

**IRELAND  
EXHIBITION  
VENICE  
ART BIENNALE  
2024**



**Cultúr Éireann  
Culture Ireland**



**INVITATION TO TENDER TO REPRESENT  
IRELAND AT VENICE 2024**

*Ireland at Venice is an initiative of Culture Ireland in partnership with the Arts Council*

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Invitation	3
Background	4
Role of Commissioner	4
Evaluation Criteria	5
Terms and Conditions	6
Budget	7
Selection Process	8
Deadline for Proposals	10
Feedback	10

## INVITATION

Culture Ireland, in partnership with the Arts Council, invites Expressions of Interest to commission the Irish representation at the 60<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia 2024.

Proposals from individuals, collectives and/ or organisations will be considered.

Submissions must be received in the format outlined in Stage One Submission on page 8 by **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

## **BACKGROUND**

Culture Ireland in partnership with the Arts Council is committed to supporting Ireland's representation at La Biennale di Venezia. 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 FOR IRELAND'S EXHIBITION**

The Commissioner will be responsible for the delivery of Ireland's exhibition at the Venice Art Biennale 2024 and the subsequent Irish Tour in 2025. The Commissioner will lead on:

- commissioning the artist and creative team
- project management
- budget management
- fundraising
- arrangements with venue
- communications and press
- liaison with the Biennale office and
- provision of administrative and production support
- liaising with Culture Ireland the Arts Council

The Commissioner can take on the role of the curator of the exhibition or may choose to work with another individual, an institution or as part of a collective. All those involved should be identified and be party to this 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 proposals will be assessed on the following criteria with each criterion weighted as outlined:

- The proposed artist and idea as representative of visual arts in Ireland (30 marks);
- Level of curatorial experience on large scale visual arts projects and / or exhibitions (10 marks);
- Level of production experience including project development, implementation, management, budgeting and reporting (10 marks);
- Demonstrated experience in fundraising, working with large scale budgets and liaising with project stakeholders (20 marks);
- Detailed knowledge of current trends in the visual arts sector both nationally and internationally, and vision of how the project will be presented in an international context (10 marks);
- Written and verbal communication skills (10 marks);
- Marketing and public relations skills and international connections (10 marks);

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This call for Expressions of Interest is open to:

- Individuals, collectives or organisations based in Ireland or of Irish citizenship.
- The curator and the artist/s proposed by the commissioner must be based in Ireland or of Irish citizenship.
- The commissioner, curator and / or any institution involved may not be the proposed artist.
- The commissioner, curator and / or any institution involved may not have a commercial relationship with the proposed artist.
- No fees will be paid for either submission stage.
- 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 or established artist / collaborative practice.
- Retrospectives will not be considered.
- 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.

## **BUDGET**

A core budget of approx. €390,000 may be used as a guideline, comprising €260,000 from Culture Ireland and €130,000 from the Arts Council.

The space, provisionally reserved by Ireland in the Arsenale for 2024, has a venue rental estimated to be €150,000. This rental cost is included in the overall budget of c. €390,000 and paid directly by Culture Ireland to La Biennale. Therefore, the estimated net operating budget is €240,000. It has been the experience of previous representations at Venice that fundraising was required to supplement the budget to meet the scale of their ambition for the projects.

A separate budget of up to €100,000 will be made available by the Arts Council for the Irish tour in 2025. This will require a separate proposal to the Arts Council in 2024.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

The selection process will comprise two stages

- Stage One: Expressions of Interest as outlined below
- Stage Two: Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview.

### **STAGE ONE - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

All eligible Expressions of Interests will be evaluated based on outlined criteria by a panel which will comprise:

- Representative of Culture Ireland
- Representative of the Arts Council
- Two international panel members

As soon as the panel have been confirmed, their names will be made public by Culture Ireland and the Arts Council through their websites/social media channels.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to Stage Two of the selection process.

Applicants must submit no more than 2 x A4 pages in PDF format outlining:

1. The production and curatorial approach, including initial ideas developed in collaboration with the artist/s proposed for presentation, indicating why you believe this is the most relevant artist / project / concept to represent Ireland in 2024.
2. Detail of the artist/s and proposed presentation in the context of international visual arts practice.
3. An approach to engage the international arts sector with Ireland's representation at Venice.
4. Your understanding of the tasks involved, including a basic project plan (including timeline).
5. An outline budget including justification of the level of investment identified and plans for fundraising required.
6. An approach to engage the Irish arts sector with the Venice event.
7. A proposal for the Irish tour, including ideas on regional venues and engaging with the Irish public.



Additional information to include:

- CVs of all personnel proposed for the project (institution/curator/artist(s)).

## **STAGE TWO – INTERVIEW**

Stage Two will comprise interview by the panel involved in the shortlisting phase (any change in panellists will be advised to shortlisted candidates in advance of interview). The interview panel will be led by an independent Chair.

The exact date of the interview has not been set yet, however, it is envisaged that it will take place in March 2023. The successful applicant will be notified shortly thereafter.

Those shortlisted will be asked to present a more detailed proposal and visual presentation based on their Expression of Interest in Stage One. Those shortlisted must be in a position to detail:

- Presentation of the proposed artist/s, indicating why you believe this is the most relevant artist to represent Ireland in 2024;
- The initial concept and creative vision for the representation;
- How the exhibition would be delivered;
- 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 applicant must also be in a position to elaborate on any proposed associated events during the Biennale;
- Marketing and public relations strategy;
- How Ireland's visual art community may benefit from this showcasing opportunity;
- The proposed venues for the Irish Tour.

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

#### **DEADLINE FOR EXPRESSIONS OF IRELAND**

Submissions should be emailed to [info@cultureireland.gov.ie](mailto:info@cultureireland.gov.ie) and must be received by **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023**.

#### **FEEDBACK**

All those who submit Expressions of Interest will be informed if they are shortlisted following Stage One.

Those that progress to Stage Two will be informed of the selection panel's decision following presentation. Written Feedback will be provided to all shortlisted applicants in terms of scores under each of the evaluation criteria outlined.