

## A programme of integrated art in the environment commissions

### Emerging Artists Project Brief

#### Summary

**Art Roots Grizedale** is a major new commissioning programme designed to reinvigorate **Grizedale Forest** as a centre of international excellence for art in the environment. The **Forestry Commission** (FC) at Grizedale will commission artists to create a series of permanent, high impact artworks which will form a central element of the overall visitor experience and secure a sustainable future for art in Grizedale Forest.

Many of Grizedale's 250,000 visitors per annum come to the forest to visit the collection of over 60 sculptures and artworks currently sited across the forest landscape. The sculpture programme at Grizedale was initiated in 1977 - the first of its kind, it was a pioneering project. The main aims of the arts development programme now are to: reinvigorate the forest based sculpture programme, establish the art archive within the visitor centre and integrate art within Grizedale's people engagement work. The Art Roots Grizedale programme is core to the FC's future work and represents a significant commissioning opportunity to develop new permanently sited public art in the environment.

## **5 emerging artists will be commissioned to develop projects**

### **Aims & Objectives**

The commissioned artists will -

- create a suitable concept and design for new, permanently sited artwork at the beginning of the Ridding Wood Trail
- take inspiration from the historic landscape context, the siting of the former Grizedale Hall and its history as a Prisoner of War camp in World War 2
- develop the multi-sensory theme for which the trail is known, in a innovative way
- work with the commissioned Lead Artist for Ridding Wood Trail who will mentor the selected emerging Artists
- work with the project participants, other selected emerging artists and the FC team

The final commissioned project will -

- be accessed at the start of the Ridding Wood Trail which incorporates the historic landscape of the former Grizedale Hall
- be integrated into the forest design plan in relation to management of the trail, woodland and the biodiversity of the site
- imaginatively provide stimulus for an interpretation of the history of the site
- be appropriate and inspirational for those visiting the forest
- be a unique and memorable experience of the historic landscape
- be imaginative and innovative
- creatively utilise natural materials and locally sourced materials where appropriate

### **Ridding Wood Trial (RWT)**

- The Ridding Wood Trail is the gateway to Grizedale Forest in that it is the most visited trail in the forest. It is visited by 80% of visitors coming to Grizedale to walk.
- The RWT has an established reputation as an all ability access trail for sensory sculpture.
- The RWT provides access to all and is close in proximity to the visitor centre.
- It is well used by a range of groups for led and self-led visits as well as disability groups, including wheelchair users and those with a range of sensory impairments.

## **Workplan**

### **Selection**

Open call

Shortlisting

Site visits/Interviews

Appointment of commissioned emerging artists

### **Development Phases**

Research & development

Participatory workshops with project participants

Development of concept design/initial design plans

Approval of concept design/initial design plans proposals

Consultation events

Detailed design plan development

Detailed design plan approval

Public exhibition of project development and final designs

Evaluation of Phase 1

The Forestry Commission has secured funding for the development phase of the project.

### **Realisation**

Procurement of materials and sub-contractors where necessary

Production

Completed realisation of artworks

Installation on site

Maintenance regime signed off

### **Launch**

Public launch & publicity

The Forestry Commission will seek funding for the production phase of the project.

### **Monitoring & Evaluation**

Completed project evaluation

Ongoing publicity & promotion

Ongoing maintenance & review

## **Budget & Fees**

The overall budget associated with the development phase is £6,650 per artist.

## **Budget Breakdown**

£2,000 Artist fee

Research expenses £1,000

Materials for experimentation £750

Travel expenses, overnight accommodation and costs associated with workshops and consultation events make up the rest of the development budget for each commissioned artist.

## **Participation**

Participatory research and development workshops with different user groups will be an integral part of the artist's project development and research.

## **Conditions, Usage of the Site Physical & Technical Constraints**

A series of photographs illustrating the start of the Ridding Wood Trail are attached with this brief along with the site and trail plan. The trail is wheelchair accessible and suitable for users of a full range of physical abilities.

## **Project Management**

Primary contact is Hayley Skipper, Curator - Arts Development for the Forestry Commission who is project lead. Hayley Skipper is first point of contact between the commissioned artists and the project team. Selected artists will be required to attend project progress meetings, as well as consultation and development events as required by their particular project. Information regarding documentation requirements and maintenance arrangements will be discussed and provided subsequent to the artists' expression of interest and short listing.

## Selection Process

- An open call will be distributed through relevant networks and arts organisations.
- A shortlist of artists will be compiled based on the appropriateness and quality of previous work.
- Shortlisted artists will be required to attend a selection panel meeting at Grizedale.

## Definition of *emerging artist*

Artists' proposals are not limited by any restrictions, for example, number of years since graduating or number of years working professionally. Instead we hope to provide an opportunity to artists who may not previously had the chance to develop a public art project in the environment.

## Artists are requested to submit -

- 1 A4 page outlining their approach to this opportunity.
- CV.
- Artist should include a maximum of 10 images with their submission, either in hard copy or as low resolution digital files in a standard format
- Artists will be selected based on the vision and suitability of their proposed approach to the Commission opportunity.

**This project brief can be downloaded from - [www.forestry.gsi.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gsi.gov.uk)**

Alternatively please contact

**Hayley Skipper, Curator - Arts Development**

[hayley.skipper@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hayley.skipper@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

01229 862015

**Deadline for submissions is 5.00pm, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011**

Submissions can be sent by email or hardcopy to: [hayley.skipper@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hayley.skipper@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

Hayley Skipper, Curator - Arts Development

North West England Forest District, Grizedale, Hawkshead, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0QJ

## ***Background information***

### **The Forestry Commission**

We are the tree people - the experts in forest and woodlands. Working with others we look after the country's trees, woods and forests for the good of everyone - today and for the future.

Each of the public's forests, cared for by the Forestry Commission, is home to wonderful wildlife, providing a place to play and relax, be inspired and get involved. They support local jobs through timber and tourism and are funded mainly by commercial revenue. As custodian of the public's forests, we work with others to keep them as special places for wildlife, for people to enjoy and businesses to thrive. We achieve this by being the leader in integrated land management.

We think long term. We deliver and demonstrate best practice. We embrace both a public service and business ethos. We are innovative. We work in partnership, both locally and nationally. We are passionate about connecting people with nature.

We aim to -

- be an international leader in delivering and demonstrating sustainable integrated land management,
- realise the potential of each of the public's forests for wildlife and nature conservation, health and wellbeing and sustainable business opportunities,
- ensure that visitors have a greater understanding about forests and the environment and leave with a "greener heart",
- achieve operational and financial stability within the resources available to us.

## **A Brief Selected History of Grizedale**

*Source: 'The Grizedale Experience' Ed.s Bill Grant & Paul Harris, Cannongate Press 1991*

- In the 9<sup>th</sup> Century AD Norsemen settled in “Grize-Dale”. The effects of agriculture, charcoal burning, iron smelting and the timber industry would leave only 1,200 acres of woodland.
- The FC acquired the estate in 1936 from Harold Brocklebank a Liverpool ship owner and Cunard tycoon, at this time it consisted of 3,500 acres of rough grazing and woodland, the village of Satterthwaite and Grizedale Hall and its outbuildings. It is these renovated outbuildings and mews, which now form the Grizedale centre.
- Grizedale Hall was demolished in 1957 after its use as “Grizedale One” a Prisoner of War Camp in World War 2, the first in the country, which held Franz Von Werra who is the subject of the film “The One That Got Away”.
- Forestation work began in 1936 and continued throughout the war - the most important aims were to begin planned timber production and re-establish a range of habitats for wild animals and birds.
- Grizedale is home to the only indigenous woodland herd of red deer in England.

## **Grizedale Today**

- Grizedale is a working forest environment and covers over 2,500 hectares.
- Located in the valley between Coniston Water and Windermere, the forest is a mixture of plantation and semi-natural woodland.
- It is one of the leading visitor destinations in the Lake District and the largest public forest in the North West of England, welcoming over 250,000 visitors p.a.
- Grizedale Forest offers visitors a range of walking and cycling trails, a single-track mountain bike trail, shop and information and Café, bike shop/hire and ‘Go Ape’ a hire wire forest adventure course.

## **Further Information Available for Reference**

- Art Roots Grizedale project outline
- Ridding Wood Trail site images
- Ridding Wood Trail site map