



## **b-side + Portland Museum**

### **PLATFORM BURSARY 2022**

b-side and Portland Museum are offering a £600 artist bursary for either:

- Early Career artists or
- Established artists who would like to develop and experiment with a change of practice.

**Deadline for expressions of interest 5pm 12 April 2022.**

#### **Platform bursary information:**

**This is primarily a development opportunity, with mentoring support.**

- **£600 bursary + £50 towards travel costs**
- **An invitation to attend the b-side Festival Artist R&D day in June 2022**
- **8 hours of mentoring time from b-side**
- **Portland Museum will support the artist's access to the Abergavenny project**
- **Artists will also have the opportunity of using the b-side shop front 'project space' - Outpost, in Fortuneswell, Portland for use as private or public facing research, meeting or work space and engagement venue prior to the festival.**
- **Potential to create a piece of work to be shown at the 2022 b-side festival**

Portland Museum and b-side invite applications from Dorset based artists who would like to observe and respond to the digitization and recording of the finds found on the wreck of Earl of Abergavenny (wrecked on the Shambles, a sandbank just off Portland Bill, in 1805).

The finds from the shipwreck of the Earl of Abergavenny were retrieved over a roughly 20 year period by a local maritime diving group and placed into an archive by Ed Cumming. Portland Museum has been funded by National Lottery funding to upskill it's volunteers in digital skills including 3D scanning/photography.

This would be a great opportunity for an artist to get close to objects reshaped and reformed by years on the seabed. Objects that betray relationships formed between people and societies at a crucial time in Britain's colonial history.

Platform bursary artists will have an opportunity to develop a piece of work for inclusion in the Festival – this could take the form of a site-responsive installation, an engagement event, a talk, a tour – these are just some examples. The development of the work will be an integral part of the mentoring from both organisations. In previous years, bursary artists have shown their work or works in progress at b-side festival. However, this funding is not for a festival commission.

## **About b-side**

*'In its every breath it has everything to do with the place and people.'*

*Visitor 2018*

b-side commissions site-responsive work for public spaces on Portland revealing aspects of the island environment, myth, community stories and their relationship to people and places elsewhere.

b-side supports work by artists that responds to and reveals all aspects of the island; which may include its geology, ecology, archaeology, heritage and its geographic relationships locally and internationally. The b-side festival takes place over a four day period with installations and events at a number of locations across the island. The next festival will take place 08 – 11 September 2022.

## **About Portland Museum**

Portland Museum was founded in 1929 by Dr Marie Stopes, the famous author, paleobotanist and birth control pioneer. In 1930, Stopes gifted the two 17th century thatched cottages that house its collection to the people of Portland.

Situated just above the spectacular Church Ope Cove, the museum sits in an area rich in history that features smugglers, Viking landings, dinosaur footprints, Rufus Castle, Pennsylvania Castle and the ruins of St Andrew's Church. It houses a collection on locally based themes of quarrying and the Portland Stone industry, maritime history, archaeology, folklore and local customs, fossils and the Jurassic era.

Portland Museum Trust is a volunteer led registered charity dedicated to working with the local community to produce events and displays that reflect its history. We are committed to promoting equality and diversity in all our activities and strive to create a work place that reflects the community we serve. We welcome everyone irrespective of age, gender, ability, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation.

## About Portland

Portland is a curious island with a very particular history and ecology offering huge scope for research and inspiration. Located just off the coast of Dorset and approached via a narrow causeway, this hulk of limestone, bounded by steep cliffs and treacherous seas is unlike anywhere else in Dorset. Prior to the first road bridge built in 1839 linking it to the mainland, it was an isolated agricultural community sustained by farming and fishing and with its own unique ways and customs. Many ancient land use and management practices continued long after joining the mainland.

However, Portland has been dramatically changed and influenced over the years by quarrying and military appropriation and secret experimentation, resulting in what is now widely regarded as an industrial landscape and economy. It is a small island just 1.7 miles across and 4 miles long, it's coastal edges subject to the forces of nature, eroded by the sea, landslips and rock falls, its interior removed by quarrying and mining. With an ever-increasing population, space is at a premium and land use contested. As policies of growth and the impact of climate change collide, the opportunities to develop a sustainable community are challenged. More recently tourism is seen as the growth industry, as former quarries are re-wilded as nature reserves and Portland's unique ecological, historical and leisure attractions are increasingly recognized by climbers, divers, walkers, bird watchers, naturalists, geologists and historians. Portland, as a community and place, encapsulates in miniature the characteristics of what is happening in a wider world context

## Common Lands

Over coming months our programme of artist commissions, projects and festival will be developed around a theme with the over-arching title of Common Lands. We are regarding the island as a microcosm to explore our relationship to and with land – both here and elsewhere. This includes the physical and environmental context, together with the human and social context. Within this theme we will be focussing on a number of key research areas that explore these interwoven themes and relate or respond to the site and context of Portland. More information on Common Lands [HERE](#).

## HOW TO APPLY

Please send an expression of interest that includes the following:

- A summary description of you and your work (max 300 words)
- How you think this bursary will benefit your practise
- Any ideas of areas of interest that you would like to explore and develop
- Images (10 max) or web links illustrating previous work

### IMPORTANT

**Your application and images must be sent as ONE pdf document, please label the document with your name. Send your completed application to: [producer@b-side.org.uk](mailto:producer@b-side.org.uk)**

**Deadline 5pm 12 April 2022**

### Need to send us your info in another way?

Please let us know if you need any of the information in a different format. Additionally, please contact us if there is anything we can do to make the application process more accessible to you. For further support email Molly Scarborough (b-side's Access lead): [molly@b-side.org.uk](mailto:molly@b-side.org.uk)