**Open Call: Digital Commission for South West-Based Artists**

Spike Island is pleased to invite applications from artists based in the South West of England to develop a new digital commission for our website and/or online channels.

This opportunity is part of the West of England Visual Arts Alliance, supported by Arts Council England.

The successful applicant will receive:

* A £2,000 budget to produce a new digital commission for Spike Island’s website and/or online channels
* An artist’s fee of £2,000
* Significant promotion via Spike Island’s website and online channels before and during the launch of the commission on 26 October 2022
* Annual membership to our [Spike Island Associates](https://www.spikeisland.org.uk/our-community/spike-island-associates/) programme, which offers free access to regular talks, one-to-ones with artists, critics and curators, and other opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and support
* Support from Spike Island’s Programme team to develop and present the commission

**Eligibility**

The commission is for South West-based artists from all backgrounds, including those already working digitally as well as those new to digital media. Artists at any stage of their careers may apply but please note that we are not able to accept applications from artists currently undertaking an undergraduate course.

We are keen to hear from artists looking to develop new digital artwork to be shared with our audiences online from 26 October to 23 November 2022 via our website and/or online channels.

The commission can be on any theme and in any digital format (from sound and video to animation or performance) but it must be created specifically to be experienced online, and will ideally explore innovative ways of using digital media to engage and connect with diverse audiences.

Spike Island is committed to anti-racism and to addressing inequality in the arts sector. We strongly encourage applications from people who identify as D/deaf, disabled or neurodivergent, come from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and/or who experience racism. Spike Island will work with applicants to ensure their access needs are met during the interview process, while also ensuring that these needs will not influence our decision-making.

**How to apply**

Applications should be submitted as a single PDF document (under 10MB) via the form below. This PDF should include:

* A proposal for the digital commission, which clearly outlines your intentions and explains why you think this would be relevant for Spike Island (up to 750 words)
* A production budget, outlining how the £2,000 will be spent (please note that Spike Island is unable to support additional fundraising for this opportunity)
* 6–10 images and/or up to 3 video files of recent work, with relevant captions. You may prefer to include a download link for a file sharing platform such as Dropbox or GoogleDrive in your application.
* A current CV (maximum two pages)
* Your access document (if applicable)
* Your contact details

Following the submission of your application, you will be prompted to complete an equal opportunities form which will be separated from your application form and used for monitoring purposes only.

**Deadline to apply: Monday 29 November 2021**

We realise that text-based applications do not suit everyone, so if you would like to apply in a different way, or if you require this application form in a different format, please get in touch with us by email: saphia.venner@spikeisland.org.uk

All applicants will receive an automated email to confirm that their application has been received successfully. Please note that due to limited capacity, we are only able to respond directly to candidates who are invited to interview. If you have not heard from us by the week commencing Monday 13 December 2021, then you should assume that you have not been successful on this occasion.

Please submit your application via the form at the bottom of this page.

**Selection process**

Shortlisted artists will be invited to attend an online interview with members of Spike Island Programme team on the week commencing Monday 13 December 2021.

This opportunity is one of three digital commissions taking place between 2021 and 2024, as part of Spike Island’s ongoing commitment to developing and supporting artists, young people and independent art workers based in the South West.

**FAQs for applicants**

*Is there any support available to help with submitting an application?*

We are happy to receive applications in alternative formats (video, audio file). We may also be able to find other ways to make the application process more accessible to you.

If you require access support with your application please contact rosa.tyhurst@spikeisland.org.uk

*Will my access costs be covered?*

Any access costs you incur as an artist or practitioner should be covered by Access to Work\* if you have self-employed artist status or work as part of an organisation or company. If you do not draw an income from your work, we will work with you to meet your access costs if you are selected – please include these figures in addition to your production budget.

\*Access to Work is a government scheme that is designed to meet the additional costs of employing a disabled person where they are directly a result of that person’s impairments. For more information go to: [www.gov.uk/access-to-work/overview](http://www.gov.uk/access-to-work/overview)

*How do I let you know what my access needs are?*
We welcome all artists we work with to share their access documents with us. This can assist us with accurately forecasting timescales for the production and delivery of projects, as well as with budgeting accurately. We recommend using a template from <https://www.accessdocsforartists.com/> if you would like to prepare and submit your own access document along with your application.

**About Spike Island**

Spike Island supports, produces and presents contemporary art across an 80,000 square foot former industrial building near Bristol harbourside. Our diverse artistic programme includes free major exhibitions, events and engagement activities taking place on-site and online. The programme champions outstanding work by emerging and underrepresented local, national and international artists, and enhances access to contemporary art and culture for audiences from all backgrounds.

Spike Island directly supports artists through ambitious new commissions, subsidised studios and critically-engaged artist development opportunities that widen access to our programme and facilities. Our Exhibition Services business supports the bespoke production and installation of artists’ film and video throughout the UK and internationally. Spike Island is home to a dynamic community of hundreds of artists and creative businesses, working in flexible, affordable workspaces, alongside UWE Bristol’s Fine Art programmes and café bar Emmeline.