

# Artist Brief

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## Introduction

The National Coal Mining Museum for England (NCMME) is looking for an artist with experience of working with young people (aged 14-18) to **plan and deliver a series of engaging and inspirational school workshops in October 2011 exploring 3D processes and techniques.**

The work created as a result of these workshops will form part of a special exhibition to be held at the Museum in the autumn of 2012. We envisage that new artworks created by the young people will allow visitors to engage with our new art and photographic acquisitions in a more sensory way and provide access for visitors with visual impairment.

These activities form part of **Seeing the Whole Picture**, an exciting new project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund through its *Collecting Cultures* scheme. Grants given over a period of four years have been helping the Museum to add new art and photographic works to its collections and develop a series of related educational activities. (Further information about this project is given overleaf).

## Role of the artist

In order to complete both aspects of the brief, the artist will be expected to:

- Plan a full-day workshop\*, which will focus on techniques which will encourage students to interpret the Museum's new acquisitions and/or their experience at the Museum. We would like the students to gain new or develop existing skills by creating works in relief or sculpture.
- Directly reference the Museum's new acquisitions and perhaps other items from the Museum's wider collections
- Ensure that activities relate to the learning objectives of *Seeing the Whole Picture*.
- Work with the education team /teachers in ensuring that activities cater for the needs and interests of the GCSE/AS Level Art students
- Provide a detailed list of resources/materials required
- Deliver seven sessions alongside Museum staff at the Museum (provisional dates for workshops are: 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 October and 3 November. These are subject to change.)
- Provide appropriate health and safety information including a risk assessment for the activities
- Have CRB clearance
- Work within the wider guidelines and principles of *Seeing the Whole Picture*

\* Groups usually arrive for 10am and leave by 2.30pm

### Learning Outcomes for participants

The activities should provide opportunities for the students taking part to:

- Deepen their knowledge and understanding of the link between coal mining and art
- Take pride in local mining heritage
- Explore perceptions of the industry and people who worked in it
- Make a positive contribution to their local community
- Have the opportunity to enjoy their heritage and to achieve something new
- Develop skills in art and creativity

### Timescale for workshops

Date	Outcome
July – September 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visit NCMME to look at Museum collections</li><li>• Devise activities and workshop plan</li><li>• Attend meetings as appropriate with Museum staff</li><li>• Create list of resources and materials</li><li>• Produce risk assessment</li></ul>
October – November 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deliver a minimum of 7 workshops</li><li>• Evaluation of workshops</li></ul>

### Budget

Planning and delivery of workshops: £1820 (to cover all planning, materials and delivery)

### Person Specification

We are looking for an artist who can demonstrate the following:

- Experience of working with and engaging young people in art projects
- Experience of delivering workshops which focus on 3D processes and techniques
- Willingness to work with staff at NCMME
- Willingness to work with the collections at NCMME and sympathetic to the aims and objectives of *Seeing the Whole Picture*
- Experience of partnership working
- Enthusiastic and friendly personality
- A sense of discovery and passion for working within the community and local heritage

## To Apply

Please send a notification of interest, with a CV and digital or hard copy examples of previous work, to Jayne Ambrose, Education Officer, National Coal Mining Museum for England, Caphouse Colliery, New Road, Overton, Wakefield, WF4 4RH  
[Jayne.ambrose@ncm.org.uk](mailto:Jayne.ambrose@ncm.org.uk) by 24 June 2011

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about the project please call Jayne Ambrose on 01924 848806.

Successful applicants will be invited to an interview at NCMME between 14 and 15 July 2011.

# Background Information

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## National Coal Mining Museum for England

The National Coal Mining Museum for England, situated in Wakefield, West Yorkshire tells the story of coal mining in England and the communities that grew up around it. Located at the Caphouse Colliery and Hope Pit sites, the Museum offers visitors the opportunity to explore many of the original colliery buildings and also travel underground with ex-miners as guides into authentic colliery workings. The mine shaft is believed to be late-18<sup>th</sup> century and the oldest working coal mine shaft in Britain. The galleries in the visitor centre and interpretation of the buildings show the history of coal mining and coal mining communities in England, while the surrounding landscape reveals the story of early coal mining in West Yorkshire.

## Seeing the Whole Picture

The National Coal Mining Museum for England has recently been awarded funding through the *Collecting Cultures* scheme, a new funding initiative, from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Over a period of four years, the funding will be used to develop the Museum's art and photographic collections and deliver an associated education programme, which will facilitate learning and understanding about coal mining heritage.

This project is important to the Museum because we believe that:

- **Visual images** are a very powerful way of communicating a message or idea without the barrier of language. They can enable people from all backgrounds to learn about the past.
- Coal mining has a **rich artistic heritage**, but many visitors to the Museum are surprised to discover that mining and art go hand in hand. Indeed, representations of mining life through art and art photography have been largely concealed from the public eye. 'Seeing the Whole Picture' is intended to challenge that perception and open up this important aspect of mining heritage to a wider audience.
- The project will involve people in **discovering the roots of their community**, which in most of the English coalfields no longer includes active coal mining.
- It will allow **young people to actively participate** in how their own communities are shown to others, just as coal mining artists and photographers did in the past and continue to do today.
- The **portrayal of mines, miners and mining communities** is an essential part of coal mining's heritage, and reveals aspects of the miner's experience which can be conveyed in no other way. In both photographs and art, coal mining was a rich source of inspiration and can speak to communities today both living and working in old coal mining communities.