

Open Call for Speakers

Working Class British Art Network: The City in British Art

The Working Class British Art Network invites contributions from speakers who identify as being from a working-class background for an event exploring the topic of 'the city in British art'. The Working Class British Art Network is a research group of the British Art Network, and provides a platform for discussions around working-class identity in British art. It asks how we can take the language used by artists in their work to pave the way for greater inclusivity.

The event will take place on 27 May 2021 at 2–4pm

We are open to a wide range of interpretations of the theme; some areas might include:

- Housing and urban planning
- Gentrification
- Crowds, interaction and meeting spaces
- Feminism and the city
- Utopias, imagined or idealised cities

Format

Each speaker will be able to present for up to 15–20 minutes. This will be an online event through Zoom but we invite you to propose a structure that most suits your work. You could choose to read a paper, you could present informally using images or you could pre-record your session. You may want to take moderated questions or you may choose not to. You may choose to have your camera switched off, or use a false background; we can provide technical support to help you feel most comfortable to deliver your presentation.

Fee

We can provide a fee of £150 for each contribution.

How to submit

Please submit the following by 9am on Monday 3 May to WCBritArt@gmail.com, listing 'Cities' as the subject line.

Proposals can be submitted either as:

1. A 300-word abstract and a short biography, or
2. An audio file or voice note of no more than 4 minutes detailing your proposal and a short biography

If you feel these methods are not best suited for your needs, please contact Beth Hughes (WCBritArt@gmail.com) to discuss an alternative. Final entries will be reviewed by representatives from [Arts Council Collection](#) and [Museum as Muck](#).

About the network

The Working Class British Art Network is here to create a platform for art and artists from working-class backgrounds. The language around working-class identity is missing from discussions of British art; many seem wary of its intangibility or the ability to 'see' it. We ask how we can take the language used by artists in their work to lead discussions around working-class identity and pave the way for greater inclusivity.

The art of working-class artists speaks to all facets of modern life, not just that of class inequality. Through awareness raising we will counter reductive interpretations of working-class identity, asking how do we create an environment that supports and nurtures talent first and foremost? We hope to see opportunities for participating artists grow from the network.

This network is a partnership between **Arts Council Collection** and **Museum as Muck**, part of Tate's British Art Network and funded by the Paul Mellon Foundation.

Working Class British Art Network is a Research Group of the **British Art Network** (BAN). BAN is a Subject Specialist Network supported by Tate and the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, with additional public funding provided by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

The Arts Council Collection is the most widely circulated national loan collection of modern and contemporary British Art. More information is available at artscouncilcollection.org.uk.

