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Call for Artists - Creative Bridges

The Shadowlight Artists are an independent group of six artists with learning disabilities based in Oxfordshire, working in a variety of media but with a shared interest in digital forms. Their work is personal, moving and at times challenging. The group are being supported by Film Oxford, who have worked with the group since 2008 through the Flash Frame and Digital Lives projects, and aim to continue this support through the Creative Bridges project. Creative Bridges will allow each of the Shadowlight Artists to recruit and work with a professional artist or artists in order to extend their creative potential and produce new work for exhibition during 2016.

Shadowlight artist Danny Smith is seeking a cinematographer and a choreographer (or potentially a performance artist) to work with him to realise his project.

Project Description

Danny will make a film in which he dreams he is in the stone age, creating cave paintings.

The film opens with Danny asleep in his bedroom. He gets out of bed as if sleepwalking, and opens his bedroom door which leads into a cave. He enters the cave, his way illuminated by a crystal which glows and lights his way into the cave. Once in the cave, we see that Danny is dressed as a stone age man, standing in a cave illuminated by firelight. He begins a ritual of mixing pigment from stone age materials, and then begins to create cave paintings on the wall of the cave. His movements are ritualised, and choreographed almost as if in a dance.

The piece will rely on visual and performance elements to communicate with the audience rather than be a narrative film.

Artist(s) to work with Danny

Danny will require input from a choreographer in addition to a cinematographer to realise his project.

A choreographer or performance artist with an interest in movement will be required to collaborate with Danny to develop the ritual elements of the performance during the preparation of his project. Whilst not necessarily dance, the ritual will be dance like in many aspects. The choreographer will be required to work with Danny through rehearsal for the shoot. A small fee will be available for this element of the project.

Danny has a strong sense of the look of his final film, and needs to collaborate with a visually-led cinematographer with experience of working in available light and low light situations to help him realise the project. The cinematographer will need to work with Danny to develop a storyboard, and realise his project through a location shoot. Ideally, this person will have access to suitable lightweight equipment to facilitate a shoot in a difficult location (likely to be a DSLR/CSC setup), and be able to work with available light sources for best effect. The cinematographer may have previous experience in dance film. Ideally, Danny's film will be lit by firelight. The film may be edited by the cinematographer, or handed over for editing by another editor selected by Danny and Film Oxford.



Artists wishing to collaborate with Danny should be able to travel within Oxfordshire, and would benefit from having their own transport. No budget additional budget is available for travel expenses, so this opportunity is best suited to artists within Oxfordshire or surrounding region. A small fee is available to cover the shoot.

About Danny Smith

Danny Smith was born 1975 in Wallingford where he grew up, now lives in Oxford. Danny has clear artistic intentions: to show independence, demonstrate emotions associated with change and “show people I’m not lonely, which people think I am”. Danny identifies pride in being a role model for other disabled people seeking an independent life. He has broad artistic interests and has worked in a wide range of media from painting and photography to performance animation and documentary. His work across these media shows a common theme; Danny's desire to demonstrate independence, and explore the emotions triggered by change in his own life. In recent years, Danny has moved from New Cross in London where he lived for 15 years to Oxford, where he continues to live independently. His work in painting, photography and video has been exhibited within the UK and internationally, with his film *Time for a Change* been screened at New York's Sprout festival.

Matthew Barney is good and I like lots of abstract artists work. I love making shapes and seeing what they are like with different colours. When I do my photography, I like to photograph nature and strange things.

I have been interested in art for a long time. I love to use different types of paint. I also enjoy using just a pencil or charcoal, and some sculpture is nice.

Expressions of interest

Artists interested in working with Danny should email links to up to 3 examples of video or film work to Chris Oakley (Creative Bridges Lead Artist) at contact@chrisoakley.com. These examples should be selected to demonstrate compatibility with Danny's project, and accompanied with a CV and a short statement explaining how and why you would like to work with Danny. Optionally, this statement could be in the form of a video recording compressed to a size suitable for email (under 10MB) and sent to contact@chrisoakley.com, or posted on a video sharing site or accessible facebook page. This would assist in the accessibility of your response for Danny. This doesn't need to be a polished production- a short recording on a smartphone or from a webcam would be ideal. Closing date is the 10th July 2015.



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