



Arts Council of Northern

**ART FORM AND SPECIALIST  
AREA POLICY 2013-2018**

**INTERNATIONAL**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Awarding funds from  
**The National Lottery**

[www.artscouncil-ni.org](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org)

## Preamble

The International Policy has been developed in line with *Ambitions for the Arts*, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's five-year Strategic Plan for the Arts, 2013-18. The overarching priorities of the Plan – champion the arts, promote access, build a sustainable sector – are reflected across the set of the Council's Art Form and Specialist Area policies, 2013-18.

## Introduction to International Policy

The Arts Council's International Policy expresses our commitment to and ambitions for trans-national interaction for the arts sector. Working closely with the British Council and other key partners, the Arts Council will ensure that Northern Ireland's arts organisations, artists and arts can connect internationally and develop an international perspective through profiling work, exchanging ideas and developing relationships.

A number of values and aspirations inform the policy – that excellence and creativity are at the core; that Northern Ireland is an outward looking region; that strong partnerships are part of a strong arts sector; that Northern Ireland has much to offer and much to learn.

The Council will create and support opportunities for those artists and organisations, working to the highest standards, to profile their work beyond Northern Ireland. It will do this through dedicated funding streams and by directly animating projects and opportunities. It will also ensure that audiences in Northern Ireland are given the opportunity to experience innovative, exciting, high-quality work from around the world.

The Council's concerns are as much about the exchange of ideas and creating learning experiences as with touring or 'exporting' work. Artists, organisations and audiences can only benefit from being given opportunities to place their own experiences in an international context.

The Council will encourage arts organisations in Northern Ireland to be outward looking and to develop working relationships beyond borders. Similarly, individual artists, curators, promoters, cultural entrepreneurs and administrators can also be provoked and find their visions endorsed through trans-national opportunities.

Northern Ireland produces artists of an international standing. We have a rich literary heritage with world-renowned writers, a respected reputation in visual

arts and well-known and respected musicians. However, our quality and diversity in the arts is not limited to these areas. In traditional arts, socially-engaged practice and arts in health care we have quality, depth and innovation of approach. It is Council's intention to support both established and emerging artists in the enhancement of their international profile and the development of their careers.

## **Funding Objectives**

- encourage artists and arts organisations working to engage internationally;
- support the inward and outward exchange of high quality contemporary arts;
- support initiatives intended to develop the international market for contemporary art from Northern Ireland;
- support the British Council in its development of appropriate profiling and showcasing opportunities for contemporary art from Northern Ireland.

## Additional Information

### **'Ambitions for the Arts' Five Year Arts Strategy, 2013-2018**

[www.artscouncil-ni.org/about-us/strategy](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/about-us/strategy)

### **Art Form and Specialist Area Policies, 2013-2018**

[www.artscouncil-ni.org/the-arts](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/the-arts)

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