Sustain:Engage Micro-Commission

Background

Grampian Hospitals Art Trust is a charity that exists to enhance the wellbeing of all who spend time in NHS Grampian or associated Health and Social Care facilities by providing access to quality arts experiences. This includes holding a large Collection of artworks that are available for display across NHS Grampian venues.

Project Overview

Sustain:Engage is a project to support the development and promotion of best practice in art collections in healthcare settings. This includes updating documentation, improving accessibility, and engaging local and rural audiences through reinterpretation and rationalisation of the GHAT Collection.

Part of this work includes identifying and addressing gaps in representation within the Collection. We are commissioning new work by artists that better reflect the local population, to be accessioned into the Collection.

We are now inviting creative practitioners to submit proposals for a series of commissions. We are particularly interested in seeing applications from artists with personal or professional connections to the North East of Scotland, or who identify as having protected characteristics (as defined in the Equality Act 2010).

We will award 4 commissions worth £2000 each.

The work produced for this commission will become part of the GHAT Collection. (See the section about ownership of work below.)

Brief

Work must be two-dimensional, wall-based, and either sealed/solid material, or framed and glazed with Perspex. The framing cost is to be included in the commission fee.

Successful candidates will be invited to visit the GHAT Collection and discuss their proposal with the team.

The commission cannot fund artworks which support or promote religious or political activity, or which depict violence, drug and alcohol use, or portraiture. The GHAT Collection team will support further conversation to shape work for active healthcare settings.

Please get in touch with the team if you have any questions.

Experience

To apply for this opportunity, you must:

- Be aged 18 years or over
- Be living or working in the North East of Scotland

- Be an artist/creative individual who shows talent and/or potential
- Evidence a desire to develop and an ability to reflect upon their practice and personal development
- Be able to create, develop and/or present a new piece of artistic work to the programme timetable
- Demonstrate an ability to profile their work and communicate their practice to an audience

Project Duration

Open call starts: 24.09.2025

Deadline: 27.10.2025 (midnight)

Responses from GHAT w/c 17.11.2025

Making period from 01.12.2025 to 02.03.2026

Fee

£2000 (fee inclusive of all associated costs)

Transport and installation costs provided by GHAT.

This project has been funded by Creative Scotland.

How to apply:

Submission process

Responses to the main application questions can be in written, audio or video format but should address the questions provided in the application form – available here as a word doc and a PDF:

www.ghat-art.org.uk/sustain-engage-micro-commission/

If written:

- Completed applications can be emailed to jean.firth@nhs.scot
- Please use 'GHAT Collection commission [YOUR SURNAME]' as the subject/title of your email
- For submissions over 5MB, please submit via wetransfer to the above email address

If recorded:

- Your recorded application should answer all the questions indicated in the written form. Please ensure you respond to these prompts clearly, and structure the content in relation to them.
- A recorded application should only address the prompts – examples of work need to be provided separately as described in the application form.
- Your recorded submission should be saved in MP3 or MP4 format and sent to jean.firth@nhs.scot via wetransfer.
- Please ensure your message title includes 'GHAT Collection commission [YOUR SURNAME]' and the name of your file includes [YOUR SURNAME]

Support

If you would like further support, please get in touch.

You can contact us by email or phone:

jean.firth@nhs.scot

01224 552429

Selection process

A panel comprising the collection team, senior management and an external party will assess and select awardees. All decisions made by the panel will be final and not subject to appeal. Shortlisting will take place over two weeks and applicants will be informed of panel decisions during the week commencing 17.11.2025.

Fees

The creative practitioners selected to complete their proposed micro-commissions will receive an upfront fee of:

First payment 90% of £2000 = £1800

10% of the full fee will be payable on delivery of the final work.

Final payment 10% of £2000 = £200

Any payment will be subject to the terms and conditions of the contract. Please note that final contractual arrangements will be determined through discussion with the commissioned creative practitioner. These discussions will include resolution of long-term usage and display, licensing (if applicable) and copyright agreements.

Remember to value your own time as part of the creative process, budgets are not solely to cover materials.

Ownership of work

The copyright and all intellectual property rights in the works remain vested in the creative practitioner. Ownership of the finished work will remain with Grampian Hospitals Art Trust once the project has been completed. The intention of GHAT is to accession the final work into the GHAT collection. We would also take the opportunity to discuss further acquisition of preparatory material. NOTE: if the contract is not fulfilled GHAT reserve the right to reclaim all monies paid to the awardee.