



## Our Picturesque Landscape Project

### Artist in Residence brief

January 2021-October 2021

#### Project Background

Our Picturesque Landscape is a 5-year National Lottery Heritage Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme which centres on the landscape of the Dee Valley and the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site. It takes as its theme the inspirational journeys that have and continue to be a feature of the area which is cut by the canal, Telford's A5 and the River Dee. Visitors have drawn inspiration from this beautiful Valley in art and poetry since the 18th century and it continues to draw tourists in search of the sublime.

This is a landscape that is under extreme pressure with high numbers of visitors drawn to what are often our most fragile sites. The communities on its doorstep, born from the industrial endeavours that shaped it, are now less connected to the benefits the landscape offers. The project is investing in the resilience of key visitor sites and working to engage communities in its appreciation and management, reinterpreting this rich landscape for a new generation.

For further information about the Our Picturesque Landscape project visit <https://www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk/projects/our-picturesque-landscape/>

#### Artist in Residence Brief

##### Details of Residency

The residencies will take place during year 3 of the Our Picturesque Landscape project, from February – October 2021. We are seeking to fund up to four creative practitioners or teams to produce a high-quality piece of work in response to the landscape of the Dee Valley and the communities that live within it. The project area spans from Corwen along the Dee Valley through to Gledrid, crossing three counties (Denbighshire, Wrexham, Shropshire) and two countries, and incorporates part of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We are looking for creative and inspiring contemporary artists who are excited about the opportunity to explore the connections between people and place, past and present. We are particularly interested in hearing from practitioners of a variety of literary or spoken word disciplines; this could include anything from poetry, prose, travel or journal writing, to spoken word audio recording, song, video or digital media/podcasts. We will also consider applications from individuals or creative teams which include collaborations between different artistic mediums.

The output of each residency will be a piece of work that can be readily shared with public audiences, either in person at an exhibition or in the landscape itself, or digitally. Aspects of work produced may also be used in the wider project interpretation and/or exhibitions, with full credit to artists given. It is expected that all work will be completed by the end of October 2021.

We expect that two of the residencies will be undertaken primarily through the medium of Welsh and the other two primarily through the medium of English, although all proposals should demonstrate an empathy for Welsh language and culture. It is not essential for applicants to live in Wales or local to the project area, however successful applicants will be expected to attend site visits with AONB staff in the first month of the residency.

The budget for each residency is £3,000, however there may be scope to provide a higher level of funding should there be potential to develop ideas further.

### Theme of Residency

The Our Picturesque Landscape project is themed around the picturesque beauty of the Dee Valley and the power it has had to inspire and move those that visit and live in the area through the centuries. Although artists may take as their inspiration the work of notable residents and visitors to the area from the past (for example the journals of the Ladies of Llangollen, travel writers George Borrow and Rev. William Gilpin, poet William Wordsworth and essayist William Hazlitt among others), it will be the aim of these residencies to bring these literary connections in to the present day, and portray how the landscape continues to inspire people to this day.

This is particularly relevant in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, and we would be interested to hear proposals for pieces which will mark the impact this has had on the communities and the landscapes; exploring the connections between

people and their local environment, and documenting how their feelings towards it may have been altered during the Coronavirus restrictions.

We expect that the end pieces of work will have been inspired by the landscape and communities of the Dee Valley, and as such, it is expected that artists will incorporate some aspect of community engagement into their work. This could include interviews, workshops or discussions with local people or community groups to help to inform the pieces produced, or the creation of accessible resources for public audiences to use. However, we accept that working with the community may be difficult under ongoing local restrictions, and therefore welcome ideas for how this can safely be achieved. It is expected that any engagement with members of the communities will be recorded for monitoring and evaluation purposes in line with GDPR, this will be supported by the project team.

### How to Apply

To apply please submit a proposal which includes:

- A supporting statement of no more than 750 words outlining your suitability for the role and the approach you would intend to take;
- A proposed general timeline for completing the project;
- A proposed budget for the work;
- A minimum of three examples of your previous work;
- Details of two referees we may contact.

Proposals should be sent to [our.picturesque.landscape@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:our.picturesque.landscape@denbighshire.gov.uk) by the closing date of **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 12pm (midday)**.

Interviews will be held in the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021, with the option to be interviewed in person or virtually depending on government guidance at the time.

If you have any queries about this project, please contact the Our Picturesque Landscape team:

Email: [our.picturesque.landscape@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:our.picturesque.landscape@denbighshire.gov.uk)

Phone: Office: 01824 706163

Hannah Marubbi, Community Engagement Officer: 07785 701310

Kate Thomson, Partnership Officer: 07979 704189

*Please note: the team will be unavailable between Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.*