

ARTS COUNCIL OF NORTHERN IRELAND SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS PROGRAMME

GUIDANCE NOTES

Please read these guidance notes carefully as there are changes from the last open submission scheme.

SCHEME – COLLECTION ACQUISITIONS OPEN SUBMISSION SCHEME		
Scheme opens	Application Deadline	Decisions by
22 January 2020	4.00 pm Friday, 14 February 2020	6 March 2020

All acquisitions must be completed by 20 March 2020.

Sample Application forms and Guidance Notes for this scheme can be made available in large print format, disc and audio tape upon request. **Please contact Robert Stephenson on 02892623507 if you require these documents in an alternative format, or if you require any other reasonable adjustments in relation to the application process.**

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Background

From 1945 to 1995, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland actively purchased contemporary art from (primarily) artists from Northern Ireland. In 1999 it undertook a fundamental review of its collecting policy and decided, due to increasing costs, conservation and storage issues, to gift the majority of the collection (some 1100 works) to registered museums in Northern Ireland. Although the Arts Council of Northern Ireland cannot continue to maintain a large public collection, it recognises the importance of purchasing contemporary work as a vital support mechanism for artists.

Objectives

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland's specific objectives with respect to acquisitions are to:

- support individual artists
- contribute to the development of visual arts practice in Northern Ireland
- develop a culture in which visual art is respected and appreciated
- foster knowledge and research
- ensure that contemporary visual arts are showcased
- stimulate the art market in Northern Ireland

Additional Information

Priority is given to artists whose work is both challenging and innovative. Priority is also given to work from emerging artists, and from those whose work is not currently represented in the collection. However, only those artists who have had an artwork purchased or commissioned for the collection in the past 12 months will be ineligible to apply. Only works up to a maximum purchase price of £4999 will be considered. Works in all media will be considered including painting, sculpture, craft, print, photography, and digital and video work. All works must have been completed in the last 3 years and should be the original work of the artist. The number of prints or copies in an edition should be clearly stated.

Eligibility

Who Can Apply?

Artists of all disciplines and in all types of working practice, who have made a contribution to artistic activities in Northern Ireland for a minimum period of one year within the last five years.

Artists from Northern Ireland who are living elsewhere will also be considered. In exceptional circumstances, artists who are not from Northern Ireland but who have made an outstanding contribution to the arts in Northern Ireland may be considered.

Who Cannot Apply?

Applicants who have had an artwork purchased or commissioned by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland within the previous 12 months.

Applicants who have broken the conditions of previous grant awards within the previous 4 years (taken from the date of the letter of offer).

Submission process

The submission process will consist of an initial online application stage where artists can submit an application form and details of their work, including images or a digital video clip sample of the work to be considered. No original artworks should be submitted at the application stage.

An application can only be made via the online application system, a link to which can be found on the funding pages of Arts Council of Northern Ireland website. No applications will be accepted by post or by email. In addition to completing the online application form, applicants will be required to upload and attach a History of Artistic Practice document, an Artist Statement document, and images or a video clip of the artwork, prior to submission of the online application.

Only one artwork from each artist will be considered for acquisition, and artists should only submit details of one artwork. The Acquisition Panel will select works for follow up that meet the acquisition criteria based upon the information submitted. **However, please note that no commitment to purchase will be made without the original artwork having been viewed in person by a member of the Acquisition Panel.**

The scheme will open for applications on 22 January 2020 and the closing date for applications will be 16:00 on 14 February 2020. No applications can be accepted after the closing date. The Arts Council of Northern Ireland will acknowledge all applications by email within 5 working days of receipt. Unsuccessful applications will be notified by letter.

Once shortlisting has taken place, shortlisted artists will be asked to bring their work to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland in Lisburn within 2 weeks, so that the acquisitions panel can see the original artwork, and confirm that it is in good condition and appropriate for purchase for the collection. Successful artists will then be informed and can leave the works with us. Any unsuccessful artists at that point would have to collect their work.

Criteria

Work will be assessed against the following criteria prior to purchase:

- Quality, innovation and challenging nature of the piece
- Evidence of artistic achievement by the applicant
- The applicant's contribution to visual arts in Northern Ireland
- Relevance of the purchase to furtherance of the artist's career
- The relevance of the purchase to the Arts Council's funding objectives.

Support material - What supporting documentation should you submit?

All applicants are required to submit a **History of your Artistic Practice**. This document should be uploaded and attached to your online application prior to submission. It should summarise your artistic career to date. Starting with the most recent examples – this may include details of exhibitions, awards, commissions, performances, prizes, publications, etc...

All applicants are required to submit an **Artist's Statement**. This document should be uploaded and attached to your online application prior to submission. It should include a full and detailed description of the artwork and the inspiration behind its creation.

All applicants are required to submit **1 x image or a digital video clip of the artwork to be considered (A maximum of 3 x images can be submitted for three dimensional artworks)**. We will also accept a link to a longer or higher definition video work viewable on a platform such as Youtube or Vimeo, providing the work can be viewed without password access.

Applicants may also upload and attach other documents in support of their application. However, please note that for each application there is a maximum of **25mb** of space available for all attachments. If the total combined size of all your attachments together exceeds **25mb**, it will not be possible to submit the online application. Applications received without the mandatory enclosures and support material cannot be considered.

Acceptable File Formats

Please DO NOT compress multiple files or attachments into one zip file. Files must be uploaded individually.

All data must be PC compatible. If non-PC compatible data is supplied, your application will not be assessed. For example, if using a MAC, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that any enclosures uploaded and attached to the online application are PC compatible.

We can accept ONLY the following file formats:

Image files (JPEG, BMP, GIF, TIFF, PNG)

Video files (QuickTime – AVI, MOV, MP4, WMV)

Text files (DOC, DOCx, PDF)

Spreadsheet files (XLS, XLSx)

Giftng of works

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland through its acquisition policy is not intending to develop a comprehensive collection of art from Northern Ireland. It does not have the capacity or resources to maintain works on a long-term basis. Therefore, it intends to gift works after a 10-15 year period to relevant institutions, including museums, in Northern Ireland, through an open application procedure. Artists will be informed of the outcome of the gifting of their work.

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland's acquisitions will be fully documented on its website, they will be part of the touring shows of new acquisitions, and other measures to promote and showcase the works will be explored.

Publicity

Information about all acquisitions is made available on our website. If your work is purchased for the collection it will be a condition of offer that you agree to a biographical note, image of the work, and artist's statement being stored electronically on a database for the following purposes: Research inquiries; commissioning opportunities; general inquiries and promoting the arts. Personal contact details will not be given out without the artist's permission.

Further help and Advice

If you require any further information, help or advice in relation to this scheme, please contact **Robert Stephenson** on 02892623507 or email rstephenson@artscouncil-ni.org.