

## **CONTENTS**

[CONTINUOUS NETWORK x UNLIMITED COMMISSION](#)

[BRIEF FOR APPLICANTS](#)

[SUMMARY](#)

[WHAT WE ARE OFFERING](#)

[WE ARE LOOKING FOR PROJECTS THAT](#)

[SELECTION CRITERIA](#)

[WHO CAN APPLY?](#)

[WHAT WE EXPECT FROM SELECTED ARTISTS](#)

[PRINCIPLES OF CONTINUOUS NETWORK](#)

[SELECTION PROCESS](#)

[ABOUT THE COMMISSIONING PARTNERS](#)

## **CONTINUOUS NETWORK x UNLIMITED COMMISSION**

Details of exactly how to apply appear in this document and on the [CONTINUOUS Website](#)

For alternative versions of this document such as Easy Read and Large Print versions please see [here](#)

Link to Submittable Expression of Interest Form can be found [here](#) (opening 12:00 noon Weds 15 July 2020)

**Deadline for submitting a short Expression of Interest for this commission is  
12:00 (Noon) on Mon 10 August 2020**

Please contact: [sallyr@siobhandavies.com](mailto:sallyr@siobhandavies.com) if you require this information in an alternative format, or for an open conversation about the opportunity and/or how to ensure your access requirements are supported and met in making an Expression of Interest.

## BRIEF FOR APPLICANTS

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art (Gateshead), Siobhan Davies Dance (SDD

– London), Unlimited, Tramway (Glasgow) and Bluecoat (Liverpool) are delighted to announce a new artist commission opportunity as part of the CONTINUOUS Network programme for 2021/22.

Our collaboration seeks to support the creation of a new disabled-led dance work, from an artist based in England (due to funding limitations). This is part of our broader programme to advance the creation, presentation and development of audiences for experimental independent contemporary dance in visual art contexts. This opportunity follows the first two CONTINUOUS commissions (2018/19), Lucy Suggate's *Spirit Compass* which premiered at BALTIC in Autumn 2019 before touring nationwide, and Zinzi Minott's *Black on Black: 24R* due to premiere at BALTIC in March 2021 (following postponement due to COVID-19) before a UK-wide tour.

## SUMMARY

The CONTINUOUS Network launched in 2019 to support artists and organisations to learn from one another about how to create the best conditions for making and presenting dance in a gallery context, and for engaging audiences. We also wish to share that knowledge with colleagues and the public. Alongside Siobhan Davies Dance, BALTIC, Tramway, and Bluecoat, CONTINUOUS Network partners include; Dance4 (Nottingham), Nottingham Contemporary (Nottingham), The Tetley (Leeds), Tramway (Glasgow) Turner Contemporary (Margate) and Yorkshire Dance (Leeds).

This CONTINUOUS x Unlimited Commission sees us partnering with [Unlimited](#), a commissioning programme supporting disabled artists, to commission a disabled artist, or collective of artists, to make a new work for initial presentation at BALTIC, Tramway and Bluecoat. We wish to work with applicants to ensure this process is as accessible as possible.

The artist/s will be hosted by BALTIC and Siobhan Davies Dance to develop their work. Practitioners will be supported by and have access to both organisations, keeping artists at the centre of this collaborative approach. Both BALTIC

and Siobhan Davies Studios in London are available for development time (if required).

These organisations aim to be leaders nationally and internationally in supporting the creation and presentation of work at the intersection of dance and visual art, and in generating audience engagement and critical dialogue. Like many, this project has been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic, particularly as it is based on a group of Network partners presenting and investing in new dance works for their galleries, which have been closed since March 2020. The impact for each partner varies in terms of building opening, social distancing measures in their buildings, and financial situations. However, we are able to guarantee support for this commission to premiere and be presented at BALTIC and Tramway in 2021, it will then tour to Bluecoat and potentially to additional partner venues in 2022 with support from the Network.

We recognise that the environment remains uncertain and some artists may want or need to remain working at home for an extended period of time. We are prepared to support artists to realise their work amidst the changing circumstances, including undertaking some or all of their production process from home.

## WHAT WE ARE OFFERING

We will select an artist (or collective of artists) to create one new commission, either physically or virtually, to be premiered at BALTIC (in September 2021) and subsequently tour to Tramway to be presented as part of [DIG Festival](#) (8-23 October 2021), and to Bluecoat in 2022.

The commission includes:

- Artist fee of £7,155 incl. VAT (expected 9 weeks at £795 per week)
- Production budget of £22,000
- Access allowance of £4,500 (expected to cover artists access costs for production phase)

The commission budget should cover all costs associated with production. It is not anticipated that additional fundraising be sought, to encourage sustainability within the available budget and reduce the risk of fundraising impacting timelines for development. The commission funds can be distributed as the applicant sees fit, for instance in the case of collective applicants the fees and production budget may be redistributed.

For premiere and subsequent performances separate budgets will be agreed (up to £7500 each performance) which should include fees, production costs, any travel or other expenses, and both artist access allowance and audience/presentation access costs.

Additional in-kind support includes:

- 4 weeks of in-kind rehearsal / residency space at BALTIC and SDD
- Curatorial and production support from BALTIC and SDD
- Marketing and documentation
- Tour management for presentations
- Access to all commissioning partner networks
- Shortlisted artists will be invited to join Unlimited's alumni which provides access to training, development, support and networking opportunities

A conversation about the offer and our approach to supporting access requirements can be had informally with Network Producer Sally Rose: [sallyr@siobhandavies.com](mailto:sallyr@siobhandavies.com) at any point during this process.

## **WE ARE LOOKING FOR PROJECTS THAT**

- Are led by dance artists or choreographers who are disabled
- Come from artists with practices evidencing commitment, risk-taking and well-developed ideas
- Are specifically created for presentation in a contemporary visual art context
- Reflect a strong track record of creating work and reaching audiences
- Are clearly articulated and have had some research and development. This may have been funded by Arts Council England or other sources, or be self-supported

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Our primary concern is with the rigour of the proposed project, the artist's interest and enthusiasm for working with a visual art context, and a strong rationale for wanting to be part of this programme at this stage of their career, evidenced by the expression of interest.

Previous experience of working in galleries as a performer or choreographer is not required, rather a demonstrable interest and curiosity in creating and presenting work in a

gallery context, and an anticipation of the conditions that may be required for this.

We are committed to amplifying practices reflecting a range of backgrounds that might crossover between art forms, but are rooted in dance and choreography. We are inviting artists with different skills, experiences and voices to join us. We actively encourage applications from those who consider themselves as experiencing marginalisation in this field.

## **THE WORK**

- Should be rooted in choreographic practice
- Can involve other mediums, or artistic collaborators, and be performed by artists other than the applicant themselves
- Can be durational or a fixed duration
- Can take place in a gallery, a public space or be presented via video or online
- Should be appropriate & adaptable to the spaces available at BALTIC (i.e. [BALTIC's Performance Space](#), galleries or public space), Bluecoat and Tramway (i.e. [T5 space](#) at Tramway), or respond to the spaces where it will be displayed (if presented virtually)

- Will be developed through genuine engagement with commissioning partners

## WHO CAN APPLY?

- Independent disabled dance artists or choreographers, or collectives of artists, are encouraged to apply
- Applicants should have a practice in dance and/or choreography evidenced by minimum 3 years of professional activity
- Formal dance or choreographic training is not required
- Applicants for this commission must be based in England due to funding limits

Unlimited, and the commissioning partners Siobhan Davies Dance, BALTIC, Tramway and Bluecoat use an inclusive definition of disability based on the **Social Model** approach (as opposed to the [Medical Model](#)), which, by focusing on the disabling barriers imposed by society, embraces all physical, sensory and invisible impairments, learning disability, mental health, neurodivergent and fatigue conditions, [see definition by Unlimited on the Shape website](#). If you identify as such, and/or have experienced access barriers, we invite you to apply, or contact us for a conversation.

## **WHAT WE EXPECT FROM SELECTED ARTISTS**

This opportunity is both a commission to create a new work and an opportunity to exchange knowledge with the staff of SDD, BALTIC, Tramway, and Bluecoat. This supports our aim for artists and organisations to learn from one another about how to create the best conditions for making and presenting dance in a gallery context, and for engaging audiences. We wish to support ambitious ideas and concepts. We also wish to share that knowledge with colleagues and the public, therefore an enthusiasm for audiences and public engagement, an interest in documenting and evaluating your working process and sharing this with colleagues and the public is essential.

You will be invited to take part in evaluation activities around the project to help inform the future work of the Network. As a commissioned artist you may also be invited to participate in other activities with SDD and BALTIC such as audience engagement work, sharing of work in progress, talks and other events, for which additional fees will be available.

## **PRINCIPLES OF CONTINUOUS NETWORK**

We are committed to care and knowledge exchange around topics including production, presentation, access, curation, communications, audience engagement and critical / intellectual frameworks and supporting structural change within the Dance and Visual Arts sectors. This includes working against all barriers to access and participation and all forms of oppression present within the arts and within the organisations in the Network, and seeking equity in our work.

We are striving to build better knowledge and practices around accessibility requirements, and aiming for trust and ease in our relationships with disabled artists. Our efforts here have been informed by working with artists so far through the CONTINUOUS project, and receiving critical feedback on the need to improve our capacity and experience in these relationships, along with better understanding the structures within the institutions involved in the project and how they impact artists. This ongoing process includes developing more rigorous procedures for discussing and addressing access needs with artists and all freelancers, co-creating shared access commitments and practices among CONTINUOUS Network partners, raising awareness and holding training within our teams, and

increasing the amount of resources dedicated to access support available through our projects.

We are actively committed to learning and improving and are open to feedback and dialogue around all elements of our work as a Network, and throughout this process.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

### **1. Expression of Interest (EOI)**

- Complete the EOI form (4 required questions + monitoring info) available here <https://bit.ly/CONTUnlimited-SubmitForm> from midday on Weds 15 July. You will need to create an online account to sign in (name, email, password).
- Alternatively you can submit a video or audio EOI - there are suggested lengths for the 4 required questions in the EOI form on Submittable
- **The deadline is 12:00 (Noon) on Mon 10 August (4 weeks time)**

An informal advisory conversation before completing your EOI is open to anyone. Please contact Sally Rose, CONTINUOUS Network Producer to arrange this:

[sallyr@siobhandavies.com](mailto:sallyr@siobhandavies.com)

## **2. Shortlisting & Selection Panel**

Applications will be shortlisted by the **Selection Panel** consisting of:

Lauren Wright, Programme Director at SDD; Jo Verrent, Senior Producer at Unlimited;

Irene Aristizábal, Head of Curatorial and Public Practice at BALTIC; LJ Findlay-Walsh, Senior Curator of Performance at Tramway; Marie-Anne McQuay, Head of Programme at Bluecoat; and four Independent Artists, names soon to be confirmed.

The selection panel, made up of 10 members, will include a minimum of 50% disabled panellists and four independent artists. Non-voting observers will be: Katie Hickman, Curator (Performance and Public Programmes) at BALTIC; Sally Rose, CONTINUOUS Network Producer; Jonny Goode, CONTINUOUS Network Audience Development Coordinator.

Shortlisted applicants will be notified by **Monday 24 August 2020** and all other applicants soon afterward.

### 3. Final selection

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to complete a more detailed proposal that includes further information on budget use, timeline and production plans to ensure that the project can be realised within the budget and time available.

Each shortlisted applicant will have up to 1 hour 30 mins support from CONTINUOUS Network Producer, Sally Rose in creating this proposal and discussing their access requirements for this process. This will be submitted to the panel by **Monday 7 September 2020** (14 days to prepare). The artists will then attend a Zoom interview with the panel to discuss their proposal on **Wednesday 9 September 2020**. The format of the interview will be discussed to ensure it is fully adaptable with provision made for applicant access requirements.

Each shortlisted applicant will be paid a fee of **£500 to complete the detailed proposal and attend the interview**. There is an Access budget to support this part of the selection process which will be allocated on a case by case basis.

The selected applicant will be notified within one week of the interview day, and be announced publicly **w/c 21 September 2020**. The selected work will feature on the Unlimited website as a co-commission.

Feedback will be offered to all shortlisted artists in written or verbal format. We will also respond openly to other requested formats.

## **ABOUT THE COMMISSIONING PARTNERS**

### **Unlimited**

**Unlimited** is an arts commissioning programme that aims to embed work by disabled artists within the UK and international cultural sectors, reach new audiences and shift perceptions of disabled people. Unlimited has been delivered by the disability-led arts organisation Shape Arts and arts-producing organisation Artsadmin since 2013, and is funded from 2019-2022 by Arts Council England, Arts Council of Wales, Creative Scotland and British Council. Since 2013, Unlimited has supported over 270 disabled artists and their work has reached audiences of over 2.6 million people.

## Siobhan Davies Dance

Founded in 1988 by pioneering choreographer Siobhan Davies, **Siobhan Davies Dance** is an artist-led organisation that advances the art forms of dance and choreography. We connect artists and audiences through investigative, collaborative and interdisciplinary artistic activities at our studios and beyond. The RIBA award-winning Siobhan Davies Studios opened in 2006 establishing a permanent base for the organisation to create new work and support independent artists. The Studios are a vibrant arts space in central London which hosts a programme of exhibitions, performances, participation projects and new commissions from leading contemporary artists.

## BALTIC

**BALTIC** is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England and has welcomed over seven million visitors since opening to the public in July 2002. BALTIC presents a distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation and commissioning of contemporary visual art. Housed in a landmark ex-industrial building, BALTIC consists of 2,600

square metres of art space, making it the UK's largest dedicated contemporary art institution. BALTIC has gained an international reputation for its commissioning of cutting-edge temporary exhibitions.

## [Tramway](#)

**Tramway** is an international art space in Glasgow, supporting organisations, artists and the work of emerging artists who focus on experimental and contemporary dance, visual art and performance. For thirty years Tramway has built a reputation due to the uniquely large spaces and ambitious programming that inspire audiences and propel artists internationally.

## [Bluecoat](#)

**Bluecoat** is an inclusive arts centre in the heart of Liverpool, offering a year-round programme of exhibitions and a range of music, dance, literature, live art and heritage activities and events. As custodians of an historic building, which marked its 300-year anniversary in 2017, we are also home to around thirty artists, collectives and arts organisations.

As the UK's first arts centre, we have a rich artistic heritage and in recent years we have presented new work by artists including Sonia Boyce, Keith Piper, Lubaina Himid, Mark Lecky, John Akomfrah, Adham Faramawy and Larissa Sansour.

Our ambition is to be an artists' hub for the North, increasing the visibility of and opportunities for the region's artists, and internationally recognised for our residency programmes. We want to develop new approaches to audience development, expanding opportunities in the arts for all and reaching those who would otherwise face barriers to involvement in the arts.

### **Respecting your privacy and safeguarding your data**

BALTIC is committed to upholding your privacy and taking care of your personal data. This declaration outlines what, why and how BALTIC collects and stores your personal data securely in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (25 May 2018) via its [Submittable](#) proposal platform.

As part of your application we request personal data from you to allow BALTIC to evaluate your application, and to communicate with you about your submission. This data

will not be shared with any third parties or transferred without your explicit consent.

The application data is collected and stored on a third party platform called Submittable. This data may be downloaded to assist with the evaluation process; if downloaded it will be stored on BALTIC's or Siobhan Davies Dance's secure servers.

Personal data of unsuccessful candidates will be deleted from Submittable once the selection has concluded; data of successful candidates will only be stored for a maximum of six months unless there is a legitimate interest to do so. BALTIC's Library & Archive may retain some data for archival purposes if of cultural significance.

See [here](#) for BALTIC's current privacy policy. This policy was last updated May 2018.

Click [here](#) for Siobhan Davies Dance current privacy policy, last updated May 2018. Siobhan Davies Dance staff that are involved in organising the selection process will have access to this data for the purposes of evaluating entries between 10 - 20 Aug 2020.



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