

BRITISH ART NETWORK EMERGING CURATORS GROUP BURSARY OPPORTUNITY

Are you involved in producing exhibitions or art research? Does this work include a focus on British art?

Are you passionate about making positive changes to the way British art is collected, displayed and interpreted?

Do you feel you have a way to go to feel well-established in your career? Would you benefit from a peer support network and professional development programme?

We don't mind what your job title might be or where you're doing this work. If you've answered 'yes' to the above, the British Art Network's **Emerging Curators Group (ECG)** wants to hear from you!

We are looking for **15 people** to form the latest Emerging Curators Group, coming together regularly over **nine months** from **January to September 2022**.

We are looking to bring together all kinds of people, particularly art workers who are Black, Asian and minority ethnic, working class, have disabilities, or are in any other way under-represented in the curatorial landscape.

We have created this document to give you all the information you should need in order to decide if this opportunity feels right for you, and to put in an application.

Pages 2 to 4 include information that everybody who is thinking to apply should definitely read:

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- Tell me more (including the link to register for an online taster session)
- I want to apply

Pages 5 to 7 contain answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs). Do have a quick look through these to see if there are any questions that are relevant to you.

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WHAT IS THE ECG?

We asked our 2020-21 Group members for some key words to describe the ECG – here's what they said:

<i>Supportive</i>	<i>Affirmative</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Inspiring</i>
<i>Informative</i>	<i>Interesting</i>	<i>Learning</i>	<i>Reflective</i>
<i>Sharing</i>	<i>Inspiring</i>	<i>Interactive</i>	<i>Soundboarding</i>
<i>Motivating</i>	<i>Focusing</i>	<i>Challenging</i>	<i>Developing</i>
<i>Action</i>	<i>Career Beneficial</i>		

The ECG involves the following elements:

- **workshops** (online and in-person) with the Group and invited guests (the British Art Network will cover the cost of your travel to in-person workshops)
- developing an **individual research project** with support from the British Art Network's Convenor, with the option of publishing or circulating through BAN's website and communications
- an £700 **bursary** to spend on research costs and other professional development goals, and an additional £500 **research support honorarium**
- the opportunity to apply to a further fund for **collaboration** with other ECG members if desired

The aim of the workshop programme, as well as between-session communication with the Group, is to:

- foster a supportive peer group, sharing ideas, challenges and advice
- make new professional connections across the UK
- build confidence in your skills, knowledge and ability to make an impact
- examine the role of the curator today, the significance of working with 'British' art, sector change-making and best practice
- hear about the research interests of peers working with British art

We understand that not everybody will be able to travel or feel comfortable to attend in-person workshops. Where we are able to hold in-person events, this will be done with thorough risk assessment and according to government guidelines. If you are unable or feel uncomfortable to attend in-person events, this will not affect your application and your ability to be part of the Emerging Curators Group. We will endeavour to make the core elements of any in-person events accessible remotely.

WHAT TRAITS SHOULD A POTENTIAL ECG MEMBER HAVE?

- An area of interest in British art, with experience of research and contribution to exhibitions, collections development or display, or heritage
- A generous and open approach to sharing ideas, thoughts, knowledge and skills
- Interpersonal skills (respectfulness, open-mindedness, active listening)
- Demonstrable commitment to access, inclusion and social justice in the sector and beyond
- Energy and ideas for the future of curating British art
- Initiative and creativity to get the most out of the programme
- Desire to build and maintain connections with ECG alumni and the wider British Art Network

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HOW WILL YOU GUARANTEE THIS IS A SUPPORTIVE, SAFE SPACE?

- The cohort will be asked to create a collaborative 'contract' for expectations and standards at the beginning of the programme, encompassing both peer interactions and the British Art Network team's interactions with the group
- Several members of the British Art Network's Steering Group will be nominated liaison representatives who you can turn to should you wish to express concerns and need support beyond the BAN team
- Feedback will be encouraged and requested both during and after each ECG event, and will be acknowledged and acted upon
- The programme will be externally evaluated, and the BAN team will work with their guidance and input throughout the programme,
- The Network has further funds committed for costs relating to caring, childcare, support workers and other access adjustments where needed
- In-person events will be held at fully accessible venues, and a quiet room will be provided for reflection, prayer and time out
- All online events will be live transcribed using Otter.ai, and with plenty of screen breaks

You can find out about the team that supports the British Art Network [here](#).

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR ECG?

This will be the fourth group and we are planning exciting legacy opportunities for and with the previous three groups to develop the ECG into a growing, thriving and diversifying alumni network of like-minded art workers who hold peer mutual support as a core value.

Future legacy opportunities will include:

- Small research travel bursary opportunities
- BAN event travel support commitment for past members
- Networking events for past members

With funding secured through to 2024, we will continue to bring together new and former Emerging Curator Groups in the coming years. The ECG is a key component in the British Art Network's commitment to increasing diversity and engagement in British art curating, expanding definitions of British art and communicating the continuing public value of British art collections and curatorial expertise around the UK.

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TELL ME MORE...

Attend an **online taster session** via Zoom to find out more, meet a couple of members of the 2020-21 group and get to know the team supporting the ECG:

- 21 September 2021, 14:00–15:00 BST

- 22 September 2021, 11:00–12:00 BST

Eventbrite sign-up and more information [here](#).

You can learn more about the most recent Emerging Curators Group by visiting the [British Art Network's website here](#).

Please see a set of FAQs below. If you have any questions about the Emerging Curators Group not answered by these, please contact britishartnetwork@tate.org.uk

I WANT TO APPLY

To apply, please download the application form, anonymous monitoring form and employer's letter of support (where relevant) and send completed versions to britishartnetwork@tate.org.uk by **4 October 2021, 12pm BST**.

If you would like to apply in another format, such as video, this is also welcomed. Please contact britishartnetwork@tate.org.uk if you would like to discuss this.

We will be holding **Individual Interviews** online during the weeks of 18 and 25 October. The interview panel will comprise diverse voices from across the sector.

If you currently have an employer, you may want to obtain their permission before applying to be part of the Group, if your participation in the Group would be considered part of your working hours. We are providing a form for employers to express support and highlight any potential challenges, which you can include with your application. For more information about the time commitment involved, please see the FAQs below.

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FAQs

What kind of professional experience should I have?

Below are some examples of the type of experience applicants might have. Please note this is not extensive and you might be doing something that goes beyond any of what's listed below. If this opportunity sounds like what you're looking for, please do apply!

- You might be doing a traineeship, apprenticeship, Kickstart job placement or paid internship in exhibitions or curating
- You might be a freelance curator or work with an artist-led space
- You might be a 'co-curator', producing exhibitions with communities
- You might have a job like Exhibitions, Curatorial or Research Assistant, Assistant Curator or Curator
- You might be a PhD student
- You might work for or with gallery spaces or art centres with or without permanent collections, or commercial spaces
- Or you might work for any type of museum (eg local authority museum, university museum, independent museum or national museum or a historic house or heritage site)

What is the time commitment for this programme?

There will be six ECG workshops over the year. We are planning that two workshops will be in-person and one of these will be a two-day event with an overnight stay. These events will take place on working days (Monday to Friday) and may include travel both during and outside working hours. Please note that in-person events are subject to government health advice regarding Covid-19.

- January 2022, in person – venue tbc (one day)
- March 2022, online (half day)
- April 2022, online (half day)
- May 2022, in person – venue tbc (two days)
- June 2022, online (half day)
- September 2022, online (half day)

Workshop dates will be confirmed in November, after sending out an availability survey to the selected Group members.

There is flexibility in how you choose to approach the research project and when you work on it over the year. The nature and extent of individual projects have varied a great deal, but Previous Group members tell us they have spent an average of 10 days on their research projects. It is expected that the majority of this research time will be within members' working hours, however it may be necessary to put aside additional time to report and reflect on the research. This report may take written form or be expressed in another medium as agreed with the British Art Network Convenor.

You will be expected to provide a short report in April 2022 and in November 2022, after the programme. Both times, you will need to provide a clear, itemised record of your bursary spend, including copies of all receipts.

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How does the bursary work? And what can I do with the bursary?

You will receive the first £300 of your bursary at the start of the programme (January 2022) and the second £400 mid-programme (May 2022). The second payment will be dependent on participation in Group activity and submission of your progress report in April 2022.

For this £700 bursary, you will need to keep all receipts and invoices and manage and organise your budget for the year, keeping and passing on clear records to the British Art Network team.

The bursary is to spend on your professional development and towards your individual research project. This could include course attendance, accessing archives, professional association membership, travel for exhibition and studio visits, paying interviewees and contributors to your research project and more.

Your £500 research honorarium payment will be paid to you at the end of the programme, when you have submitted the report on your research project. This payment is in return for the service rendered to the British Art Network. You can spend this in any way you like and you do not have to keep receipts or report to the British Art Network about how you spend your honorarium.

I'm not yet a member of the British Art Network – can I apply?

We are always looking to expand and diversify our membership and very much welcome applications from people who are new to the British Art Network. Joining the British Art Network is free, and it includes the opportunity to join Research Groups, attend seminars, workshops and conferences, receive a quarterly newsletter, and apply for other Network bursaries and support.

I don't have a job currently – can I still apply?

Absolutely. We very much wish to support and continue engagement with British Art Network members who may have been made redundant or are experiencing precarious working situations, especially during the Covid-19 crisis. If you are not currently working, we still encourage you to apply.

What if my job changes during the year?

Your place on the ECG is yours and can transfer with you to a new job or organisation, so long as you are still working with, or committed to working again with curating collections and/or exhibitions.

In-person events and/or overnight stays may be difficult for me – how can you support me?

Previous Group members have praised the two-day workshops as a pivotal moment in their group bonding. As such, we feel it is important to continue to include this in the programme. However, we understand that overnight stays may not always be possible and we assure you that this will not affect the choice of successful applicants. Bursary spend can be used for caring costs in order to attend, and where specific situations mean that your spend on

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travel/care would go beyond half the bursary, the British Art Network can cover these costs additionally. If you will not be able to attend in-person events, we will work to deliver a hybrid event structure where you can participate fully in core elements of the event remotely.

I have a disability – how will you make sure I am able to participate fully?

The British Art Network team are fully committed to ensuring this opportunity is open and accessible to all, and there is budget in place for access needs across all our programming. We champion the social model of disability and are committed to working with fully accessible venues for all our in-person events. If you are unsure whether our baseline provision will cover your needs, we would be very happy to have a chat with you to discuss how support could be planned and to put your mind at ease. We appreciate such conversations can be difficult to have and promise to keep any information shared fully confidential. Please contact britishartnetwork@tate.org.uk if you would like to talk this through with a member of our team.

I don't just work with British art – does that matter? What are you classifying as 'British art'?

You don't need to work exclusively with British art, but you should work with it to some extent and have a keen interest in and desire to build a research project around it. We consider British art a global phenomenon and encourage transnational and decolonising approaches. The British Art Network supports curatorial practice and research into British art in all its forms, across time periods and geographical locations.

I'm not based in the UK but I work with British art – can I apply?

We are working on expanding our international reach and membership and will certainly accept applications from people outside the UK. However please note that due to budget restrictions we cannot offer further funding for travel to and from the UK.