



Crafts Council

Creative Producer Brief

The opportunity

The Crafts Council and Birmingham City University (BCU) are seeking a freelance creative producer to develop an exhibition of 5 newly commissioned works from black and Asian female makers. The exhibition will take place in the Crafts Council Gallery (Islington, London) and will open in November 2021 and run through to January 2022.

The commissions are one of the outputs of a two year research project, Supporting Craft Expertise, by Dr Karen Patel, of BCU, that the Crafts Council have supported. It has examined the experiences of ethnically diverse women in the craft sector, including the specific challenges they face.

As part of the project, Dr Patel commissioned 5 makers to produce new work that gave creative expression to the challenges that they face in the sector.

Using these 5 works as a starting point, we would like a creative producer to develop an exhibition in the Crafts Council Gallery.

Background and context

Craft Expertise is a two-year UKRI/RCUK Innovation Fellowship funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The project aims to address issues around diversity and inequalities in the craft sector, and explore how it could be more inclusive.

We are delighted to be partnering with Dr Patel and Birmingham City University in this project. Working papers and reports can be found on the Crafts Council website [here](#). For context you can listen to Dr Patel's [Maker Stories podcasts](#) in which she interviews inspirational crafts women from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. Dr Patel's latest blog is below and her previous blog is [here](#). More details about the project can be found [here](#)

Artists Selected:

- [Shaheen Ahmed](#),
- [Lorna Hamilton-Brown](#),
- [Francisca Onumah](#),
- [Omeima Mudawi-Rowlings](#)
- [Onome Otite](#)

Key Dates/Milestones

May 25th – artists present detailed work concepts

End July – artists work complete, final conference and research findings presented

End August – exhibition design concept signed off

Early November – install

Mid November – show opens (COVID permitting)

Jan (TBC) show closes

Creative Producer Scope of Work

- Shape the curatorial narrative for the exhibition, bringing together work by the 5 artists.
- Produce interpretation text for the selected works to be included in exhibition text and information online
- Contribute to the public programme around the exhibition, working with the learning and participation team
- Draft the design brief for 2d and 3d exhibition design
- Consider objects, archive and library materials from Crafts Council Collections collection, archive, or library that can enhance or support the exhibition
- Suggest how the exhibition can be activated digitally, presenting ideas for a supporting programme of events that can help increase reach
- Be available for communications, media and events associated with this exhibition and commission.
- Propose allied publications and materials for The Study / Crafts Council Library Collection.

The Crafts Council will:

Provide research support.

- Ensure access to knowledge from across the public programmes team and the wider organisation.
- Provide administrative support for all object loans, insurance, packing and transport.
- Full exhibition administration.
- Copy editing
- Manage marketing, promotion and ticketing
- Manage project budget, invoices and reporting
- Manage exhibition design briefs and contract

BCU will:

- Work with the curator to shape the curatorial narrative
- Provide research support
- Assist with marketing and promotion

Who we are looking for

We aim at all times to engage the person who is most suited to each opportunity and welcome bids from people of all backgrounds.

As the exhibition is specifically focused on the experiences of ethnically diverse women in the craft sector, including the specific challenges they face, we particularly encourage tenders from women or non-binary individuals from Global Majority heritages. This includes but is not limited to people of African or Caribbean heritage; Arabic heritage; Latin American heritage; East Asian, South Asian and South East Asian heritage.

You will need to evidence how your own practice engages with craft and making and curatorial thinking.

You will

- Be interested in critical exploration of contemporary craft;
- Have knowledge of contemporary craft and making;
- Be based in the UK.
- Have knowledge and lived experience of the issues facing Global Majority creatives

Fee & expenses:

Producer fee: £3,000 including all personal expenses

Selection Process

To be considered for this opportunity please send a written tender detailing – CV and a cover letter outlining any relevant experience

Comparable projects delivered

Brief breakdown of your day rate and time allocation against the activity & exhibition deliverables within the allocated budget.

Tenders should be sent to: Natalie Melton on recruitment@craftscouncil.org.uk

If it would be useful to have a phone call and understand the parameters further ahead of tender, or if you have any access requirements, please also email this address.

Closing date for tenders: 5pm Monday 07 June

Selection: w/c 14th June

Contract start: July

About the Crafts Council

Founded in 1971, we are the national charity for craft. We inspire making, empower learning and nurture craft businesses.

We believe craft skills and knowledge enrich and uplift us as individuals, and, in doing so, will change our world for the better.

We do this through a variety of activities:

- We support craft makers and businesses to help them grow, through training, mentoring, advice and by showcasing makers through our [directory](#).
- We hold the national [Crafts Council Collection](#), acquired over our 50-year history.
- We run [learning and participation programmes](#) for all age groups.
- We present exhibitions – in our [own gallery](#) in London and in partnership with venues around the UK.
- We publish a magazine – [Crafts](#), six times a year, featuring inspiring stories about craft and making across the globe.
- We present [Collect: International art fair for modern craft and design](#) annually in London, with leading craft galleries from across the globe participating.
- We celebrate, promote and share the work of the wider craft sector through our communications channels – helping more people learn and discover craft
- We undertake [research and advocacy](#), building a rigorous evidence base for the sector and for policy makers, helping people understand the social, economic, and cultural value of craft, and advocating for policy changes that support the growth and development of the sector.
- Finally, we convene [Craft UK](#) – a network of organisations with an interest in craft. It's a forum to share best practice, tackle challenges, and forge new partnerships for collaboration.