

**WOODSTOCK  
BRIEF FOR PUBLIC ART TRAINING PROJECT**

**Background**

Chrysalis Arts is a public art company and training agency which has been creating art in public spaces for over 20 years. In 1997, Chrysalis established The Art Depot in Gargrave, North Yorkshire as a training centre, and has since developed several ground-breaking initiatives to support and nurture artists' professional practice and development.

Following some initial public art training in Kilkenny and discussions with the Arts Officer for Kilkenny in April 2008, Chrysalis Arts developed a proposal for a 'live' public art training project to address the need for specialist training for artists in public art skills and working to commission. This proposal was inspired by a visit to the Woodstock estate, which is managed by Kilkenny County Council, and the opportunity to link the proposal with the site and the ongoing restoration work taking place there.

*Some background Information about Woodstock can be found at <http://www.woodstock.ie/> and the Tighe Family and the Woodstock Estate can be found on <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/>*

**Aims of the Project**

The Woodstock project will draw upon previous public art training projects undertaken by Chrysalis and will aim to achieve the following:

To offer artists the experience of participating in key stages of the public art process including selection interviews, the development of an overall concept for the project, designs for individual artworks, research into materials and processes, the creation and installation of a series of site-specific artworks and the promotion and presentation of the artworks to the public.

During this process the selected artists will undertake research and public consultation, and participate in different community involvement processes. The artists will work as a team and will be encouraged to maximise opportunities for collaboration both with each other and with other potential partners.

The ultimate aim is to create a unique, temporary public art installation which will explore and highlight the creative potential of the site and, at the same time, support artists in gaining new skills and confidence.

**Themes**

The project could encompass a range of approaches and outcomes, however three themes have been identified which draw on the site's extraordinary history, specimen collections, gardens and garden architecture:

- Celebrating and interpreting the rich botanical heritage of Woodstock



- Memory and Animation - Artworks which animate the site and/or draw upon memories and local knowledge of the site
- A contemporary response to the architectural and landscape features of the gardens

Any one of the three themes may be selected for the project or a combination of them.

It is anticipated that some of the artworks will be developed with the involvement of local community groups and others.

It is also envisaged that the artworks could be designed and installed to form a route in order to encourage visitors to take a walk around the gardens and experience the different spaces and aspects.

### **Selection Process**

The project is open to professional artists working in a range of media, including visual artists, makers, writers and performers.

Artists interested in the project have been invited to attend an introductory seminar event and take part in a site visit on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

### **Application submission requirements by email**

Following the introduction event, artists who would like to take part are invited to submit an application by email to include;

- a current and concise CV
- selected support information ie around six images or examples of relevant previous work with concise explanation.
- a letter of application outlining their interest in the project and any particular possibilities they feel it could offer, any initial creative ideas they would like to explore, and/or how it could impact upon their own practice.

This should be emailed by the application deadline of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May to; **mary.butler@kilkennycoco.ie** and **chrysalis@artdepot.org.uk**

### Email file size and format advice

Applications will be viewed on screen so relatively low resolution images will be fine.

Please ensure that the digital size of the application is small ie not more than 3MB

Complete documents should be saved as pdf's or word files

The image files can be incorporated with the text or saved separately as jpegs or pdf files but please ensure there is a list of contents where there is more than one item in a submission.

NB Any other format may not be readable by us so please contact Kate Maddison at **chrysalisarts@artdepot.org.uk** if you are unsure about this.

### **Interviews and Timetable**

A shortlist will be drawn up and interviews will take place on **Tuesday 19 May** in Kilkenny. The interviews will involve a panel,



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including representatives from both Kilkenny County Council and Chrysalis Arts. All artists who attend for interview will receive written feedback.

Artists selected for the project will be asked to attend a briefing meeting on **Thursday 21 May** where the artists will be invited to discuss initial ideas and an outline programme will be evolved. **Artists invited for interview are also therefore requested to keep Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> free.**

A minimum of six artists will be selected for the project. Artists wishing to be considered must be available for the project time period above.

A basic requirement of the project is that selected artists make a definite commitment to 20 days to include attending the briefing day on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 15 days between the 6<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> July, inclusive, and the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> plus a minimum of two more days for other work to be agreed after the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

Beyond the basic requirement, selected artists can make the most of this opportunity by committing as much time and energy to preparing and implementing the project as they wish.

#### **Project Timetable**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May - Application deadline.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May - Short listing will take place.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May - Notification of interviews will be sent out.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May - Interviews will take place in Kilkenny

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May - Selected artists attend a project briefing in Kilkenny

6<sup>th</sup> July Project starts on site at Woodstock and work continues for 3 weeks

25<sup>th</sup> July Presentation/ Installation/ Performance on site

27<sup>th</sup> July De-rig the site

28<sup>th</sup> July Evaluation

#### **Fees and expenses**

Artists working on the project will receive a training fee of 1200 euros each in recognition of their time commitment.

All costs for materials, equipment etc will be met separately by agreement.

Assistance with transport to and from Woodstock will be facilitated where possible.

#### **Lead Artists**

The project will involve three lead artists/mentors, Rick Faulkner, Kate Maddison and Christine Keogh. Other professional artists and crafts people with specialist skills are also likely to be invited to join the team in a support role as the project evolves.

#### **Evaluation and Documentation**

The project team will be expected to document and record their work as it progresses.

Following completion, the project will undergo a detailed evaluation process involving both the artists and the local partners. This may include the identification of further training and professional development needs and the identification of future commission



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opportunities as an outcome of the project. The project budget will include an allocation for detailed documentation and the artworks and artists will be featured in a publication that can be used by them as future promotional material.

The project will aim to invest in the creative talents of artists and leave behind a legacy of practitioners who will be able to move into new creative areas of work and offer a valuable resource for local initiatives

For further information telephone: **0567794138**  
Mary Butler, Arts Officer - [mary.butler@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:mary.butler@kilkennycoco.ie)  
Niamh Finn, Administrator - [niamh.finn@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:niamh.finn@kilkennycoco.ie)

Or telephone Chrysalis Arts: **0044 1756 749222**  
Rick Faulkner or Kate Maddison - [chrysalis@artdepot.org.uk](mailto:chrysalis@artdepot.org.uk)



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