

## Future Collect - Open Call for Year 2 Museum or Gallery Partner

We are excited to announce an open call for expressions of interest from national and regional museums and galleries to partner with Iniva on Year 2 of Future Collect.

Future Collect is a three-year programme, which each year commissions an artist of African and/or Asian descent, British born or based, to create a completely new work. These commissions then become a permanent part of the collection of a major British institution, giving artists an opportunity to be collected and exhibited, as well as contributing to a wider public debate on collections and whose heritage is being preserved.

A key aspect of the programme is curatorial development through the support of a year-long curatorial traineeship, and a curatorial secondment opportunity for a staff member at the partner organisation.

The project is funded by Art Fund, Arts Council England and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

### About Iniva

Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) is an evolving, radical visual arts organisation dedicated to developing an artistic programme that reflects on the social and political impact of globalisation.

With the Stuart Hall Library acting as a critical and creative hub for our work, we collaborate with artists, curators, researchers and cultural producers to challenge conventional notions of diversity and difference. We engage a wide audience, particularly young people, in discourse and debate on issues surrounding the politics of race, class and gender.

Through our programme we work predominantly with British-born and British-based visual artists of African and Asian descent supporting them at different stages in their careers. We offer residencies, commission new work and promote existing practices enabling artistic ambition and development. By cultivating innovative thinking, we are committed to disseminating research across a wide cultural spectrum and geographical network. Our ambition is to build a greater body of knowledge around each of the artists with whom we work to ensure the legacy of their practices for future generations of researchers and audiences.

Founded in 1994, under the leadership of renowned academic Professor Stuart Hall, Iniva is a non-profit organisation. It has established itself as a pioneering arts organisation in the artistic environment in the UK and beyond.

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## Background to Future Collect

In 2019, Iniva celebrated 25 years of working to challenge conventional notions of diversity and difference. To commemorate and create a legacy for this special anniversary, we established a three-year partnership initiative that re-imagines the future of public collections at national and regional museums and galleries throughout the UK.

The key aims of this long-term partnership project are:

- To commission outstanding new artworks by artists of African and/or Asian descent, British born or based, which are subsequently accessioned into museums and gallery collections to better-reflect the breadth of contemporary British society
- To transform curatorial practice around commissioning and collecting within national and regional museums and galleries
- To cultivate a new generation of young people and their families to be self-assured visitors to galleries and museums.

In a spate of recent reports, including Arts Council of England's report on Equality, Diversity and the Creative Case (2018), the lack of diversity and continuing under-representation of staff and leaders from black and minority ethnic backgrounds in the arts workforce is highlighted as requiring urgent action. While the Museum Association's 'Collections 2030' discussion paper suggests that museums need to interrogate the stories that they tell with their collections and to consider the different narratives they offer, and which new voices can be brought in. Museums and galleries are charged with allowing new and critical public reinterpretations of their collections, and to think imaginatively about how to broaden the range of people to whom collections can be meaningful. Emphasising that greater diversity is essential to the future success of the cultural and creative ecosystem and our society, the Warwick Commission Report from 2015 also underlines the point that diversifying the creative workforce, leadership and consumers remains a key challenge to the future success of the cultural and creative industries and to the cultural wellbeing of the British public.

In 2018, the Black Artists & Modernism (BAM) Project published the findings of an audit they had undertaken of artworks by black artists in public art collections in the United Kingdom which focused on 30 collections (11 major national and 19 regional and municipal museums and galleries). They discovered that while there are over 2000 works by artists of African and Asian descent in just 30 collections, very few of these works, which are owned by public collections, ever come to be seen by the public. Through systemic discrimination and lack of knowledge of the artist, artwork and provenance, certain works become highlights while others lie forgotten in storage, certain stories emerge while others remain unheard.

Through Future Collect, Iniva invites museums and galleries to work in partnership to support artists in developing innovative new work that seeks to reanimate existing collections, engage with local audiences and communities and ask questions relevant to contemporary society. Each year alongside the commissions, a public programme will be developed which underpins the critical

context for the commissions, accessing the specialist collection at the Stuart Hall Library through artist-focused study days and reaching the wider visual arts sector through curator days and an annual conference.

In addition to the commissions and public programme, another key aspect of the project is curatorial development. Each year, Iniva will support a year-long curatorial traineeship to be based primarily at the partner organisation and will initiate a curatorial secondment to the project for a member of staff at the partner organisation as a unique professional development research opportunity. Further professional development and sector learning opportunities stemming from the project include the establishment of a curatorial network.

There is an urgency within our public art institutions to address the lack of diversity in public collections and to ensure that permanent collection displays of British art are representative of the communities that they serve. Public collections were often established with social intent and out of philanthropic ambition. As such, Future Collect provides a vital sustainable long-term platform to ask questions about power, representation and the civic role of public museums and galleries in the 21st century. This initiative will be pivotal in shaping the future direction of the way public collections, displays and acquisitions are used for maximum public benefit.

## **Future Collect Year 1**

Our project partner for Year 1 of Future Collect is Manchester Art Gallery, and we jointly selected and commissioned Jade Montserrat as the first Future Collect artist.

Jade Montserrat is an artist based in the North of England whose research-led work explores the interplay of art and activism through performance, drawing, painting, film, installation, sculpture, print and text. Her commission for Future Collect encompasses works on paper, a performance and a publication. In creatively responding to Manchester Art Gallery's collection and collecting practices, Jade is pursuing her interest in questions around the care of objects and the care of people. By exploring how societal and historical factors determine care of objects and people, and how creative languages encourage care for use of words and ownership of words, her project will make space for discussing African Diasporan legacies in parallel with stories related to 'Cottonopolis', the name given to Manchester as the metropolitan centre of the Industrial Revolution. Her starting point is the first work acquired by Manchester Art Gallery, James Northcote's painting of the African American actor Ira Aldrige, *Othello, The Moor of Venice* (1826).

As part of her research process, Jade has initiated a series of public conversations in collaboration with other creative practitioners from the North West, and these have been taking place as online events. The public engagement programme running alongside the commissioned work includes study days, a curator's day and a major conference, planned for spring 2021.

## **Future Collect Year 2 - Expectations of the Partnership**

- The appointed museum or gallery Year 2 Partner will work closely with Iniva to select the artist for commission; making studio visits, contributing to the commission brief, reviewing artists' proposals and being fully involved in the shortlisting process.
- The Year 2 Partner will produce and install a public exhibition of the commissioned artwork in conversation with the artist and Iniva.
- The Year 2 Partner will commit to purchasing and accessioning the work into their permanent collection for public display/access in perpetuity. Iniva will support the Year 2 partner in making an application to the Art Fund Acquisitions Programme.
- The Year 2 Partner will work with Iniva and the artist to develop a public programme and educational resources around the commission, and both organisations will ensure the dissemination of learning about the project across the sector through e.g. curator's days, a conference and the development of a curatorial network as appropriate.
- Both Iniva and the Year 2 Partner will publicise and market the project as appropriate.
- The Year 2 Partner will contribute fully to the evaluation and documentation of the project, which will be managed by Iniva.
- The Year 2 Partner will commit to a curatorial secondment from their staff team and will work closely with Iniva to select the Curatorial Trainee.
- The Year 2 Partner will host the Curatorial Trainee on a long-term work placement for a total duration of 9 months.
- The Year 2 Partner will provide training, line management and mentoring (from Director and/or senior curator) to the Curatorial Trainee whilst on placement and ensure that a support infrastructure is in place.
- The Year 2 Partner will ensure the Curatorial Trainee receives the widest possible exposure to curatorial and museum practice whilst on placement, including time spent across different teams in the organisation.
- Where possible the Year 2 Partner will broker relationships between the Curatorial Trainee and other arts organisation in their region.
- The Year 2 Partner will commit to an aspiration to retain the Curatorial Trainee on their staff team after the project ends or help to place them in another relevant institution.

## **Budget and Indicative Timeline**

Future Collect Year 2 requires an 18 month commitment from the appointed Partner Organisation, from October 2020 to March 2022.

Iniva will manage the budget and distribute raised funds for the project (as well as contributing in-kind costs) including: Artist's fees and production costs, Curatorial Trainee salary (f/t), Project Manager salary (p/t), and costs for producing public programme, education programme and resources, evaluation, documentation and marketing, and the creation and management of a curatorial network.

The Artist's fee for the commission is £10,000 and up to £15,000 materials and production, plus expenses to cover travel, accommodation and subsistence.

The Partner Organisation will be responsible for contributing in-kind costs for delivering the project for 18 months, including staff time, travel, and marketing and communications.

The Partner Organisation will commit to acquiring the commissioned work through their own funds or through their own fundraising.

#### Indicative Timeline for Future Collect Year 2

- Monday 21 September 2020 - Deadline for expressions of interest for Future Collect Year 2 Partner
- October 2020 - Partner Organisation confirmed
- January 2021 - Advertisement for Curatorial Trainee and Open Call for Artist go out
- February 2021 - Interview and appoint Curatorial Trainee and shortlist potential artists
- March 2021 - Studio visits with shortlisted artists
- April 2021 - Artist appointed
- May - December 2021 - Artist R&D and production, and development of public programme and education programme
- December 2021 - Artwork complete
- January 2022 - Conference and Curators' Day; completion of acquisition process
- March 2022 - Evaluation report submitted

#### **How to apply with an Expression of Interest**

We are seeking expressions of interest, of no more than 1,000 words, from museums and galleries who have a collection, to collaborate with us on this exciting and extremely timely project.

Please tell us why you are interested in Future Collect and indicate the transformative potential being a partner on this project would have on your organisation. We would like to hear about any recent efforts made via programming, personnel and institutional culture, to ensure the representation of contemporary society in your organisation and collection, and please comment

on the impact you think being involved in Future Collect would have on your collection, institutional culture and local audiences and communities.

We would like you to demonstrate how your organisational infrastructure would fully support the curatorial traineeship, and indicate how you would make efforts to ensure the Curatorial Trainee remains working within the sector at the end of their placement.

Please confirm your commitment to exhibiting and acquiring the new commission, and give an indication of how you might approach innovative public programming ideas. We would like to hear your thoughts on what it means to build 'living' collections, which are agile, responsive and relevant, and how the 'project of decolonisation' can become an ongoing process leading to fundamental structural change rather than solely influencing representation.

If possible, please submit data on cultural diversity found within your existing collection, and the known diversity of your audiences and how your programme and collection represents/serves your local communities.

**Please send expressions of interest to:**

**Future Collect Curatorial Project Manager, Rohini Malik Okon**  
**[rmalikokon@iniva.org](mailto:rmalikokon@iniva.org) by 6pm on Monday 21 September 2020.**