

**IRELAND
EXHIBITION
VENICE
ART BIENNALE
2017**



**INVITATION TO TENDER FOR
COMMISSIONER FOR IRELAND**

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INVITATION

Culture Ireland, in partnership with the Arts Council, invites expressions of interest for the role of Commissioner of Ireland's national representation at the 57th International Venice Art Biennale 2017.

Proposals from an individual, a collective, or an organisation will be considered.

Submissions must be received by
5.30pm, Monday, 1 February 2016

BACKGROUND

Culture Ireland, in partnership with the Arts Council, is committed to supporting Ireland's representation at the Venice Art Biennale. The aim of supporting Ireland's representation at this event is to raise the profile of Irish artists and increase their international opportunities. The Venice Biennale serves as a global showcase for artists and offers a prominent platform for Irish artists to engage with international audiences, curators and gallerists.

ROLE OF COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner will be responsible for the delivery of the presentation at the Venice Art Biennale 2017 and the subsequent Irish Tour in 2018. The Commissioner will lead on

- project management
- budget management
- fundraising
- arrangements with venue
- communications and press
- liaison with the Biennale office and
- provision of administrative and production support.

The Commissioner may also curate the exhibition or may choose to work with a Curator. In the case of the Commissioner working with an independent Curator, the Curator must be identified and be party to the initial expression of interest.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Only applicants who have the organisational capacity and availability to meet time and travel commitments will be considered.

The Commissioner and proposed team will be assessed on the following criteria. Each criterion will be weighted as outlined below

- The proposed artist and idea (20)
- Level of curatorial experience on large scale visual arts projects and/or exhibitions (15)
- Level of project development, implementation and management experience on large scale visual arts projects and/or exhibitions (15)
- Detailed knowledge of current trends in the visual arts sector both nationally and internationally (10)
- Experience of working in the not for profit arts sector, liaising with project stakeholders and fundraising (10)
- Budget management and reporting (10)
- Reporting and editorial skills (10)
- Networking skills and international connections (10).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This call for submissions is open to Irish individuals, collectives or organisations based in Ireland or abroad and to those of any nationality resident in Ireland.

- The artist/s proposed by the Commissioner must have been born in, or be resident on, the island of Ireland
- The Commissioner and/or Curator may not be a participant in the presentation
- The Commissioner and/or Curator may not have a commercial relationship with the proposed artist.
- No fees or expenses will be paid for either submission stage.
- The receipt of all proposals will be acknowledged in writing and those shortlisted will be directly informed of the selection panel's decision by Culture Ireland.
- Submissions will not be returned.
- The selection panel's decision is final.

It should be noted that

- Representation will be by a solo artist or collaborative practice. Only in exceptional circumstances will a group show be considered.
- Representation will generally be of a mid-career artist/collaborative practice, when the opportunity to exhibit at the Venice Biennale is considered timely to significantly raise the artists profile internationally and benefit their practice.
- It will be an advantage for the artist/s to have Irish and international gallery representation.
- In exceptional cases established artists may also be considered, however traditional retrospectives will not be supported.

- It will be an advantage for the artist/s to have had a solo exhibition in a publicly funded venue in Ireland and/or abroad.
- The artist must not have had a solo exhibition at the Venice Biennale previously.

Applicants should note that there may be an option to present the exhibition in the Arsenale.

BUDGET

The support available has not yet been set for the 2017 Biennale. Based on the 2015 level of funding of €210k from Culture Ireland and €70k from the Arts Council, state support for the international presentation of €280k may be used as a guideline. Applicants will be expected to be in a position to fundraise additional support.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection of a Commissioner will comprise two stages

- Stage one: Open Submission as outlined below
- Stage two: Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview.

STAGE ONE - SUBMISSION

This stage will be assessed by a panel, to include at least one representative from both Culture Ireland and the Arts Council.

Applicants must submit no more than 2 x A4 pages in PDF format, to john.knightly@cultureireland.gov.ie outlining

1. The curatorial approach, including initial ideas developed in collaboration with the artist/s proposed for presentation, indicating why this is believed to be the most relevant artist/project/concept to represent Ireland in 2017.
2. Detail of the artist/s and proposed exhibition/project including why this artist's practice best suits your ambition and vision for a national representation.
3. A strategy to engage the international arts sector with Ireland's representation at Venice.
4. Your understanding of the tasks involved, including details of a project management plan (including timeline).
5. An outline budget including justification of the level of investment identified and initial consideration of fundraising required.
6. A strategy to engage the Irish arts sector with the Venice event.
7. A proposal for the national tour, including proposals relating to at least three regional venues and a strategy to engage the Irish public with the national tour

CVs of all personnel proposed for the project should be included with the proposal (Commissioner/Curator/Artist(s), including gallery representation).

STAGE TWO – INTERVIEW

Based on the information provided in Stage One, the selection panel will shortlist a number of potential candidates who will be invited to present in person, with the curator and artist, to the interview panel.

The interview panel will include a non-voting Chair, a representative of both Culture Ireland and the Arts Council and at least two external members.

Those short-listed will be asked to present a more detailed proposal and visual presentation based on the submission in Stage One. Those shortlisted must be in a position to detail

- How the exhibition would be delivered and how it would engage with the vision of the 2017 Biennale
- How the project would engage with the wider international cultural and visual arts context
- The personnel confirmed for the project
- The project, together with a budget breakdown and proposals for fundraising. The Commissioner must also be in a position to elaborate on any proposed associated events during the Biennale
- The use of marketing and public relations
- How Ireland's visual art community may benefit in a more general way from this showcasing opportunity
- The proposed venues for the Irish Tour.

Culture Ireland and the Arts Council reserve the right to invite a commissioner/curator and artist(s) to represent Ireland if the open submission process does not lead to a successful outcome.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS

Submissions should be emailed to john.knightly@cultureireland.gov.ie and info@cultureireland.gov.ie and must be received by **5.30pm, Monday 1 February 2016.**

It is anticipated that interviews will take place early March and the successful applicant will be notified shortly thereafter.

FEEDBACK

Written Feedback will be provided to all shortlisted applicants in terms of scores under each of the evaluation criteria outlined.

Ireland at Venice is an initiative of the Culture Ireland Division of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in partnership with the Arts Council/ An Chomhairle Ealaíon