

WAIWAV Artists Information Event

Tuesday 28 September 2021 14:00 – 15:30

Speakers:

Esther Cartwright (EC)

Mike Layward (ML)

Interpreters:

Rachel Radford BSL interpreter

Emma Britton BSL interpreter

ML welcomed participants to the WAIWAV information session and advised participants that the meeting was being recorded.

ML apologised that the captions were not appearing on the screen, but that stagetext were streaming captions which could be opened in a separate window.

ML shared a powerpoint presentation.

The session will cover:

- Outline of WAIWAV
- Process and Timeline
- Selection process
- Selection criteria
- How we will make the selections
- What to think about for your application
- Interventions
- PR
- Legacy
- Questions

A planned presentation by Aaron Williamson was unable to take place as Aaron had been unable to access the event online.

Questions were permitted in the chat function or by email to Esther during the presentation

- **Outline of WAIWAV (We Are Invisible, We Are Visible)**

ML described how, as part of his presentation, Aaron Williamson had sung a song about being invisible, but had bandages over his mouth so couldn't be heard, as an example of a Surreal/Absurdist/Dadaist film.

Part of the application.

The premise of the project is to imagine what would Dadaists have done now, in a post pandemic world? As Dada had grown out of the first world war.

The opportunity is open to 31 d/Deaf, neurodivergent artists and artists who self-define as Disabled, to create interventions at 31 galleries.

Plus Tate is a network of 52 UK galleries and arts organisations. DASH joined the Plus Tate network in 2020. Only Plus Tate organisations were eligible to apply for the Ampersand Award. 31 Galleries have signed up.

Why July 2?

It marks the centenary of the 1st international exhibition of Dadaist art in Berlin 1920. Plus 2 years for a Dada-esque twist. The Saturday was chosen as a busier day for gallery audiences.

Process and Timeline

September 21 List of participating galleries finalised and brochure produced

Brochure will be live on the DASH website by the end of the day.

September 21 Callout for artists went out a few weeks ago.

28th September 2021- Information event for artists

1st November 21 – midnight is the deadline for submissions.

Selections made during November by a selection panel.

November 21 – June 22: Development of Interventions.

2 July 2022 is WAIWAV day

September 2022 – WAIWAV film will be ready for viewing in galleries.

November 2022 :Book to be published?

Selection Process

Galleries are not involved in selection of the artists, they are not receiving a fee.

The selection panel will consist of:

Lois Keidan: previous Live Art Development agency director
Ryan Hughes: Director of Coventry Biennial
Linzi Stauvers: Head of Education at Art Gallery (with a Phd in Art Histor)
Ashokkumar Mistry: Disabled Curator/Artist
Aidan Moesby: Disabled Curator/Artist
Heather Sturdy: Head of National Partnerships at Tate
Ceri Barrow: Plus Tate Coordinator

Applications will be anonymised for fairness.
Some galleries are able to offer more support than others.

Selection Criteria

- **Simplicity**
- **Self sufficiency** – will not require preparation and excessive support from/by the gallery staff or technical support.
- **Will leave no trace** – ie. no tidying up to do.
- **Feasible within the set budget £2800**
The fee for each commission should work out at about £200 per day for ten days' work, plus materials.
- **Risk and safety assessed**
Interventions must be risk and safety assessed. Have you considered any risks? How will you mitigate them?
- **Site specific versus in any gallery**
Tell us whether your intervention is specific to a particular gallery or if it can take place anywhere. Let us know your first, second and third choice of gallery you would like to work with.
- **Dada and disability art influences**
Where has your thinking come from?

Your proposal is a starting point, not a finished, polished proposal.

Audience Questions:

Might the intervention be done from home or remotely?

Yes. Many artists won't want to be in a gallery for a number of reasons. For some galleries this is an option they have specified. ML will check with galleries and ask them to confirm if they can offer this.

Must it be performance art, or are other artistic media acceptable?

Yes, any artistic medium is acceptable.

Selection Process – How will we make the selection?

Each application will be anonymized.

Applications will be put on a grid to analyse first/second/third choices.

Only those that meet criteria will be shortlisted.

Selection panel creates a shortlist for each gallery

Panel either select a 1st/2nd/3rd choice or:

A bingo machine will be used to select applications where more than one artist has applied to work with a specific gallery.

Each application will get feedback.

Audience Questions:

Can I apply as a group rather than a solo artist?

Yes, but the budget will be the same.

Can you submit more than one application?

A: As an individual one is the limit, however a second application as part of a group would be acceptable.

Can I work with a non-disabled artist?

Yes, but you will have to show clearly that you as a disabled artist are the lead artist.

Will you prioritise pairing local artists with institutions, or is it an open field?

No, it is the artists choice. You should mention in your application if you already have a relationship with the gallery you are applying for. Just be aware that the budget will need to cover your travel (though there is a separate access budget).

What to think about when preparing your application.

- Kept it simple and clear. The budget is small
- Look at the questions we are asking
- Look at the WAIWAV brochure and what each gallery is offering in terms of spaces and any extra opportunities or support.
- Think about which gallery or galleries you want to apply to. It doesn't have to be your nearest gallery.
- Let us know your thinking behind the idea. Why do you want to do it? Try and let your passions come through. Share your idea with a peer for feedback.

- Keep to 2 sides of A4 or 5 minutes of audio or video.
- If you are unsure of any questions please email mike@dasharts.org
- We can't tell you what is, and what isn't an intervention.
- Think about how your idea relates to Dada and Disability art.

There is a link on the WAIWAV page on the DASH website to a radio programme on Dada presented by Alexi Sayle in 2016, along with links on surrealism and Dada. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07wmzxx>

Gemma Garwood wrote in the chat: 'There was also a really good BBC documentary with Jim Moir...Gaga for Dada'

Q: Could you explain more about public liability insurance?

Public liability insurance covers you in case of any incidents with the members of the public and is required of the artist as, as a freelancer, the gallery insurance won't cover you as an individual.

It can be acquired through Artists Union of England/Scotland by becoming a member, similarly with Artists Newsletter and Access Net.

If you don't already have it, you must state that it will be paid for from the project budget, if you are selected.

Q: Will the artists tech equipment need to be PAT tested?

PAT testing would have to be agreed between the gallery and the artist.

Q How long do the interventions need to last?

Anywhere between one second up to the duration of the gallery's Saturday opening hours.

ML Showed an example of an intervention by Disabled artist Amy Lakmaier at G39 Cardiff. The image showed the artist sat on a platform in the gallery wearing a paper bag on her head and a red dress with a very long skirt rolled out across the gallery floor like a red carpet. She gradually reeled in the fabric of her dress.

There was a five minute break from the session.

Question: Would be possible to nominate a gallery that is not in the brochure?

Unfortunately not. It is only Plus Tate galleries taking part. It is possible that a secondary gallery could form a partnership with a Plus Tate gallery, but this would need to be initiated by the artist.

What will be the style of the interventions?

This is impossible to say as we expect a broad response to the call out.

- Performative
- Quirky
- Unconventional
- Unusual
- Durational
- Minimal/subtle
- Solo/duo/group
- Social media takeover
- Virtual/remote/Digital
- And much more

Question: Could the intervention be fluid and change from the original proposal? The idea could potentially evolve from the original proposal but this would need to be agreed with the gallery hosting the intervention.

Question: Is it ok to make a physical change to the gallery, eg remove a door? This would need to be risk assessed and okayed by the gallery.

Question: Regarding tech support. Are there any issues with taking your own tech equipment to the gallery if you are proposing a remote intervention? Mike is to ask galleries.

Question: Could any sounds produced during the intervention be vetoed by the gallery?

It is hard to say but hopefully unlikely as this would potentially water down an intervention.

Question: How much experience do you need as an artists to enter?

We don't necessarily want all experienced artists who have done many prior interventions. Galleries have been positive about working with less experienced artists to develop their idea.

WAIWAV Day PR

Bolton and Quinn are managing the overall PR. They have worked with high profile galleries in UK and the USA.

With an event of this scale across the UK we will expect local, regional and national media attention in the lead up and on the day.

Element of secrecy leading up to the day with drip fed 'leaks', creating a buzz.

The galleries will have a press embargo until the day.

Something will be happening but the public won't know the details until WAIWAV day – and even then the intervention might be so subtle that it is missed!

Legacy

Disabled film maker Justin Edgar of 104 films has been contracted to create the WAIWAV film, possibly using a helicopter to film as many interventions as possible on the day. The individual artists documentation may either be part of Justin's film or a separate film.

The film will be shown in Galleries later in 2022.

The WAIWAV book: A work in progress. It will be a mix of scholarly articles on the disability art movement putting it in context with the art canon and artists' own stories. Colin Hambrook will be editing the book.

There is potential for a longer term relationship between the interventionists and their hosting galleries.

Audience Questions:

Q: Do the artists need to keep quiet about the intervention between family and friends?

While we can't stop people talking, it is hoped that in the spirit of Dada the event will be kept secret, perhaps by the use of humour, and 'smoke and mirrors'.

Q: How accessible does everything need to be? Will you be available for accessibility advice?

Personal access as an artist will need to come first. Access for your event/intervention will be a three-way discussion between yourself, DASH, and the hosting gallery. ML will be happy to advise. The £10,000 budget may not go far between 31 artists.

Q: Will the brochure describe the spaces available?

It does, some galleries are more descriptive about their spaces than others. Any questions for the galleries should be directed to ML to relay to the gallery.

Q: If we don't get selected, will we receive any feedback?

Yes. We will aim to issue feedback though the number of applications will determine how much detail we are able to give. (It could be as little as one line due to capacity.) It may simply be that your number didn't come up from the bingo machine.

Q: Can we almost completely take over a gallery?

Yes, as long as it fits the criteria.

Q: As a speaking artist I can't have a solo project as I will need a signer?

There will be a cost Artists may need to prepare interpreters if necessary, and two interpreters will need to interchange.

Q: Will the book also have space for writing from the artists?

Colin will be editing the book so will have the final say.

ML issued thanks to the Ampersand foundation for the funding, and for the support from the Plus Tate Network.

Participants were thanked in advance for all your applications.

Thank you to the interpreters and the captioner.

Good luck!