

new expressions

Unlocking the creative potential of
museums: a national pathfinder
programme

www.newexpressions.org

FIELD VISIT PROGRAMME for museum staff and contemporary artists

Upton House and Gardens, National Trust	18 June
Plymouth Museum and Art Gallery	22 July
York Museum and Art Gallery	14 September

New Expressions 3 is establishing a national approach to collaboration between contemporary artists and museums, both large and small, and with of all types of collection and governance. We are currently exploring how partnership working can be structured in the future to provide fresh approaches to collections and engaging visitor experiences across England. During the current LIVE season some 19 artists are presenting specially commissioned work in partnership with 15 museums across the South West, Midlands and North regions of England. Taking museum collections as their starting point, projects range from long-term interventions to one-off performances: several art works will become part of museums' permanent collections while the shortest, potentially risky project in Plymouth will last just one day. www.newexpressions.org

With New Expressions 3 LIVE season now in full swing, museum staff and artists with a professional interest in collaboration are invited to experience some of its high points. Hosted by three partner museums in Plymouth, York and Warwickshire, this series of events will enable the exchange of knowledge and creative thinking and promote inspirational programming ideas. Each field visit offers the opportunity to see newly commissioned contemporary art works and to gain candid insights into their production, interpretation and installation, revealed by the museums and artists involved.

We are currently considering establishing a new practice-based 'Subject Specialist Network'. At each event participants will be able to discuss options for future joint working and networking between artists and museums to support creative risk taking and experimental new approaches to artist/museum collaborations. Arts Council England recognizes SSNs as fora for the sharing of expertise, research, mentoring and developing best practice, and have given us an award from the Museum Resilience Fund to explore if setting up an SSN would be an effective way to take the New Expressions initiative forward nationally.

The three events each have a different theme, inspired by the nature of the artwork the host museum has commissioned for New Expressions 3. The themes are:

1. Collaborative working with artists, volunteers and historic houses

Upton House and Gardens, near Banbury, with the artist Yelena Popova

Thursday 18 June, 11.00 – 16.00

Yelena's installation *'The Collector's Case'* is a video work accompanied by a series of 'invisible portraits', that forces the viewer to slow down and heightens their visual awareness. It reflects on the extraordinarily rich collection of historic paintings assembled by Lord Bearsted and the remarkable events that have befallen them since they came into his possession and following his generous donation of both house and art works to the National Trust. The focus of this event will be on working with artists and volunteers in historic houses. There will be a chance to see 'Banking for Victory', a special installation currently on show at Upton, following a concerted programme of research undertaken by a team of staff and volunteers, that brings the war-time history of the house and the precautions taken to ensure the safety of its collection vividly to life.

Tickets and full programme available on <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/collaborative-working-contemporary-artists-volunteers-and-historic-houses-tickets-16923643072>

2. Creative risk-taking: commissioning one-off outdoor public events

Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery with the artist Keith Harrison

Wednesday 22 July, 11.00 – 16.00

Keith Harrison's 'Heavy Rock' commission takes its inspiration from a work of art in Plymouth's maritime paintings collection, entitled 'Laying the Foundation Stone of Plymouth Breakwater' by George Barrett the Younger, 1812. Keith is proposing an intervention into the casting process and seasonal placement of the 100 tonne 'wave breaker' concrete blocks that are placed out on Plymouth breakwater each year, as part of the on-going defence of the breakwater, Plymouth Sound and the city itself. As in previous works, this commission will make a hidden process public with ambitious plans to create a public event to celebrate the laying of the block as a contemporary equivalent to the scene pictured in the original painting. Planning for the commission has involved the museum brokering new partnerships across the city and taking account of the tide tables (the timing of high tide is critical to the timetable for dropping the concrete blocks).

Tickets and full programme available on <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/creative-risk-taking-commissioning-one-off-outdoor-public-events-tickets-16927358184>

3. Embedding contemporary artist commissions in capital redevelopment of museums

York Art Gallery with the artist, Philip Eglin

Monday 14 September, 11.00 – 16.00

Having established a reputation for ground-breaking collaborations with artists through their programme of installations at York St Marys church, York Museum Trust has drawn on this experience in their major three-year, 8 million pound capital redevelopment of York Art Gallery. This field visit will enable participants to understand some of the challenges and rewards of engaging with artists to re-interpret and re-present collections. They will be amongst the earliest visitors and will experience the new building, including the new Centre of Ceramic Art (CoCA), in the company of Janet Barnes, Chief Executive, York Museums Trust, her colleague Helen Walsh and ceramicist Philip Eglin, one of the artists commissioned to work with the Trust on this ambitious project.

Tickets and full programme available on <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/embedding-artist-commissioning-in-museum-capital-redevelopment-tickets-16927993083>

How to book

All the events are free to take part in, but places are limited and booking is essential. To book your place, please follow the Eventbrite links above.

If you have any queries, please email Susie O'Reilly: Programme Director, NE3, o_reillysusan@hotmail.com



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