



Curator of Visual Arts



Project Arts Centre is beginning the search for a new Curator for our Visual Arts Programme.

Project Arts Centre is Ireland's first arts centre: an independent and ambitious multidisciplinary organisation in the heart of Dublin with a local, national and international remit. Project is a home for contemporary arts, a resource for artists and a critical hub. Project works with artists across all art forms to make and present extraordinary work that inspires and provokes audiences.

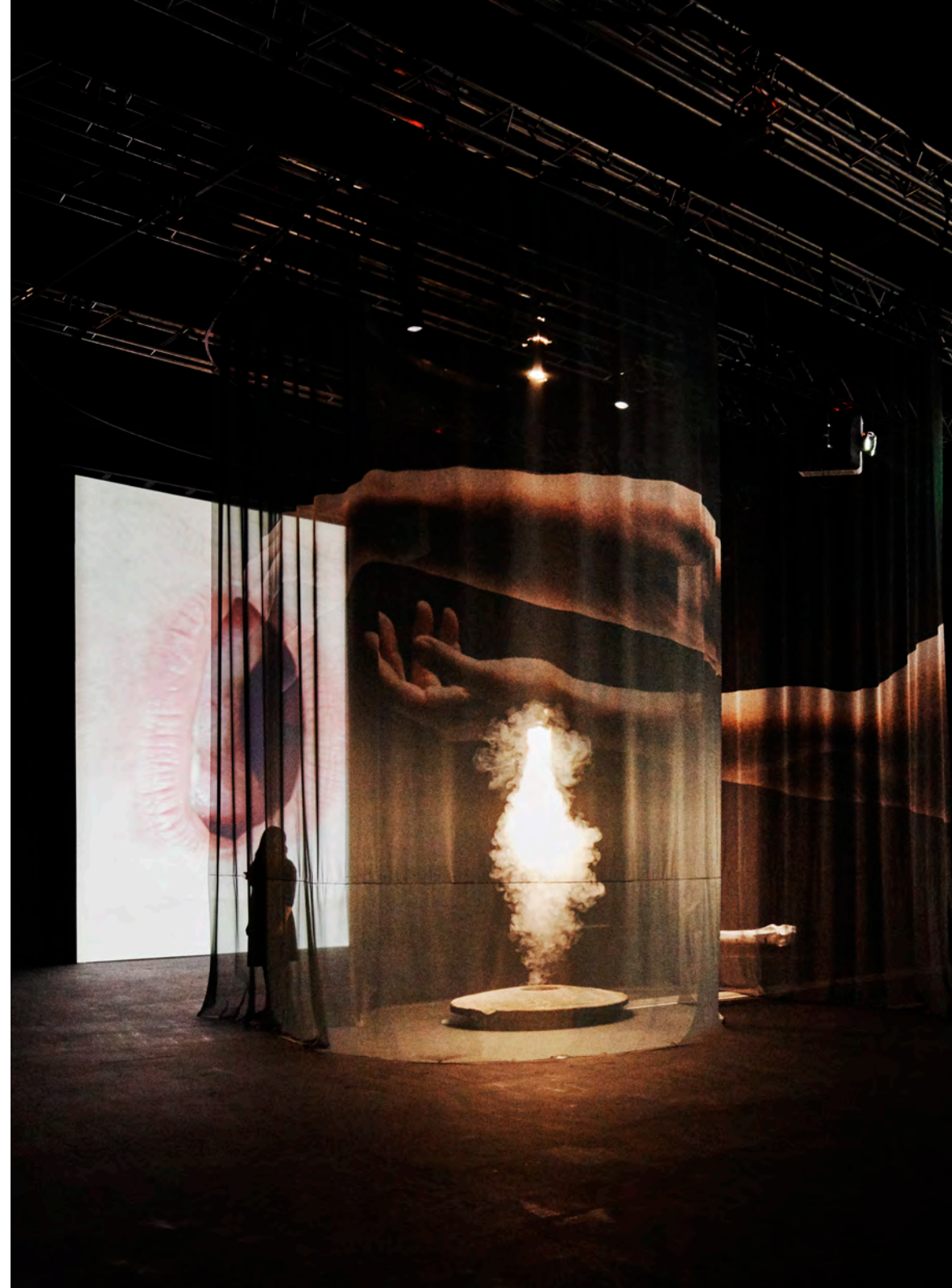
What is unique about Project?

- We are located at the centre of contemporary arts practice, and this position distinguishes us from other centres who also aim to support artists in making work – it gives us an identity and a capacity that is unique.
- We are influenced, inspired and shaped by our location in the heart of the city and the diversity of people who live here
- Project is a key organisation through which the public access contemporary art and public space, whether through visiting our venue or engaging with our work on tour across Ireland or internationally
- We are always thinking about the next steps with and for artists
- We have a reputation at international level

History and Context

Project Arts Centre was founded in 1966 as Project 67. When the founders of Project came together they did so with the philosophy that a creative person is capable of managing their own affairs; Project was an organisation set up, managed and governed by artists – its founding spirit was centred on artists at a time when art was created in established institutions. It became a home for the independents; for artists whose work challenged the establishment and the academy. Project was created at a time of change in our country and in the wider world. Looking to the future is embedded in our DNA. Over the years, Project's personality has always reflected these values, whether embracing the punk movement, presenting edgy contemporary performance or confounding audiences' ideas of what constitutes an exhibition. We are proud of this legacy but it is not a history that lies heavy on our shoulders; it is a history of reinvention, of evolution, of looking to the future, while reflecting on the present – and of change.

Our 50th anniversary in 2016 provided a catalyst to re-examine our purpose as a space for artists and audiences. As Ireland's first arts centre, we used this occasion to reflect, to re-imagine our future, and to develop new ways to ensure that everything we do remains innovative and is delivered to the highest possible standards under the best possible conditions. Project's independence and history has always been defined by three things, **Artists, Location and Ambition** – these will continue to play an important role in the Project of the future.





In 2020, Project Arts Centre's Board altered its plans for developing a new 5-year strategy in order to examine Project's role in the changing landscape shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board focused particularly on Project's core values and priorities in a time of change. Using a text by Bruno Latour as a provocation, the Board interrogated questions relating to:

- the value of Project's work both pre-pandemic and throughout the crisis.
- the supports that enabled artists to do their best work/thinking/creating.
- the things that Project should introduce, build upon or drop post-pandemic.

A series of similar meetings were held with Project Members, Project Artists, Staff and a small sub-group of Project Board and Members who formed a Radical Thinking Group to help inform the future of the organisation.

Three key themes emerged in the course of these meetings:

- The nature and importance of the 'arts centre'
- The changing face of artist support
- The role of Project in a changing world

2021 will be a year of nimble flexibility with a programme of enquiry, discussion, experimentation, presentation and debate. The learning that emerges from this process in 2021 will shape the future of the organisation for the following five years (2022–2026).

Artists, Location and Ambition will continue to be vital components in the Project of the future but the way in which all three intersect with the public will be particular lens for 2021.

The Role

Reporting to the Artistic Director and General Manager, but working autonomously, The Curator of Visual Arts (Curator) is a key position at Project with responsibility for leading on the vision for and delivery of the organisation's visual arts programme.

The ideal candidate will have:

- A minimum of three years curatorial experience, either within an institutional context /or as part of an independent curatorial practice with evidence of a track record in producing and curating exhibitions and managing exhibition budgets
- Strong knowledge of contemporary arts scene and trends in Ireland and internationally
- excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to develop effective partnerships as well as to persuade and negotiate
- Knowledge and experience of Arts media and communication with press and art journals
- Excellent communication and writing skills
- Excellent organisational skills, and rigorous sense of detail
- High level of teamwork, communication and self-motivation
- Excellent production skills and knowledge, in particular of delivery of exhibitions to a high quality of public presentation, within available budgets.
- Good IT skills





As Curator you will:

- Research, develop and present exhibitions, events, talks and projects in keeping with the mission of Project Arts Centre
- Take an active role in mediating the Visual Arts Programme to all stakeholders, in particular, the public
- Be responsible for leading your colleagues in delivering the Visual Arts Programme
- Collaborate with other curators in the house, including the Artistic Director and Project Potential Coordinator on joint projects and initiatives
- Report on the Visual Art Programme to Project's Board of Directors (occasionally) and Membership (annually at the AGM)
- Explore sources of additional income and make application grants where feasible
- In conjunction with the General Manager, oversee the management of budgets to ensure that the programme is delivered within available resources
- Write press releases and exhibition material for print and website, with support/input of Communications Team
- Collaborate with Communications Team on promotion of Visual Arts Programmes through various platforms including press, website, social media, broadcast, etc
- Support and input into Funding applications
- Participate, with the wider Team and Board, in the development of Project's next Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Application Process

Applications are welcomed for the position which is for a fixed-term of 4 years with a 6 month probation period. Project is open to new ways of working, new forms of curatorial practice and time-based project proposals.

Project welcomes applications from everybody but would like to encourage applications by Curators from a diversity of national, ethnic or cultural groups (including, but not limited to, Asian, Black, Traveller and minority ethnic, refugees, people with disabilities, working-class and LGBTQI+). We are committed to accessibility and want to make sure that our spaces and processes are accessible to all. Please let us know in your application if you have any particular access requirements.

Applications should include a letter of interest (including a curatorial vision/outline of your project), CV(s) including two referees, and any relevant documentation (to a maximum of 10 pages A4).

Salary: €40,000/annum

Application deadline: Monday 25th January

Interviews will be held on Friday 5th February

Applications should be clearly marked, 'Curator of Visual Arts', and sent by email only to Cian O'Brien, Artistic Director, Project Arts Centre, cian@projectartscentre.ie

For more information, see www.projectartscentre.ie

