

Summary of the programme

Perspective(s) is a new collaboration between the Arts Council of Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru - Museum Wales, which seeks to bring about a step change on how the visual arts and heritage sector reflects the cultural and ethnic diversity of our society.

Over a two-year period, creative professionals from culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds will work with the museums and visual arts organisations, to platform untold stories, create artistic responses and act as an agent for change. The programme seeks to challenge current ways of thinking by engaging with communities to explore the visual arts and heritage sector through an anti-racist and decolonial lens.

Summary of organisations

GS Artists Swansea is an artist's project on the High Street of Swansea. Formed in 2014 it has organically developed through artist volunteers to a not for profit company in 2018, and is now run by a group of freelance artists, with a fair pay policy for all. (www.galleriesimpsonswansea.com)

Over the last 5 years we have worked extensively with emerging artists; supporting solo presentation's, hosting talks from over 50 artists, and developing off site projects with an intergenerational group of creative practitioners based in Wales.

We are equally committed to working with our local community, having developed our engagement via a specifically focused project- the 9 to 90 Creative Community with it's own dedicated website. (www.9to90creativecommunity.com) Through constant consultation the 9 to 90 has progressed from a prescriptive outreach project, to a community led one with a weekly art club, programmed and often led by our volunteers.

National Waterfront Museum, Swansea, is part of Amgueddfa Cymru- Museum Wales. The museum opened its doors in 2005 and is at the heart of Swansea's thriving marina. Housed in an original waterfront warehouse linked to a ultra-modern slate and glass building, the Museum explores the impact of the Industrial Revolution on the people and landscapes of Wales. It also shows the huge impact Welsh coal, steel and iron had on the rest of the world – and the influences of Welsh innovations today.

The role and what we are looking for;

A creative practitioner to work with both GS Artists Swansea and National Waterfront Museum, Swansea on new ways of decolonising public spaces,

acting as a critical friend and an agent of change. We want you to question and challenge current ways of thinking within the organisations by engaging with communities to explore the visual arts and heritage sector through an anti-racist and decolonial lens.

About the creative output:

The creative practitioner should have the ability to work sensitively in a complex network of stakeholders and employ participatory methods to engage with and articulate underrepresented lived experiences and produce a range of interpretative materials to engage the wider community.

You should critically engage with the dominant narratives that perpetuate underrepresentation and have an understanding of the structural barriers faced by different groups within society. Understand the links between history, culture and social imagination and actively challenge preconceptions in a constructive way.

You could be an artist, maker, photographer, filmmaker or working in performance.

- We are looking for someone who is socially and politically engaged who can work with both National Waterfront Museum Swansea and Galerie Simpson to; challenge and disrupt colonial legacies and/or engage in anti-racism through potential exhibitions, displays, events, or performance.

You must be culturally and ethnically diverse*, based in Wales, and be at a point in your work to significantly benefit from the learning and development offered by this opportunity, and have a clear rationale for wanting to participate.

The role would require you to spend 100 days split between museum and visual arts organisation, and that would include participation in four networking events that will be held during the project. These will involve the creative professionals, the visual arts organisations and museums.

You would be asked to engage with community groups to discover new perspectives and stories, aiming to bring about progressive change at an individual, community, and organisational level.

You would also be required to participate in evaluation, led by the Arts Council of Wales in partnership with Amgueddfa Cymru throughout the programme. This will aim to disseminate learning to the sector to help deepen understanding and experience of the work, assessing the impact of the Perspective(s) programme using the following six building blocks:

Space - To decolonise public spaces, such as museum and galleries.
Community - Facilitate deeper and wider community engagement.
Learning - To use collections, displays and exhibitions as catalysts for learning, especially in relation to colonialism, slavery, and Empire.
Creative Practitioner Development - To facilitate the development of Creative Professionals from culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds.
Sector Development - To develop visual arts organisations and a heritage sector in Wales that is actively anti-racist and more intersectional.
Democratise and Decolonise - To develop processes and new ways of working that are democratic and intersectional working towards an anti-racist arts and heritage sector.

*We define 'culturally and ethnically diverse' as:

Anyone from the African, Asian, Caribbean, Hispanic, Latino, Eastern European or Middle Eastern diaspora in Wales

Anyone who identifies as being from an ethnic group that is not exclusively White.

Anyone from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities.

NB- please contact us directly at info@galleriesimpsonswansea.com if you have any access requirements in order to complete this application.

What we offer

- £25,000 for 100 days of work to be concluded by March 2025,
- Professional and technical support for developing artworks, exhibitions and events
- Support from the GS Artists team in all aspects of this project, including ensuring all of the artists requirements are accommodated and safeguarding their wellbeing.

Key Dates

Submission – 5pm on June 18th

Interviews – between June 26th Friday 30th June

12th July first networking event, in person (Cardiff)

19th July – half day for the Creative Practitioners (virtual)

All work to be concluded by March 2025 – end of programme.

How to Apply

Application is via up to **three pages of A4** (PDF preferred) minimum font size 12. You can also include voice or video messages of up to 10mins each. Please submit by 5pm on June 18th to info@galleriesimpsonswansea.com (you will receive an email acknowledging receipt)

Your submission should include the following:

Tell us why you want to take part in the Perspectives program. What do you hope to gain or achieve?

Please let us know your experience in working on the following:

-Anti-racist/de-colonising projects?

-Engaging with community groups/individuals from culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds?

Please provide information about your artistic practice providing examples as still images, links to your website or a link to a video showreel (maximum 5 minutes) from an online resource such as Vimeo or YouTube.

Any questions please contact: info@galleriesimpsonswansea.com