



## **THE DIGITAL FOREST - Artist Commission & Online Exhibition - CALL OUT**

**Closing date: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**£3000 plus £1000 allowance for production, travel and accommodation**

### **Brief and Application Guidance**

Grizedale Forest & Signal Film and Media, with Art Fund support, are seeking a socially engaged digital artist (or collaborative partnership of artists and developers) to create a new, online participatory artwork responding to Grizedale Forest in Cumbria in the North West of England.

The commissioned artist will work alongside a local BAME/BIPOC community group to increase engagement with the forest and digital art for this underrepresented audience/visitor group. The project will provide new learning and testing of innovative working practices aimed at helping develop artwork beyond the physical forest so that more people, from more backgrounds, can engage with art inspired by the forest.

### **The Brief**

Grizedale Forest welcomes just over 200 thousand visitors a year to enjoy a range of activities from exploring site specific sculpture in the landscape, contemporary exhibitions in the forest centre's gallery through to walking, cycling and go ape activities. Our surveys show that they fall short of being representative of the population in their visitor demographics particularly with BAME groups which only form 1% of our visitors. Forestry England manages these forests on behalf of the public and wants to understand and address barriers of access to the nation's public

forests. We believe the arts have a vital role to help people connect with nature and for us to build connections with communities.

Since 1974 artists have created work in the landscape at Grizedale taking inspiration from this working forest, learning from foresters, ecologists, wildlife rangers and recreation rangers which has seen artists such as Andy Goldsworthy, David Nash, Richard Harris and Sally Matthews amongst others develop their practice as emerging artists in this very special of places. The outdoor sculpture collection stands at 50 sculptures spread out over 24km<sup>2</sup> of managed forest landscape in Cumbria. This is a unique history and environment for arts audiences and non-arts audiences to engage with art and landscape and this project will push our commissioning practice into new and innovative areas.

## **Theme**

During lockdown the forest continued to grow, wildlife became more abundant and changed its behaviour, people formed a new sense of value for access to outdoor space and nature and the freedom to explore.

The Digital Forest will capture a truly unique moment in time as visitors slowly return to the forest and once again become reconnected with nature. This project has been designed so that underrepresented groups are very much part of that reconnection as we open up the forest to become the gallery, studio and playground for all as new relationships are formed through digital media and creativity.

## **Aims of the commission:**

- Develop a new and innovative online digital artwork and engagement model inspired by the forest, that connects with underrepresented audiences
- Enhance organisational understanding and future potential for breaking down barriers to engagement by BAME/BIPOC representatives
- Create an opportunity for an artist (or artists) to reflect and create work in the context of nature and post lockdown attitudes to public space and engagement with the natural environment

## **The artist(s) is required to:**

- Work closely with Signal Film & Media and Grizedale Forest staff to deliver a digital artwork to be presented online.
- Work in participation with a local BAME/BIPOC community group in creating the artwork.

- We ask the artist to deliver a talk (potentially online) and a workshop for the local community (this is alongside and additional to the artist led sessions/research with the BAME/BIPOC community group during the commission).

### **We can offer the artist:**

- An Artist fee of £3000 plus accommodation, travel and production fee of £1000
- Studio/work space
- Curatorial, practical and technical support throughout the residency
- Wide Publicity and Marketing with associated public events
- Online Exhibition on Forestry Commission Website

We welcome applications from artists working in any discipline, and/or with a cross-disciplinary practice but we expect artists to have a commitment to, and track record in, using digital media and the online/virtual space in their practice, as well as experience of, and the passion for, working in a socially engaged and /or participatory way.

We welcome artists with an interest in how sharing online, using virtual space and working collaboratively can inform the development of their work.

Applications are always actively encouraged from all artists from all backgrounds and we actively encourage artists to apply who belong to one or more of the following groups: Black, Asian or from a minority ethnic group (a person of colour), refugee, D/deaf, disabled, neurodivergent, working class and LGBTQI+.

### **Information**

- Open to all professional artists (not students)
- For ages 18+ years

### **Timeline**

**Online application deadline:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**Artist's selected for a short interview will be informed by:** 10<sup>th</sup> October

**Start date:** 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**End date:** 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Exhibition and online engagement workshop dates:** January 2021

**How to apply:****Selection Process and Criteria**

All applications, including the supporting material, will be reviewed by a panel of assessors which includes:

Grizedale Forest Art Development Manager Hazel Stone

Signal Film and Media Director Loren Slater

Grizedale Forest Centre Manager Dave Lowe

FACT Liverpool Senior Producer Charlotte Horn

AWAZ Cumbria Company Secretary Mohammed Dhalech

Invisible Flock Technical Director Ben Eaton

**To apply:** Application is via an online form, if this presents any issues please contact [rachel@signalfilmmedia.co.uk](mailto:rachel@signalfilmmedia.co.uk)

TO APPLY DOWNLOAD BRIEF/GUIDANCE AND APPLICATION FORM HERE:

[www.signalfilmmedia.com/thedigitalforest](http://www.signalfilmmedia.com/thedigitalforest)

or

<http://www.grizedalesculpture.org/home>.

We are committed to ensuring that all employees and applicants are provided with equality of opportunity. We welcome applications from those who self-identify as disabled. If you would like assistance with your application or you have questions about our criteria please contact us. We are happy to receive applications in alternative formats. If you like to submit in another format please email

If you would like to discuss this brief, please contact: Loren Slater (Signal Film and Media) or Hazel Stone (Grizedale Forest):

[loren@signalfilmmedia.co.uk](mailto:loren@signalfilmmedia.co.uk)

[hazel.stone@forestryengland.uk](mailto:hazel.stone@forestryengland.uk)

This opportunity has been made possible by the kind support from Art Fund.

**FURTHER INFO:**

## **SIGNAL FILM AND MEDIA**

**SIGNAL FILM AND MEDIA** is an award-winning film and digital media company based in Barrow-in-Furness with a reputation for both high-quality, professional short film production and a wide range of community engagement media projects. Our artist-led company has delivered innovative film and digital media projects since 2001, providing access to opportunities and inspiration through film and digital media, creating award-winning works for exhibition and supporting the development of a vibrant film and arts culture in the area.

[www.signalfilmandmedia.com/thedigitalforest](http://www.signalfilmandmedia.com/thedigitalforest)

## **GRIZEDALE FOREST:**

Grizedale Forest is the UK's first forest for sculpture, first welcoming artists to the forest in 1977. The arts programme is led by Forestry England and is re-establishing Grizedale Forest as a centre of international excellence for art and sculpture in the environment. The forest is 10 square miles of woodland in the Lake District which is managed and maintained by Forestry England. We are proud to have acquired the We're Good to Go industry standard, awarded by Visit England. This is independent verification that we have followed government and industry COVID-19 guidelines, have a Risk Assessment in place and have implemented processes to maintain cleanliness and aid social distancing. For more information on visitor safety please contact Visitors Services on 0300 067 4495 /

[www.forestryengland.uk/grizedale](http://www.forestryengland.uk/grizedale).

## **FORESTRY ENGLAND:**

Forestry England manages and cares for the nation's 1,500 woods and forests, with over 230 million visits per year. As England's largest land manager, we shape landscapes and are enhancing forests for people to enjoy, wildlife to flourish and businesses to grow. For more information visit [forestryengland.uk](http://forestryengland.uk). Forestry England is an agency of the Forestry Commission.

## **ART FUND**

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. It provides millions of pounds every year to help museums to acquire and share works of art across the UK, further the professional development of their curators, and inspire more people to visit and enjoy their public programmes. Art Fund is independently funded, supported by the 159,000 members who buy the National Art Pass, who enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places, 50% off major exhibitions, and receive Art Quarterly magazine. Art Fund also supports museums through its annual prize, Art Fund Museum of the Year, which was won by St Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff, in 2019, and through a range of digital platforms.