

BRITISH ART NETWORK RESEARCH GROUPS BURSARY OPPORTUNITY

Do you want to contribute to the British Art Network's expanding programme of activities?

Is there a current topic within British art curating that you want to see promoted, researched and shared?

Whether you work with a collection or gallery space, in heritage settings, in a university, or operate independently, we welcome your proposals for a British Art Network supported programme of activity in 2022.

We are offering **ten bursaries** to support Research Group activity either **January 2022 to September 2022**, or on a two-year programme to **January 2022 to September 2023**.

Applications may be to continue existing groups, renew former groups, or to propose entirely new groups.

We welcome proposals that will actively engage with and give representation to under-represented art histories and curatorial practices, promote inclusion and engagement, and which reflect critical, interrogative and politically engaged perspectives across the entire field of British art curating.

We would especially encourage proposals that reflect engagement with historic art as well as contemporary practice, and for programmes that would address the acute under-representation of people with disabilities and of neurodivergence as a critical issue within the sector.

We particularly welcome applications from art workers who are Black, Asian and minority ethnic, working class, have disabilities, or are in any other way under-represented in the curatorial and research landscape.

Pages 2 to 4 of the application pack include information that everybody thinking to apply should read:

Page 2

- About BAN Research Groups
- About the bursary

Page 3

- What we're looking for
- What you can expect from us
- How to apply

Pages 4 to 7 contain answers to frequently asked questions that may or may not be relevant to you.

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ABOUT BAN RESEARCH GROUPS

British Art Network (BAN) Research Groups are at the forefront of the Network's engagement with curatorial research, practice and theory, and contribute significantly to the core aims of expanding definitions of British art, acknowledging complex historical truths and their present-day resonances, and communicating the continuing public value of British art collections and curatorial expertise around the UK.

Each of the Groups are developed and led by Network members who organise programmes of activity, including workshops, seminars and networking sessions, both online and in-person. These enable curators and other specialists to come together and continue conversations and collaborations focused on a specific topic area in a sustained way.

Research Groups are led together by two or three research leads in partnership, and this partnership may reflect different disciplinary and professional perspectives as well as representing geographical range and different organisational and working contexts.

For information on current and former Research Groups, visit the British Art Network website [here](#).

ABOUT THE BURSARY

We are offering ten bursaries to support Research Group activity over either a 1 or 2-year programme. Proposals will be accepted for the following:

- January 2022 to September 2022
£3,500 bursary
Three events (one live or hybrid) and a research output (eg publication, website or resource)
- January 2022 to September 2023
2 x £3,500 bursaries (subject to review at the end of the 2022 programme)
Six events (ideally three in 2022, three in 2023) and at least one research output
Continuation beyond year 1 will be subject to a review with the British Art Network Convenor in October 2022

The bursary can cover:

- Softwares/subscriptions to run online or hybrid events, including captioning
- Venue and AV hire
- Video or written commissions
- Speaker fees
- Website creation and upkeep
- Modest published programmes to accompany events (image fees, author fees)
- Catering

The bursary will need to cover access costs, including:

- Member travel and childcare fund where attendance would otherwise be impossible (minimum £500)
- The provision of captioning for all online events.

Additional specific access provision where required by members: additional funding may be available for BSL provision on application.

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WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- Clear and distinctive statements of research questions, aims and methods
- Proposals that contribute to BAN's work in expanding definitions of British art, acknowledging complex historical truths and their present-day resonances, and communicating the continuing public value of British art collections and curatorial expertise around the UK
- A focus on sector support, networking and impact in the field of British art curating
- An appreciation of the different perspectives and experiences that have a bearing on your research area, and a willingness to engage with these
- Creativity, openness and flexibility regarding event formats, with a willingness to create events that encourage robust critical debate and exchange in respectful ways
- Demonstrable commitment to equity, access and inclusion
- Desire to build and maintain connections with other Research Groups and the British Art Network more widely
- Ability to dedicate time to running the Research Group over the year or two-year period, including tracking membership and maintaining online presence outside of meeting organisation

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

- Support from the British Art Network Convenor in honing research questions and planning events
- Support from the British Art Network Coordinator and Administrator in branding, marketing and managing a separate fund for your members to access events
- Support from the British Art Network external evaluator in integrating feedback and evaluation throughout the planning and delivery process
- Access to digital platforms for marketing and the publication of research, in the form of BAN's membership-wide mailings and website
- Support from the BAN team and from invited consultants and peers in exploring formats for events and outputs and developing best practice in accessibility
- A team and project that is committed to equity, justice, accessibility, anti-racism and LGBTQI+ rights

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

HOW 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 **11 October 2021, 12pm BST**.

If you have any questions about the scheme please contact the British Art Network Convenor, Martin Myrone, at mmyrone@paul-mellon-centre.ac.uk. 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.

If you currently have an employer, you may want to obtain their permission before applying to lead a British Art Network Research Group, if your participation 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.

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FAQs

What is the time commitment for this programme?

In addition to the activities you deliver for your Research Group, you will be invited to participate in three sessions bringing together the leads of the ten Research Groups to share ideas, experiences and advice. At some of these sessions, invited guests will speak about certain areas of practice, for instance hybrid event delivery and accessibility. The first of these sessions will be an introductory meeting taking place in December 2021.

Within Year 1 of the programme (January to September 2022), you will need to run a minimum of three events, which can range from a half day to a full day. We would encourage all Research Groups to plan for accessibility, and this would include using online or hybrid formats. The expectation would be that one event would be in-person or hybrid.

You will also be expected to be in regular touch with the British Art Network team in the organisation and running of your Research Group.

Expected Research Group outputs are:

- An up-to-date member tracking document (when/how members joined, affiliations etc.)
- Financial records covering bursary spend (including all receipts)
- Short formal quarterly reports
- Research outputs containing the BAN brand
- Potential online presence
- Potential case study with external evaluator (interviews, feedback forms)

In addition to these outputs, there will be regular routine administrative tasks. In total, we estimate the role of leading a Research Group to be approximately 15–18 days' work over Year 1 (January to September 2022).

How does the bursary work?

For one-year programmes you will receive the first half of your bursary at the start of the programme (January 2022) and the second half in May 2022. The second payment will be dependent on the delivery of your first event and the submission of a report. For two-year programmes the continuation of the funding will be dependent on a satisfactory report from Year 1 activities, and if continued would be repeated on the same pattern during 2023.

You will need to keep all receipts and invoices and manage and organise your budget, keeping and passing on clear records to the British Art Network team.

How big does the Research Group need to be?

There are no fixed expectations about this. Existing research groups vary from 30-200 members. Typically, groups have about 50-80 members, with a 'core' of 20-30 members who attend events more regularly. What matters is the quality, relevance and interest of the research area, not the size of the group it is likely to attract.

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Do Research Group events need to be open to the public?

No. The Research Groups are intended to encourage learning, debate and exchange within the sector. Events can be limited to the members of the Research Group, although they can also be marketed to the BAN Membership at large and more publicly. What matters is that the events are organised in a way that supports the research aims of the group and allow for productive debate and learning.

Is the Research Group's membership limited to members of BAN?

Research Group members can include artists, learning colleagues, conservators and other individuals whose participation will help contribute towards the group's research goals. Members of Research Groups are encouraged to consider applying for Membership of BAN and we would hope would be interested in the work of the Network at large, but this is not obligatory.

I am already running an established research network. Can I apply for the bursary as a top-up fund to support its delivery?

This bursary is designed to allow members of the British Art Network the opportunity to contribute towards the Network's programme. As such, activity should be designed for British Art Network members and there will need to be flexibility regarding programming. If you have a fixed plan for content and delivery format, we would suggest that this isn't the best opportunity for you. Please note that we will be prioritising applications where the opportunity to lead the Research Group would not be possible without this bursary.

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

We are always looking to expand and diversify our membership and very much welcome applications from people new to the 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 'venue'. Can I apply?

Yes. When holding an event in person, the bursary can be used partly to cover venue hire and in fact we encourage sub-group leads to think beyond hosting at their own organisations. You may wish to start research into fully accessible venues that might be suitable for an in-person / hybrid meeting and to include this information in your application.

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

The British Art Network is working on expanding its international reach and membership – we very much welcome researchers and curators of British art based outside the UK to apply for this opportunity. In these cases, we would encourage selecting a deputy lead who is UK-based to ease with the facilitation of events.

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

We want to support 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. For those not in employment, we will be assessing eligibility for a modest honorarium to acknowledge your time and contribution on a case-by-case basis. Please do also consider your changing time commitments if you go into a demanding job. We are keen that Research Groups operate over the full period for which they have been accepted to run.

I have a disability and might need extra support to be able to lead my Research Group – can you give more information on how you'll make this possible?

The British Art Network team are committed to ensuring this opportunity is open and accessible to all, and there is budget in place for access needs. We champion the social model of disability, and sub-group events should take place in fully accessible venues or on accessible online platforms. If you are unsure whether our provision will cover your needs as a Research Group lead, we would be very happy to have a chat with you to discuss how support could be planned and 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.

Can BAN funding be used alongside funding from other sources?

Yes – and Research Groups have been run along these lines before. However, BAN bursaries are designed to allow members of the British Art Network the opportunity to contribute towards the Network's programme. We will be prioritising applications where the opportunity to lead the Research Group would not be possible without this bursary (see **I am already running an established research network**, above)

What if we are a current BAN Research Group, and our bursary application is not successful?

Existing Research Groups which are not awarded a bursary can maintain a presence on the BAN Website as an Affiliated Group, including their contact details, and are welcome to continue their activities by other means. Affiliated Groups are welcome to submit news of upcoming events and activities for our Membership-wide mailings and news postings online. Several groups have continued in this way.

What counts as a 'research'?

The British Art Network promotes curatorial research, practice and theory in the field of British art. Our members include curators, academics, artist-researchers, conservators, producers and programmers at all stages of their professional lives. As such, we recognise that research can take several forms and can be given expression in a range of media.

As set out in the **'What we are looking for'** section above we are looking for proposals that express the research questions clearly and that contribute to BAN's work in expanding definitions of British art, acknowledging complex historical truths and their present-day

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resonances, and communicating the continuing public value of British art collections and curatorial expertise around the UK.

Research Group events may take the form of workshops, seminars or networking sessions. There are no stipulations about the scale of these events, but they need to be manageable and provide appropriate settings for discussion and learning.

Research Outputs should capture and reflect the exchanges, debates and learning generated by the Research Group. They may well take textual form, but may also include artists' commissions, films, interviews and recordings. They should take a form which can be archived by the British Art Network and shared through platforms developed by the Research Group and if desired through the BAN website.