

# NEWLYN ART GALLERY & THE EXCHANGE

## Brief for the position of Trustee, Newlyn Art Gallery Ltd August 2018



The Exchange, Penzance, incorporating light installation, '*Lightwave*' by artist Peter Freeman

Newlyn Art Gallery Ltd is appointing a number of new Trustees to join its Board. We are seeking people with the experience, knowledge and commitment to support our existing work and to ensure our Board represents the diversity of the communities we wish to serve, in order to help shape and roll out the next phase of our development.

We operate across two venues, in Newlyn and Penzance, West Cornwall, each with well-designed exhibition spaces, cafe and shop. In addition, we increasingly present ambitious projects beyond these sites, enabling us to provide artists with inspiring contexts in which to present new work and attract new audiences to exemplary contemporary art.

Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange is a registered charity and receives regular funds from the Arts Council (we are a 'National Portfolio Organisation') and Cornwall Council.



John Akomfrah. Still from 'Vertigo Sea', presented at The Exchange, 2016



Robyn Denny exhibition. Installation view, Newlyn Art Gallery, 2017



Rose Wylie exhibition launch event, The Exchange. June 2018

## Introduction and background

Newlyn Art Gallery opened in 1895 as a result of the support of philanthropist John Passmore Edwards to exhibit the work of contemporary artists in the far west of Cornwall. Throughout its history, the gallery has continued its tradition of exhibiting contemporary art, including the work of world-renowned artists associated with the Newlyn and St Ives Schools. In 1974 the gallery became an educational charity with Arts Council funding, and developed a programme of exhibitions by national and international artists.

In its more recent history the gallery underwent an award-winning renovation and expansion, reopening in 2007, in addition to launching The Exchange, a new gallery space in the centre of Penzance. The Exchange has enabled the organisation to present larger, more ambitious projects across the two sites. Together the galleries continue to present contemporary work in all media by regional, national and international artists, with an active programme of events, activities and education, as well as a shop and café on both sites.

The galleries present both group and solo exhibitions that support the careers of emerging artists, as well as presenting the work of nationally and internationally renowned artists, supported by the gallery's reputation.

Alongside its exhibition programme, the gallery runs a Learning & Participation Programme, which crosses between visual arts and wider cultural disciplines. This strives to provide an inspirational and accessible environment for all, stimulate creativity and reach new audiences.



Robyn Denny Workshop, Newlyn Art Gallery, 2017

The Learning & Participation Programme is integral to the success of our exhibitions programme, the two functioning in an integrated way in order to ensure the organisation's ability to achieve its primary aim of connecting audiences, actual and potential, with art and artists, both within and beyond the Newlyn and Penzance buildings.

## Our Values, Vision and Mission

In spring 2017, staff and Trustees worked to refresh our values, vision and mission. As part of that process, we reflected on the organisation's history and the principles of its founder, the philanthropist John Passmore Edwards.

He saw culture as "a ladder the poor might climb", to help them rise out of deprivation and override a prevailing poverty of ambition in a place such as Newlyn at the end of the 19th century.

Our intention is to further develop our work based on these founding principles, contributing to debate among contemporary arts organisations and curators as to how art and the art institution can perform both a societal and civic function and be relevant to contemporary social and political issues.

### Vision

*We believe that art can inspire and drive change*

### Values

*Change-making*

*Rooted in place*

*Part of a global art conversation*

### Our Mission

**To connect Cornwall with visual arts internationally, for the benefit of the community and development of artists**



Imran Qureshi 'After Which, I Am No More I And You Are No More You'. Truro Cathedral. 2016  
Installation shot. Part of our developing off-site programme. LLE Photography

## Governance and Board of Trustees

The gallery is run by a small team, governed by a Board of Trustees, which oversees the work of the charity, providing strategic direction and support to staff. We are now seeking to appoint up to four new members to the Board.

The Board of Trustees meet on a bi-monthly basis and has a number of sub-groups, including finance and programming committees. In order to ensure effective governance and support for the Executive team, we seek to balance the range of skills and experience amongst the Trustees to match the needs of the organisation.

## Reflecting Our Diverse Communities

Historically the arts sector, in common with many other sectors in the UK has failed to adequately reflect the full diversity of the UK population amongst those it employs and appoints to voluntary positions. We, along with national colleagues in the sector, want to change that pattern of recruitment. We therefore encourage applications from individuals with diverse backgrounds.

### What are we looking for?

**We need Trustees who are passionate about the work of the gallery and who have a strength in one or more of the following areas:**

- Knowledge of teaching and innovative educational practice
- Recent experience of schools environment, as a student, teacher or governor etc.
- Awareness of diversity issues, in particular an understanding of the barriers to employment and participation in the arts by young people and people with disabilities
- Awareness of digital media technologies and social media
- Knowledge of accountancy and financial management
- Commercial acumen
- Curatorial expertise

## The Trustees' Role

Whilst we don't expect all Trustees to be expert in all areas of governance, we do need to ensure that collectively the Board is able to provide the Gallery Director and team with access to a range of skills and experience to operate effectively. Trustees must:

- Commit to the vision and values of Newlyn Art Gallery Ltd
- Demonstrate the capacity for strategic vision, creative thinking and good, independent judgement
- Be willing to contribute their skills and expertise fully to the Board's collective decision-making
- Act as an advocate for Newlyn Art Gallery Ltd
- Play an active role in the gallery's search for funding and sponsorship in order to attract significant private support
- Accept the legal duties and responsibilities of trusteeship
- Be willing to devote the necessary time and effort to their trusteeship of the gallery, and in particular be available to attend Board Meetings, support the Gallery Director and attend events as appropriate and participate in sub-committees or groups as agreed
- Be able to work effectively as part of a team

Being a Trustee is a voluntary role, however your expenses will be covered in order to support your work on behalf of the gallery. The law dictates that Trustees must be 18 or over.

New Trustees will be offered training and support, including mentoring if appropriate, so previous experience as a Trustee is not essential.

## Term of Office

Trustees are usually appointed for a three-year term, however, younger Trustees may be offered a one-year appointment if this provides them with greater flexibility to pursue their medium-term educational or career plans. Trustees may be reappointed for a second term, at the discretion of the Chair.

## How to apply

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee of Newlyn Art Gallery Ltd, please explain in no more than 500 words how your experience, knowledge and skills match those outlined above and also attach your CV. This information should be emailed to Miranda Bird, Chair of the Trustees:

[miranda.bird@newlynartgallery.co.uk](mailto:miranda.bird@newlynartgallery.co.uk)

If you have any questions about the gallery or role and would like to have an informal conversation with the Gallery Director, please contact James Green on 01736 363715. He would be delighted to answer your questions.

**Closing date - 10am on Monday 20th August 2018**