



DEMENTIA AND IMAGINATION
DEMENTIA A'R DYCHYMYG

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

DEMENTIA AND IMAGINATION *Research Artist*

BACKGROUND and CONTEXT:

The *Dementia and Imagination* research project is all about connecting communities and developing well-being through socially engaged visual arts practice, exploring how arts interventions might increase connectivity and wellbeing for people with dementia and their communities. It also aims to challenge the stigma associated with dementia and contribute to developing dementia supportive communities. It addresses major research gaps, including the need to:

- Develop theoretically grounded research from a multi-disciplinary perspective;
- Improve the scientific quality of existing evidence to demonstrate the economic and social impacts;
- Evaluate the community impact of arts activities, and;
- Include artists in the research process, observing and creatively interpreting the dynamics and outcomes.

The intervention programme will take place in three research sites: **North East England, Mid and North West England and North Wales**. The research will utilise quantitative, qualitative and systematic observation methods. An extensive programme of engagement and dissemination activities will maximise the research impact. **PLEASE STATE EXPLICITLY IN YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST, WHICH GEOGRAPHICAL REGION YOU ARE APPLYING FOR.**

This research will explore the relationship between the visual arts and memory loss in NHS and within community settings in partnership with arts organisations, through creative interventions. Additionally, we are looking for three socially engaged artists to work with us in this exciting piece of work. This is what this expression of interest is about.

KEY FACTS:

We are encouraging expressions of interest from contemporary artists and are not constrained by art-form. We are looking for cutting edge practice and artists with strong inter-personal skills

Any artist selected for this commission will be expected to take part in a mandatory training event in Manchester on **27th March 2014**

We are recruiting three artists – one for each of the research sites in which you will be embedded to observe and reflect on the dynamics of the ongoing research and relationships unfolding

As research artists you will be briefed around the wider research project, but given freedom to interrogate the process, people and contexts

Through your practice, we hope to better understand the impact of the intervention and capture what a dementia supportive community might look like

Impartial and creative scrutiny might inform future research methodologies and through visual/aural material, expose subtle and unexpected outcomes of the research programme

Work produced will form part of an exhibition in traditional and non-traditional spaces. Exhibited arts-based research material and parallel story might be used to deliver some further responsive action-research around public perceptions of people with dementia. Sharing work in a range of non-traditional settings will provide greater opportunities for dissemination and public response from diverse communities

Aims and Objectives of the Commission

- To capture the relationships unfolding within clinical settings
- Provide a narrative to the Dementia and Imagination work
- To reflect lives of people affected by dementia
- Create work that respects people
- Explores the place of the arts in the lives of people within this setting and wider community
- Investigate what dementia-friendly communities might be

Important issues to consider

The artist must consider how their practice might be accommodated within a clinical environment. To work independently, you should have enhanced DBS* clearance, or work under supervision. You must be open to the challenges of working in a sometimes challenging environment. Because of the geographical spread of the research site, it is expected that the artist will be a driver with access to a vehicle, or be able to arrange their transport within the fee provided.

* <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>

The Director of Arts for Health, Clive Parkinson will be overseeing all the artists working on this project and providing supervision and identifying any other support needed alongside the appointed artists.

Documentation required

As part of this commission, the artist will be required to maintain a journal and photographic record of their work and engagement in progress, for use by the Dementia and Imagination steering group in further understanding the process and where agreed, publicising and explaining the project.

Budget

The budget for this commission, to include all fees, materials, training and other expenses incurred by the artist in the design, presentation and co-curation of the work is **£8,250.00 (minimum 25 days work in total)**

Process

Please note we are unable to return any part of your expression of interest

Expressions of interest should be submitted with the following:

1. Completed expression of interest form
2. Art work proposal (Expression of Interest) – specific to this brief
3. Curriculum Vitae and contact details for 2 Professional References
4. Examples of previous work – No more than 12 still images, or short film (if film-maker) disk, usb stick or hard copy (this cannot be returned)

Please send applications to:
Arts for Health
Manchester Metropolitan University
Righton Building
Cavendish Street
Manchester
M15 6BG

**The closing date for receipt of expressions of interest is:
12:00 (midday) on 31st January 2014**

Responses to this call will be provided by email on 28th February

The panel reserves the right not to appoint any applicant.

More details of the project at:

<http://www.bangor.ac.uk/imscar/dsdc/projects.php.en?menu=1&catid=4347&subid=0>

More details of Arts for Health: www.artsforhealth.org