

The Slow Art Trail – Artists Brief

The Slow Art Trail is a large-scale, environmental public art project to be developed between February and October 2008 by Chrysalis Arts and a team of other established artists. It will take place in the Craven district of North Yorkshire and part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The idea is to explore the concept and practicalities of sustainable art and, through this experimental project, to inform Chrysalis Art's future practice and that of other artists and practitioners.

The project will be achieved through a series of public art installations, with an installation to be undertaken by Chrysalis, augmented by five complementary installations/ commissions for other artists. It will also provide a series of training and mentoring opportunities for a small number of new and emerging North Yorkshire artists. In addition, links will be built with local communities, local businesses, and local schools and colleges and there will be a programme of community workshops.

The installations will be located at a series of sites forming a Trail, which will be linked by footpaths and/or sustainable forms of transport to enable visitors to travel around them and discover and explore the themes reflected in them. They will be created using a range of techniques and materials following the guidelines of sustainability, low embodied energy, and recycled and recyclable materials

Proposals are being invited from established artists, who will work to the overall sustainability agenda to create a series of commissioned artworks to make up the **Slow Art Trail**.

While the individuality of each artist, their unique approach and the integrity of the work will be a priority, cross over and cross fertilisation will be encouraged where possible. We envisage the project being undertaken in a spirit of team working and co-operation with Chrysalis and with the other artists/practitioners involved.

We are hoping that each artist will bring a unique quality to the project team. We are not expecting each of the artists involved to undertake exactly the same amount of work or for each commission to be exactly the same scale. We want to encourage a team approach and a range of artworks that complement each other.

The works will highlight current unsustainable trends such as resource scarcity, pollution and climate change and the effects of these trends on places, landscape, agriculture, and human perceptions. The art will make comments on these changes, and effects. It is hoped that the installations will provide opportunities for inter-action with the public at certain times and engage with visitors about the themes they explore.

We will also encourage the use of alternative forms of transport, such as bicycles, horses and carts, boats and walking, and intend to have a small 'art tours' bus running and operating in line with and as part of the project. The main aim is to encourage visitors to experience the journey and the art at a slow leisurely pace, making minimum environmental impact.

We aim to link the Slow Art Trail installations to current events and initiatives within the region and to make synergies between them.

Slow Art Trail Route

The route will encompass Skipton and an area to the south of the National Park. It will be defined in the course of the project development by the artists' proposals, the individual access and viewing needs of each artwork, and by the availability of appropriate forms of sustainable transport. Discussions with National Park staff have

highlighted the potential for several different routes which will be finalised in consultation with the selected artists.

Slow Art Trail Proposal and Sustainability Criteria

Chrysalis is working with consultants Gaia Research to assist the company in understanding how artistic practice fits the wider context of sustainable and environmentally responsible work practice and it is hoped that the **Slow Art Trail** project will help pioneer criteria for assessing the benefits and impact of a sustainable art project.

These criteria could include attention to scarcity of resources, avoidance of pollution, waste avoidance, toxicity avoidance, health, biodiversity and human well being. Social function, local distinctiveness, cultural heritage and community creativity & involvement will also be considerations. Special consideration should be given to work installed at the Strid Wood site which is a designated area of ancient woodland. A method statement and risk assessment will need to be submitted to Bolton Abbey Estate and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for approval prior to installation.

The artworks should be designed to be temporary and having an appropriate life span. Maintenance and recyclability of component parts should be considered. The intention is that each piece should be designed to be removable and either be moved to become part of another installation or return to earth. There is scope for artwork to be mobile, and follow the trail, or be a static feature.

SAT Timetable

Circulate Slow Art Trail Brief - Thursday 17th January 2008

Deadline for submission of outline proposal idea Monday 4th February 2008

Informal discussion of proposals idea 6th or 7th February 2008

Appointment of artists 8th February 2008

Artists will be expected to attend a minimum of 3 meetings during the course of the planning stages to discuss how their proposals are developing and the overall development of the project.

The project will culminate in September 2008 and be decommissioned in October 2008. As well as being promoted independently, the publicity for the event will also be linked to other initiatives which are promoted nationally e.g. The North Yorkshire Open Studios and Action for Market Towns annual conference which is being held in Skipton on the weekend of 1st and 2nd October 2008.

SAT Budget

As a guide there is a budget of £4 - 6 K allocated for each artwork to include fees and materials although proposals for smaller or larger sums will be considered. Collaborative bids between artists can also be made although the number of artworks proposed will need to be the same.

There are additional budgets including funding for community workshops (optional), equipment, artists' time over the event weekend, decommissioning etc.

Selection Process

Expressions of interest have already been invited from a long list of artists. Artists who have stated their interest in participating are now invited to:

- Submit an outline proposal including concept, any initial design ideas, proposed materials, an indication of any site features/requirements and outline costing. Please indicate whether there is scope within your proposal for community participation &/or whether you are interested in the assistance of a student or less experienced artist? The submission should be a minimum 1 side of A4 but more

information/ illustration would be welcome. Include any relevant support material and an up to date short bibliography/CV. Either email or post the proposal, if you chose an electronic format, please check with us that we can open your submission (Chrysalis mainly use Mac's OS 9 and 10)

and

- Attend an informal meeting with the Directors of Chrysalis Arts to discuss their proposal on either Wednesday 6th or Thursday 7th February 2008.

Please mark/title your submissions **SLOW ART TRAIL APPLICATION** and send or email to;

Chrysalis Arts Ltd, The Art Depot, Asquith Industrial Estate, Eshton Road, Gargrave, North Yorkshire, BD23 3SE, Tel; 01756 749222 Fax; 01756 749934 Email; chrysalis@artdepot.org.uk