

OPEN CALL: SOUND & PORTRAITS

WATERFORD GALLERY OF ART - CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Waterford Gallery of Art (WGOA) and Waterford Arts Office are seeking proposals from musicians and sound artists to create new audio artworks to be performed as part of the 2022 Imagine Arts Festival. 'Sound & Portraits' presents a series of five small artist commissions inspired by the gallery's current exhibition, 'Portraits: People & Place'.

Category: Commission (sound)

Application Deadline: 11:59am 7th October 2022

Link to further details: <https://waterfordgalleryofart.com/whats-on/>

Artist Payment: €500

Submission fee to apply: None



Sound & Portraits with the Waterford Gallery of Art – gallery tour and live performances of the work.

To coincide with the 'Portraits: People & Place' exhibition (8th Sept 2022 – Spring 2023) the Waterford Gallery of Art will be presenting a series of sound portraits by musicians, artists and those working with sound to spotlight how identity, representation and lived experiences are captured creatively beyond the canvas.

This commission is part of WGOA's ambition to produce artworks that encourage audiences to think about 'What exactly is a portrait? What stories are being told? How best can artists represent people, character, essence, narrative and emotions? What are the differing ways that sound can fulfil this brief?

WGOA is looking to appoint 5 musicians or artists working with sound (locally, nationally, or beyond) to create individual, thought provoking, emotive works.

Who can apply:

WGOA and Imagine Arts Festival are looking for as broad a range of artists and applications as possible. Proposals could be songs (folk, pop, metal etc.) compositions (instrumental or with vocals/words, musique concrète, traditional, classical etc.), field recordings, spoken word, installations...

We welcome applications from all ages, abilities and locations though note that works must be performed in some way in the gallery as part of this commission. Applications can be from individuals, groups or new collaborations.

Requirements:

- Works can be inspired directly by artworks featured in the exhibition or more broadly to themes related to portraiture (self-portraits, biographies, character studies etc.) but they must work towards capturing an audio-based depiction of a sitter or subject
- Works must primarily be sound-based though can include elements of performance, installation, audio-visual displays, interaction etc.
- All works/artists must be available to be performed live in some way within the gallery during the Imagine Arts Festival on Wednesday 26th October, 7pm, Waterford Gallery of Art
- Fees are to include the writing and performing of the work and any expenses incurred as part of this process
- All rights and permissions remain with the artist
- Work must be originally conceived and not violate any contractual, copyright law or permissions
- Though flexible, it is envisaged that completed audio works will be between 4 and 20 minutes in duration.

Benefits:

- Successful artists will receive €500 per selected track (inclusive of VAT if applicable)
- Be promoted individually and as a group of audio tracks
- Exhibited and promoted together as part of the Imagine Arts Festival
- All works and copyright remain vested with the artist
- Support from the Waterford Arts and Festival team
- A chance to develop and present new (potentially more 'experimental work') to a wider audience via the gallery, festival, and promotion.
- Through this commission process WGOA also intends to achieve broader aims of:
- Showing and interpreting artistic creativity in new and exciting ways

- Reaching new, and broader audiences
- Extending the cultural offering for each the partner organisations
- Promoting a diverse and varied point of view in response to 'traditional' gallery items
- Continuing to challenge the boundaries of commissioning within the arts by embracing non-physical, non-visual, creative outputs.

How to Apply:

Applications can be written, or provided as a video or audio. If these formats are not accessible to you, please do let us know by emailing:

WaterfordGallery@waterfordcouncil.ie

Applications do not need to be complete or finalised works, just an indication of the approach you intend to take if selected.

Dates:

Open Call Live: 14th September 2022 – 10th October 2022

Submissions Entry Deadline: 11:59am 7th October 2022

Selected Artists Notified: 11th October 2022

Live Performance of the Work at WGOA: 7pm, 26th October 2022

Before applying, we strongly recommend visiting our gallery where possible and familiarising yourself with the stories and artworks on display.

Please include the following in your application:

1. **An expression of interest which includes:**
 - **Contact details including any relevant website or social media accounts**
 - **Artist statement or bio (maximum 1 side A4)**
 - **Up to 4 examples of any recent, related work. This may be in the format of supporting attachments or links with brief descriptions (up to 150 words).**
2. **Artist's proposal which details how the artwork would meet the brief of the commission (up to 1 side of A4) and a up to a maximum of 4 accompanying files or links in support of the proposed new work. Please note how the work will be performed in the space and equipment required.**
3. **Draft schedule.**

Written applications should be no larger than 10MB. Video or audio application should be no longer than 10 minutes and transferred via WeTransfer.

All proposals are to be sent to: WaterfordGallery@waterfordcouncil.ie

Please use as the title of your email submission:

Sound & Portraits OPEN CALL PROPOSAL

Works will be selected by representatives from the gallery, festival, arts, and music community. Due to the nature of this commission and the amount of responses received, we will not be able to guarantee detailed feedback to all applicants.

About the Exhibition: Portraits: People & Place

For an artist to create a successful portrait, to capture the very essence of the sitter or subject in front of them, it is often said that they are required to delve beyond the surface of what the eye can see. 'Portraits: People & Place' showcases over 50 artworks from the Waterford Collection of Art, as well as several significant loans and commissions, that capture something more than just an image reflected. Through painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, poetry, and audio, these artworks look to tell a story about lives, personalities, characters, and emotions. In many instances, these artworks tell us as much about the artists as they do about the subject of their creations – especially if the subject of the work is the artists themselves.

Included within the display are also numerous portraits of the city, highlighting the many and varied ways in which artists have attempted to capture the persona of a place. In some instances, the place itself has become so intertwined and inseparable from personal biographies it serves as a portrait in its own right.

Artists in the exhibition from the Waterford Collection of Art include:

Una Sealy (RHA), James Hanley (RHA), Mildred Anne Butler (RA, RWS), Thomas Ryan (PPRHA), John Behan (RHA), Hilda Roberts (HRHA) and more.

Works on loan to the gallery include:

'Portrait of Mary Palliser' (1871) by Frederic William Burton, from the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, Canada; 'Ben' (2022) by Pat O'Brien; 'The Murmur of the Innocents 71, 2019' by Gottfried Helnwein.

Also featuring are several recently commissioned poems developed in partnership with the Waterford literary journal 'The Waxed Lemon', and mixed-media installation by SETU graduate and 'Waterford Collection of Art Graduate Award' winner, Rhys Wallace.

Exhibition Dates: 8th September 2022 – spring 2023

Gallery Times: The gallery is open to the public Wednesday -Saturday, 10am-5pm. Free for all.

About the Waterford Gallery of Art

The Waterford Collection of Art, formerly known as 'The Waterford Municipal Art Collection' is acknowledged as one of the oldest and best municipal collections of art in Ireland.

Originally founded as the Waterford Art Museum in 1939, the collection has grown considerably since and now comprises over 500 works of art including works by: Paul Henry, Jack B. Yeats, Mainie Jellett, Louis Le Brocqy, Letitia Hamilton, Dermot O'Brien, Evie Hone, Mary Swanzy, Charles Lamb, Hilda Roberts, Seán Keating, and George Russell (a.k.a. AE), as well as contemporary acquisitions of work by Michael (Ben) Hennessy, Breda Lynch, Hughie O'Donoghue, Donald Teskey, and Kathleen Delaney.

The collection is now housed at the Waterford Gallery of Art, 31-32 O'Connell Street, in a former bank building built in 1845. The building was designed by the Waterford born architect Thomas Jackson (1807 – 1890).

About Imagine Arts Festival

"Imagine Arts Festival is a unique celebration of the arts in Waterford City. We are a community Arts Festival run by a voluntary committee.

We like to capture the essence of Waterford's burgeoning artistic community and give it a national platform and therefore a bigger audience.

Our aim is to feature the best of national and international artists and inspire new ideas and thought within the local community by exposure to such talent and creativity. We promote established and emerging artists, from local, national and the international arena."

Festival Dates: Tuesday 25th - Sunday 30th October 2022

