



Artists Brief: The Contemporary Art Space Project

Three posts available

Iniva and RSA Academies

Location: Based at one of three schools in the areas of Birmingham and Redditch

Duration: September 2020 – January 2021, freelance contract

Fee: £3000 to include 3 days of onsite workshop delivery, planning and training with up to £1000 materials budget

To apply: please complete the application form and equal opportunities monitoring form. CVs on their own will not be accepted. Return your completed forms to sibreck@iniva.org with 'Artist Application: CAS Project' as the subject title.

Application Deadline: 11.59pm Tuesday 30 June 2020

Interviews held at Iniva online via Zoom Thursday 9 July 2020

*Delivery of this project may alter in line with advice / limitations around Covid 19. Iniva and RSA Academies priorities would be to keep artists and schools safe whilst still delivering an engaging programme of work.

About the Contemporary Art Space Project

Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) and RSA Academies are working together on a two-year programme of art-making and community engagement arising from RSA Academies' Commitment to Arts, Culture and Creativity. This is the second year of the project. More information on the first year can be found here: Iniva.org and [RSA Academies.org.uk](http://RSAAcademies.org.uk).

This project is designed to develop young people's sense of identity and explore what it means to be human through co-commissioning new artworks in response to social issues they identify as important. The Contemporary Art Space (CAS) Project will see the creation of an outdoor contemporary art space in three RSA schools in the West Midlands. We are looking for three Artists: one per school.

The role of the Artist will be to lead the delivery of a series of three half-day workshops that both reflect the Artist's specialism / expertise and take their inspiration from Iniva Creative Learning's

[ArtLab](#) programme: integrating art and art therapy to embed an understanding of emotional learning through contemporary art practice. The Artist will work with an Art Therapist in advance of the workshops and during the first workshop session in order to achieve this understanding. Each Artist will then develop an artwork inspired by the various responses and / or materials created in the workshops.

The artwork will be installed in January 2021 in the outdoor contemporary art spaces identified by, or in collaboration with each school. The artwork will form the basis of a public and whole school engagement programme during April - July 2021.

There may be opportunities for the Artist to use facilities within the school sites which range from a 3D laser printer and dark room to kilns, music and sound / radio equipment. Connections with specialist teachers at the schools is encouraged, alongside developing an independent understanding of and taking inspiration from the individual school's character.

Black, Asian and minoritised community candidates are particularly encouraged to apply for the role.

Iniva welcomes applications from those who do not necessarily fit all essential criteria but who have equivalent experience and interest relevant to the project.

Brief and person specification

Responsible to: The Curator and Project Managers

Brief

- To work with the Curator, Project Managers and Art Therapist in developing a workshop plan
- Prior to the project start, attend a discussion/ training session on the use of Iniva Creative Learning's Emotional Learning Cards
- To work with the Curator, Project Manager and Art Therapist to deliver three half day workshops for pupils and an additional workshop session for teachers / school staff
- To work with pupils to identify a series of responses for the commissioned artwork - potentially using work resulting from the workshops
- To create a site specific artwork that is fit for purpose (keeping in mind the location and immediate audience)

Person specification

Essential:

- A developed or developing artistic practice: with at least 2 years track record of an artistic career.
- Ambition and energy for creating work to a set theme with specific parameters
- Experience of working within a budget
- Experience of devising and delivering workshops for young people aged between 6 – 18 years and adults.
- Experience of working with Curators / Project managers and of working collaboratively

Desirable

- Experience of working in schools
- Understanding / experience of mental health practices supporting young people

Project outline

The following schools are involved in this project:

- Abbeywood First School (Reception - Year 4) in Redditch
- Arrow Vale RSA Academy (Year 9-13) in Redditch
- Holyhead School (Year 7-13) in Handsworth, Birmingham

Each school will form a steering group of 15 pupils across year groups selected on criteria including 'most able, least likely', free school meal eligibility, fostering potential, interest in the arts and those experiencing family difficulties.

The Artist will begin the project by delivering a workshop / introductory session for teachers supported by Iniva and RSA Academies project managers. Following this the artist will deliver the three workshops for pupils based around the theme of 'oracy' (see below).

Responses that emerge from these workshops will contribute to the Artist's concept for their final artwork. The steering group will be involved in the Artists' creative process, discussing ideas and deciding how to communicate the artworks to the wider school. This will happen separately in each school, so in practice there will be three different Artists responding to (potentially) three different themes in three different contexts.

Following the installation of the final artworks a school wide and public engagement programme will be generated by the Curator and RSA Academies working with teachers to develop activities to stimulate critical thinking, develop new Artistic skills and deepen oracy, literacy and leadership skills. These events might take the form of:

- The curator and RSA Academies will organise an event such as a talk or debate with RSA Fellows and RSA's Royal Designers for Industry and links with regional art galleries
- Teachers will be supported to creatively connect their subject or topic with the artworks to enrich learning and develop their own skills
- The school will be encouraged to make further creative responses through extra-curricular activities involving drama, dance, singing and poetry which will use the artworks as a stimulus and as a performance space – and invite families to attend events as audience members

Artists will be invited along to these events but this is not a mandatory part of the role. A separate fee would be agreed for Artist talks etc.

The overarching theme of the CAS programme is 'oracy'. This will allow the schools to more easily tie in existing subjects and topics to promote whole school, cross-curricular engagement with the artwork – a key priority for the project.

Oracy as defined by the school curriculum is the development of skills in using spoken language. The selection of oracy as a theme allows for a wide range of responses and can also be described as a way to get your voice heard – reflecting a myriad of personal and social responses.

The artwork would be required to be on display at the schools from **January – July 2021**. The aim is for the works to then tour to additional schools within the RSA Academy family for the following year, inspiring additional engagement programmes. Artists will need to consider the constraints and implications of developing works for long-term external display. Both the Curator and Project managers will support on this aspect.

The ownership of the artwork would be retained by the Artist.

About the RSA Academies:

RSA Academies was established as a separate charity by the RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce) in 2011 to develop a distinctive vision of what it means to provide an inspirational and creative education. The RSA has a history of

developing ideas and projects to improve people's lives and we were set up to help schools with that mission. Our priority areas are:

- arts, culture and creativity
- preparing pupils for the world beyond school
- wellbeing and mental health

The RSAA are an umbrella trust, working closely with eight schools for pupils aged 3-19 in the West Midlands. The schools serve communities with above national average number of pupils eligible for free school meals (schools range from 16.2 – 44.8% of pupils eligible compared to a national average 13.6%) in Redditch, Coventry, Tipton, Kidderminster and Birmingham.

About Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts)

Iniva is a radical, evolving arts organisation dedicated to developing an Artistic programme that reflects the social and political impact of globalisation. Iniva was set up in 1994 to support British Artists of African, Caribbean and Asian heritage. Instrumental in its beginning was the late Professor Stuart Hall, who gave his name to the Stuart Hall Library – now the critical hub of Iniva's work.

Iniva's education strand, Iniva Creative Learning (ICL) is a partnership with A Space arts and therapies service. ICL has a history of delivering large scale arts projects in schools and are committed to developing projects that support and promote emotional learning alongside the development of contemporary art practice. The ArtLab initiative is a combined Artist and art therapist led workshop series that has been highly successful in developing pupil confidence, emotional learning, language and practical art-making skills. Iniva has mentored and supported curators working in various disciplines and is currently in its third year of a joint curator traineeship programme with the Barbican. Iniva also has a long history of commissioning artworks and supporting early career Artists, including those who have gone on to win awards such as the Turner Prize, for example, Lubaina Himid, Yinka Shonibare and Chris Ofili.

Notification of interview / receipt of applications:

Please note due to limited resources, unfortunately, applicants not shortlisted for the first round of interviews will not be informed.
