

## Meeting Point

Arts&Heritage working with museums

22 May 2019

### Arts&Heritage announces commissioned artists for latest Meeting Point programme

Contemporary arts agency Arts&Heritage ([www.artsandheritage.org.uk](http://www.artsandheritage.org.uk)) is pleased to announce the artists that will take part in its *Meeting Point* programme in 2019/20.

Artists Mel Brimfield (working with composer Gwyneth Herbert), Sophie Dixon, Tod Hanson, Ed Kluz, Lindsey Mendick, Susan Stockwell and Dominic Watson will partner with six museums across the North of England to create a new piece of work in response to the museums and their collections.

Now in its third year, *Meeting Point* has gained a reputation for its innovative approach to forging relationships between artists and museums and heritage spaces. The programme offers an opportunity for artists to work with unique collections and gives access to the knowledge of museum curators whilst supporting small and medium scale museums to develop their skills and commission new work.

*Meeting Point* is funded by Arts Council England through Arts&Heritage's National Portfolio Organisation funding. The programme aims to bring new visitors to the participating museums, to enable audiences to view collections and history in a different way, and to support the future sustainability of museums and heritage sites.

#### The artists and museums are:

- Sophie Dixon working with Grace Darling Museum (Bamburgh, Northumberland)
- Lindsey Mendick and Dominic Watson working with Washington Old Hall (Washington, Tyne and Wear)
- Ed Kluz working with Colne Valley Museum (Huddersfield, Yorkshire)
- Mel Brimfield and Gwyneth Herbert working with Kelham Island Museum (Sheffield, Yorkshire)
- Tod Hanson working with Port Sunlight (Wirral, Merseyside)
- Susan Stockwell working with Warrington Museum & Art Gallery (Warrington, Cheshire)

Steph Allen, Executive Director at Arts&Heritage, said: *"The commissioned artists working with our Meeting Point museums in 2019 and 2020 put forward ideas that were new, exciting and reflected upon the museums and their collections in engaging and innovative ways.*

*"The process to shortlist and commission the artists has been rigorous and has included a presentation by the museums to a group of over 65 artists alongside site*

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*visits and interviews. It has been a valuable learning experience for the museums, which is a key part of the Meeting Point programme.*

*"We're looking forward to working with the artists to develop their ideas and present six brand new artworks at our Meeting Point museums that will showcase their collections and locations in a new light."*

*Mel Brimfield said: "Composer Gwyneth Herbert and I are delighted to be working with Kelham Island Museum - we're drawing together Men's Shed Association members from across the UK to work in collaboration with us. It's already shaping up to be an absolute treat to work with such an extraordinary army of makers and enthusiasts!"*

*Sophie Dixon said: "I'm delighted to have been selected to work with the Grace Darling museum. This is an amazing opportunity to work closely with their collection and dedicated team to realise this very exciting project."*

*Tod Hanson said: "I'm thrilled and excited to have the opportunity to be working with Port Sunlight Village Trust. Fantastical architecture on psychedelic daisy-covered lawns. The village is the frothy topping of a gigantic soap factory and its pop graphic commercialism."*

*Ed Kluz said: "Having spent the last 12 years researching historic buildings and objects as part of my own practice, I was really excited by the opportunity presented by Arts&Heritage to work directly with a museum and its collection as a means of pushing my own processes and ideas. I'm absolutely delighted to have been selected to work with the Colne Valley Museum. The collection housed in the museum is very much alive and being used as intended by the wonderful community of volunteers. The hub of expertise and specialisms in various aspects of craft and making gives the museum the feel of an art school. As a maker I'm looking forward to exchanging ideas and skills in both directions which will result in an exciting collaborative series of artworks."*

*Lindsey Mendick and Dominic Watson said: "We're absolutely ecstatic to be working with Washington Old Hall. To have the opportunity to work with such a historically rich National Trust building and all the wonderful people connected to the site is a really unique opportunity!"*

*Susan Stockwell said: "I am very excited to be working with Warrington Museum and Art Gallery, it's a dream come true for me. Its extensive and remarkable collection full of social history, hidden stories, material culture and cabinets of curiosity will be an inspiration for my work. The way that Meeting Point encourages the juxtaposition of contemporary art with historic artefacts and sites is enlightened and visionary. Developing an exhibition about the collection and in collaboration with Warrington's museums staff and public will be a great privilege."*

Further details of the individual artists' commissions will be released later in the year.

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Since 2016, Meeting Point has worked with 19 museums and 24 curators to create 19 new artworks and over 100 workshops. Arts&Heritage is currently inviting applications for its most recent Meeting Point programme with a deadline of 31 May. For more information and to download an application form, visit [www.artsandheritage.org.uk](http://www.artsandheritage.org.uk).

**-ENDS-**

For additional information, images or interview requests, please contact:  
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### Notes to editor

### Artist biographies

**Mel Brimfield's** energetic collaborative work operates at the intersection of live art, theatre and moving image. A range of wildly inappropriate absurdist narrative forms are used to articulate the findings of rigorous academic research processes, including elaborately choreographed musical theatre numbers, gymnastic routines, stand-up monologues and queer cabaret turns. She is currently a resident at Somerset House Studios, and a tutor in Contemporary Art Practice at the Royal College of Art.

**Gwyneth Herbert** ([www.gwynethherbert.com](http://www.gwynethherbert.com)) is a composer and lyricist, vocalist, multi-instrumentalist and record producer. Socially engaged approaches to composing and devising are at the heart of her practice; as part of the writing and production methodology for her current Letters I Haven't Written album and tour, she worked collaboratively with community groups including survivors of domestic violence and abuse, prisoners and refugees. She is an experienced leader of bespoke songwriting, singing and creative devising workshops, having worked extensively with schools, colleges and community organisations across the UK and on three continents. As a recording/performing artist, she has released seven critically-acclaimed albums (including the first UK Blue Note release in 30 years), and toured extensively with her band across the UK and also in Europe, Canada, the US and Kenya.

**Sophie Dixon** ([www.sophie-dixon.com](http://www.sophie-dixon.com)) is a cross-disciplinary artist from the UK. Her recent work uses Virtual and Mixed Reality as part of her continued enquiry into how we construct narratives about the past. She is an MA graduate from the Netherlands Film Academy and has exhibited in solo and group shows including at the Turner Contemporary, Margate, and the EYE Film Museum, Amsterdam.

**Tod Hanson** ([www.todhanson.com](http://www.todhanson.com)) is an artist based in London and Berwick upon Tweed. Growing up, Tod's parents were involved in the theatre with costume and scenery. After studying graphic design and public art, Tod went on to do large scale

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projects for Greenpeace UK and decorating nightclub interiors. Tod now combines these formative influences to explore nature, technology and mapping, interweaving landscape, architecture and historic design style, into large scale immersive installations and public artworks. A world overamplified and speeding up.

**Ed Kluz** ([www.edkluz.co.uk](http://www.edkluz.co.uk)) is an artist, illustrator and printmaker. His work explores contemporary perceptions of the past through the reimagining of historic landscapes, buildings and objects. The ideas of early Romanticism, the Picturesque movement and antiquarian representations of topography and architecture underpin his approach to image making. He has a particular interest in the eccentric, uncanny and overlooked – follies, lost country houses and ruins provide a constant source of inspiration. As a designer and illustrator Ed has received commissions from the V&A, Faber, Folio Society, John Murray publishers, Little Toller Books and St Jude's fabrics. Ed was born in 1980 and grew up in Swaledale, North Yorkshire. He studied fine art at the Winchester School of Art between.

**Lindsey Mendick** ([www.lindseymendick.com](http://www.lindseymendick.com)) (b. 1987, London, UK) received an MA in Sculpture at the Royal College of Art, London (2017). She is the recipient of the Alexandra Reinhardt memorial award 2019 and was selected for Jerwood Survey 2019. Recent solo and two-person exhibitions include: The Ex- Files, Castor Projects, London (2019); PROUDICK, Hannah Barry Gallery, London (2018); The Turnpike Pottery, The Turnpike Leigh; Perfectly Ripe, Zabudowicz Collection, London (2018); Jamie Fitzpatrick and Lindsey Mendick, Vitrine, Basel (2018); She's Really Nice When You Get To Know Her, Visual Arts Center, Austin, Texas (2016); Girls (with Rebecca Gould) as part of Periclo, Oriel Wrexham, Wales (2015); Hot Flush, STCFTHOTS, Leeds (2015); Lindsey Mendick and Lynn Fulton, One Thoresby Street, Nottingham (2015).

**Dominic Watson** ([www.dominicwatson.net](http://www.dominicwatson.net)) was born in Sunderland, UK 1986. He studied sculpture at Camberwell College of Art, London, and then an MFA at the Glasgow School of Art in 2014. Since graduating he was selected for New Contemporaries 2013 as well as the London Open 2015. Watson was a recipient of the John Kinross Fellowship, 2014, awarded by the Royal Scottish Academy and received a Fellowship in Contemporary Art Practice from the British School of Rome in 2017. His work is part of the RSA and the Ingram Collections. Watson currently lives and works in London, where co runs an artist led project space, PLAZAPLAZA in elephant and Castle.

**Susan Stockwell** ([www.susanstockwell.co.uk](http://www.susanstockwell.co.uk)) is an established artist working across sculpture, installation, collage and film. Her practice is concerned with examining social and colonial histories and engaging with questions of social justice, trade, cultural mapping and feminism. Her art employs the material culture of everyday products, such as recycled computer components, maps and paper currency, which she transforms into compelling artworks. In seeking to reconnect an object's past, its related history and materiality with contemporary issues, her practice underscores these materials urgent interconnection to collective memories, desires and ecological shortfalls; aspects that evoke, expose and challenge features

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of social, racial and gender inequality and injustice. Susan has exhibited extensively around the world, including at TATE Modern, the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, The National Museum of China, Beijing, The Katonah Museum of Art, New York and Art League of Houston, USA and Manchester City Art Gallery. Her work is in public and private collections around the world. She teaches part-time at the University of East London and is based in London.

### Arts&Heritage

Arts&Heritage is an agency that forges collaborations between contemporary artists and heritage organisations to initiate contemporary art projects. These projects create new perspectives with audiences, bringing to life the narratives, atmosphere and architecture of histories and places, whilst also responding to the business plan challenges of each partner organisation.

This approach challenges audience expectations and preconceptions of heritage sites by producing projects that present history in unexpected, imaginative and unusual ways.

Arts&Heritage is an Arts Council England Sector Support Organisation (SSO), a category within its National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding which awards funding to organisations that play a vital role in supporting the cultural sector.

Organisations that are awarded SSO funding offer access to expertise and innovation for the cultural sector, driving progress and change. *Meeting Point* is funded through this Arts Council England funding in order to support the development of skills and expertise in the museum and heritage sector.