

TATTON PARK BIENNIAL 2010

FRAMING IDENTITY
7 May – 26 September

OPEN COMPETITION BRIEF: Cheshire Emerging Artists

From May to September 2010, Tatton Park will stage its second Biennial of contemporary art, with 20 commissioned works responding to the site and notions of identity that emerge from it.

FRAMING IDENTITY

The second edition of the Biennial will consider ideas about identity and its proximity to site and landscape. Much of the rationale for this theme has come from the experience of the previous Biennial: the opportunity to re-examine the site as a living and evolving subject rather than as an historical keepsake is at the heart of 2010.

Landscape as a social platform; social divides reflected in landscape; a sense of place in relation to the universe and the immediate vicinity of Tatton Park; the relevance of the boundary wall that encircles the 2,000-acre estate; people who work at the site and know it intimately, people whose association is through their choice to visit the grounds and Mansion and those who live in the 'other' estates that ring Tatton but are not included among its current visitors: all these ideas and subjects are apt areas for consideration, marking Tatton Park and its environment as the reference point for an exploration of what roots people to place, what locates us (as individuals, communities or businesses) and how history shapes relationships to places.

Partners from across the arts and cultural sectors in the Northwest and the UK are working with the Biennial to deliver a programme that will extend the reach of the event to national and international audiences.

In all, there are three commissioning schemes: curators' invitation; peer recommendation and open competition.

THE INVITATION

This brief has been developed by the Biennial curators, Danielle Arnaud and Jordan Kaplan from Parabola, in consultation with Tatton Park's General Manager, Brendan Flanagan and Helen Battersby, Arts, Heritage and Museums Manager, Cheshire East Council.

Emerging artists who have completed formal education in the past five years and are either currently living or working in Cheshire or are originally from Cheshire are here encouraged to develop proposals for a new work for Tatton Park Biennial 2010: Framing Identity.

Artists are asked to consider this brief and its relevance to their own practice. Proposals will be accepted from individuals or artists who elect to work together in collaboration and should be limited to two sides of A4 paper, with accompanying images, if relevant, an up to date CV and biography outlining areas of research and interest.

The proposal should address the theme, Framing Identity, and the host site as well as issues relating to the production of work to be sited out of doors in Tatton's formal gardens for five months (maintenance, health & safety, planning and building control issues, potential partners and associated costs). Demonstrating interest in the technical challenges of the site is always welcome.

It is an important aspect of the Biennial ethos that artists are encouraged to see this commission as a point of departure from familiar terrain – the commissioner and curators are able to support new methods of delivery and shifting thematics and believe that this is where their idea of a 'cultural laboratory' may be best put to use.

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Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6QN

www.tattonparkbiennial.org



THE BUDGET

£5,000 has been allocated to cover both materials and artist's fees. There is a further amount of £500, which is at the disposal of the artist to cover accommodation and travel costs and further money has been secured for technical issues.

HOW TO GET YOUR PROPOSAL TO US

Online

The preferred submission method is by upload to www.spacescheshire.com

There is a total load limit of 5mg per submission, which includes the following:

- Site-specific proposal
- Up to date CV/artists' biography
- Relevant and clearly labelled images

By Post

Hard copies of the above (stamped no later than 29 September 2009) can be sent to:

Tatton Park Biennial 2010
Open Competition: North West
Tatton Park
Knutsford
Cheshire
WA16 6QN

THE DEADLINES

The deadline for submission of applications is **midnight, Wednesday 30 September 2009**

Interviews will be held on **Thursday 15 October 2009**

The Biennial will respond to all submissions by the middle of October.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have questions or need to discuss this brief in more detail, it is best to send an email to:

info@tattonparkbiennial.org

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BACKGROUND

The Biennial in 2008

The first Biennial, in 2008, was devised, curated and managed by Danielle Arnaud & Jordan Kaplan from Parabola, working with Brendan Flanagan, Tatton's General Manager. Almost thirty artists, performers and writers developed new works, primarily for the formal gardens, that addressed a theme of 'Botanical Collections and Collectors' including:

David Blandy with Daniel Locke; Lisa Cheung; Gayle Chong Kwan; Faye Claridge; David Cotterrell; Jo Coupe; Nicky Coutts; Tessa Farmer with Sean Daniels; Kongkee; Helen Maurer; Heather & Ivan Morison; Jacques Nimki with Steve Rushton, Savage and Jonathan Swain; Sally O'Reilly; Paulette Phillips; Simon Pope with Mike Hoyles; Abigail Reynolds; Manuela Ribadeneira with Lalimpia; The Little Artists; Shane Waltener; Giles Waterfield and Simon Woolham.

The Biennial was warmly welcomed by regional, national and international arts and cultural organisations and was covered in national and international press, media and contemporary art journals. It was runner up for the 2009 Lever Prize and a finalist for both the 2009 Regional Tourism and Museums & Galleries Awards. In 2008, it was supported by the Northwest Regional Development Agency; Arts Council England, North West; Cheshire County Council; Cheshire's Year of Gardens '08; the National Trust; Tatton Park Trust; Tatton Park; Chinese Arts Centre; Manchester Airport; The Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation; The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation and Middlesex University.

Tatton Park

Tatton Park is one of the North West of England's most popular visitor destinations. Bequeathed to the National Trust after the death of the last Lord Egerton in 1960, the Mansion, formal gardens and surrounding acreage of landscaped deer park are now administered by Cheshire East Council in consultation with the National Trust. Today, the property is characterised by annual signature events like the RHS Flower Show and is recognised as a site of national importance for its Mansion House, formal gardens and landscaped grounds. The Tatton property was purchased by the Egerton family in 1598. Landscape gardeners including Humphry Repton, William Eames and John Webb have left their mark on Tatton's terrain. The changing fashions in garden design are demonstrated by a tour of the grounds: previous generations of the Egerton family elected to build new ornamental gardens rather than update the same site. The cumulative effect resembles an outdoor museum or compendium of British gardening styles, and is extremely unique as a result. The Mansion is Grade I listed and the Gardens are Grade II* listed by English Heritage.

Tatton Park hosts the annual RHS Flower Show has over 750,000 visitors each year. It encompasses a Georgian Mansion, Tudor Hall, rare breeds farm and award-winning gardens. Its park is home to Red and Fallow Deer.

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