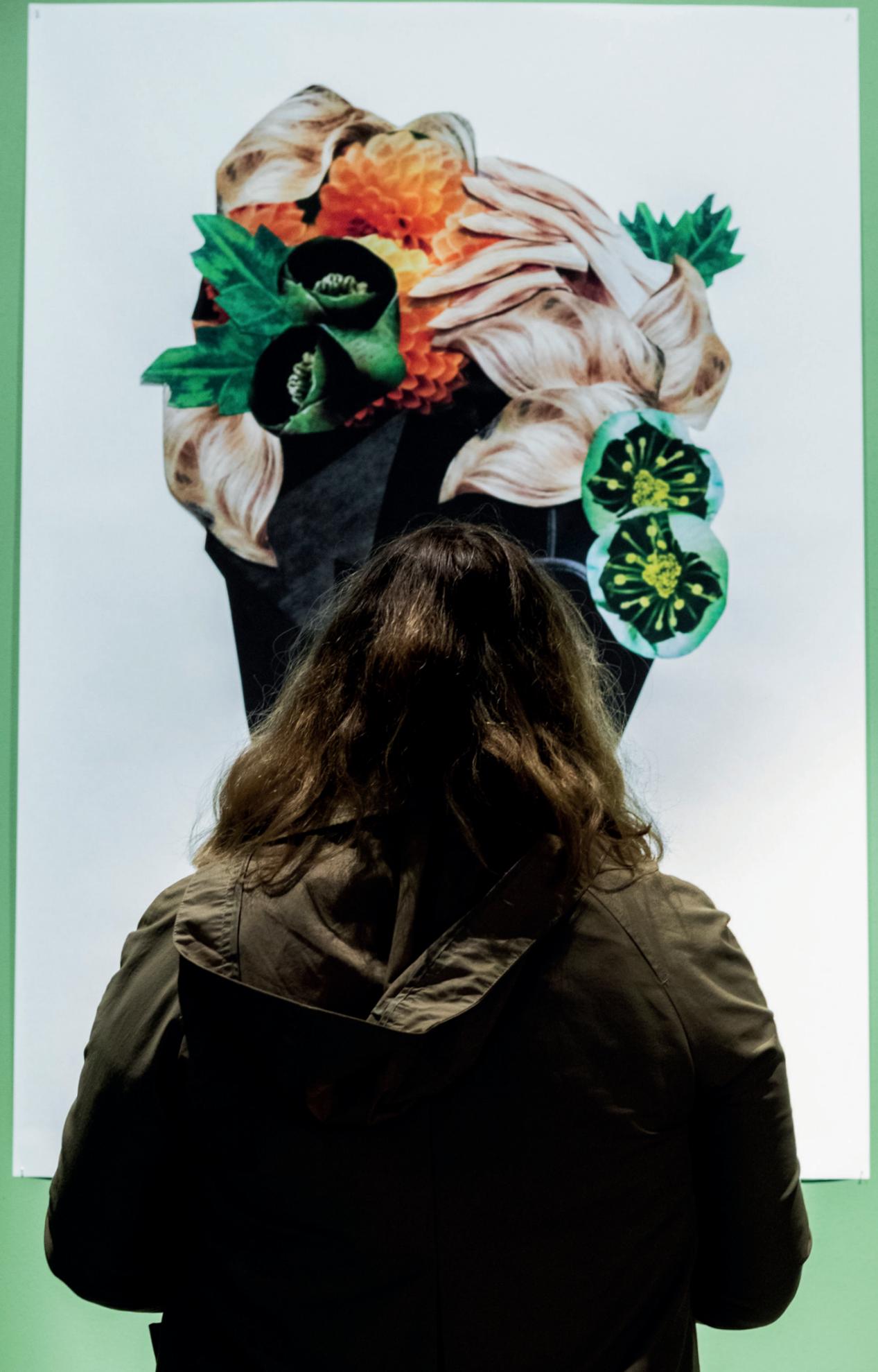
- CV (no more than 2 sides A4)
- Examples of previous work (max of 5 jpeg images no larger than 1MB, 1 PDF if writing based, MP4 film if performance/dance based)
- Access statement if required.

The deadline for sending applications to info@teesvalleyarts.org.uk is 5pm Friday 30th July 2021.

Shortlisted candidates will be notified by Wednesday 4th August and invited to develop a more detailed proposal which they will be asked to present to a selection panel. The panel will include the programme leads and representatives from outside the arts and heritage sector.

This will take place on either Wednesday 11th or Thursday 12th August and can take place in person or virtually.

A fee of £200 will be paid to the shortlisted candidates for this.



Celebrating Hidden Middlesbrough

Key architectural and cultural locations will underpin the programme themes, reinterpreting the vision behind Middlesbrough Winter Garden – an initiative to bring social activity, access to arts and culture, health and wellbeing to the people of Middlesbrough.

Historically significant buildings, heritage archives and public collections will form the basis of creative research projects where artists, the public and local communities will gain new perspectives on the role heritage and culture can play in our lives today.

The collections of the Teesside Archives, The Dorman Museum and MIMA will offer potential source material and inspiration for development of the work and the heritage narratives.

The programme is currently hosted by Navigator North within The Masham on Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough. The space is open Thurs, Fri and Sat 10am-4pm and further information is available about Celebrating Hidden Middlesbrough as well as an exhibition from the pilot project, The Tunnel Gallery.

www.navigatornorth.com/celebrating-hidden-middlesbrough

Exchange Square

Jordison's Print Works was established by one of the founding entrepreneurs and philanthropists of Middlesbrough, John Jordison who was the first Postmaster of the town in the 1830s and established Middlesbrough's first newspaper which eventually became the modern day Evening Gazette. Jordison's was especially noted for its production of the British Rail "destination" posters, examples of which are held in museums nationally.



This heritage narrative, together with the way that print was used as a means of dissemination within the Winter Garden itself will provide the inspiration for a year-long residency focussed on researching, relating, and exchanging the histories of the town that matter to the communities living and working within the HAZ.

More recently the Square has been an important centre for the town's nightlife with several well-established bars and nightclubs located within the grand former civic buildings.

High Street Heritage Action Zones (HS HAZ) and Cultural Programme (HS HAZ CP)

Historic England is working with local people and partners across 69 High Streets in England, to help breathe new life into high streets that are rich in heritage. The multi-million pound High Street Heritage Action Zones scheme will be work across each of the selected High Streets, working with key partners to find new ways to champion and revive historic high streets.

This will aim to help with the recovery of local high streets from regenerating historic buildings to helping to engage local communities through art and cultural projects. A Cultural Programme will take place in conjunction with the main High Streets Heritage Action Zones scheme. Working with local communities, cultural organisations and artists, this will celebrate what is unique about each place.

www.historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/heritage-action-zones/middlesbrough/



A map of Middlesbrough's Heritage Action Zone

Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership

Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership is a group of arts and culture organisations from across the Tees Valley working together for a creative Middlesbrough. In 2018 a group of artists, arts and culture organisations and professionals came together to be a voice for creativity in Middlesbrough.

<https://www.boroculture.org.uk/>

Navigator North

Navigator North are the lead organisation for Celebrating Hidden Middlesbrough.

They are a Tees Valley based, artist led organisation who initiate activities to raise the profile of artists and creative practice in the North East – inspiring visual artists and creative communities to thrive.

Established in 2010 and directed by arts professional and curator, James Lowther and artists Vicky Holbrough and Nicola Golightly, they have provided over 100 artists with studio space across 15 different sites in Tees Valley and County Durham.

Regular programmes offer professional development opportunities and support to artists to make and show work through artist bursaries, commissions, exhibitions, events and residencies in alternative spaces.

Curated to specific themes, programme activities aim to raise the public awareness of artists, artworks and creative practice, stimulating dialogue, interaction and engagement between artists and the public.

<http://navigatornorth.co.uk/>





Tees Valley Arts

Tees Valley Arts are delivering the Exchange residency.

Tees Valley Arts is a charity that uses the arts to create social change.

We believe that the arts and culture create societies and offer challenges to the status quo. Communities have a right to tell their stories which reflect their past and will shape their future. Tees Valley Arts will act as a catalyst for all communities to become cultural producers, galvanising creative action and championing positive change.

Working with partners, we will lead in the cultural sector regionally and advocate for our region's culture in national and international arenas.

<https://www.teesvalleyarts.org.uk/>

The Tunnel Gallery

The Tunnel Gallery is an exploration of public art in Middlesbrough. It is led and programmed by four of the Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership independent arts organisations, including Tees Valley Arts, Navigator North, Platform A Gallery and The Auxiliary Project Space.

From Autumn 2020 the project has expanded out from the original location of the gallery in the pedestrian underpass in Middlesbrough Railway Station to include a billboard under the A66 road bridge on Albert Road and most recently the creation of new virtual galleries on this website.

Between September 2020 and April 2021 as part of a pilot project, we ran 5 commissions with Sara Cooper, WAX Photography Collective (Amy Owens, Rachel Deakin, Antony Chambers and Jason Hynes), Connor Clements, Annie O'Donnell and Dan Cochran of North East Statues.

www.thetunnelgallery.org