

BRITISH ART NETWORK – SUB-GROUPS

Lead a BAN sub-group to bring together colleagues around a specific aspect of British art research

The British Art Network is offering **seven bursaries** of £2,700 each for members of the network to lead existing or new network sub-groups from October 2020 to June 2021.

This opportunity is open to British Art Network members who are freelance, university affiliated and/or museum / gallery / heritage / arts affiliated. We welcome applications to lead sub-groups in equal partnership, particularly where this represents leadership across types of role, organisation and location. Partnerships can also be interdisciplinary, and sub-group members can include artists, learning colleagues, conservators and other individuals whose participation will help contribute towards the group's research goals. We also ask applicants to identify a 'deputy lead' who will offer support throughout the funding period.

Sub-groups should hold at least three events between November 2020 and June 2021, with at least two of these events being held online. Wherever possible, these should be linked, progressive events. Groups should also work towards a collaborative research output by June 2021. Please see the FAQs below regarding what can count as a 'research output' in the context of BAN sub-groups.

In addition to your own suggestions, we welcome applications that relate to or address the following themes:

- British Art, Ireland and the Devolved Nation
- Decolonising British Art

The existing sub-groups Black British Art, British Women Artists and Queer British Art are confirmed to continue into this new funding period, taking the total number of sub-groups to ten.

Please visit the [British Art Network webpages](#) to see what other sub-groups have been running in 2019-20. Please note that existing sub-groups should only put in one application – do discuss among group members who will submit and be put forward as potential lead(s) and deputy lead for this new round. Applications from existing sub-groups and newly proposed groups will be assessed equally.

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.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- Clear research question(s) that are relevant, un(der)explored, timely and specifically address aspects of your sub-group area of British art
- Process and values-driven goals around sector support, networking and wider impact, as well as research goals
- Creativity, openness and flexibility regarding event formats
- Demonstrable commitment to equity and inclusion
- Desire to build and maintain connections within the British Art Network
- Advocates for the wider British Art Network who will 'spread the word'
- Ability to dedicate time to running the sub-group over the nine-month period, including tracking membership and maintaining online presence outside of meeting organisation

BRITISH ART NETWORK – SUB-GROUPS

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 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
- Support from invited consultants and peers in exploring and testing learning design principles to go beyond a traditional seminar-style format
- A team and project that is committed to equity, justice, accessibility, anti-racism and LGBTQI+ rights. Please note that we are currently taking vital time to reflect and hold conversations around Diversity and Inclusion goals for our work.

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 **Monday 14 September 2020, 10:00 BST (UTC +1)**.

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 should get their permission before applying to lead a British Art Network sub-group, as planning, delivery and follow-up activity should be considered part of your working hours. We ask for a form from employers (where relevant) as part of your application, to express support and highlight any potential challenges.

FAQs

What is the time commitment for this programme?

Successful applicants will work with invited consultants, the British Art Network team as well as other bursary awardees to explore and test methodology to maximise their sub-group's impact.

- 14 October 2020, Introductory meeting and Programme Design workshop 1, online (half day)
- Mid to late October 2020 (date tbc), Programme Design small group workshop, online (two hours)
- 2 February 2021, Programme Design workshop 2, online (two hours)

You will need to run a minimum of three events (at least two online) which can range from a half day to a full day. You will also be expected to be in regular touch with the British Art Network team in the organisation and running of your sub-group.

Expected sub-group outputs are:

- An up-to-date member tracking document (when/how members joined, affiliations etc.)
- Collated monitoring data on event attendees
- Financial records covering bursary spend (including all receipts)
- Short formal quarterly reports
- Research outputs containing the BAN brand

BRITISH ART NETWORK – SUB-GROUPS

- 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 sub-group to be approximately 15–18 days' work, spread out between October 2020 and June 2021.

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

You will receive the first half of your bursary at the start of the programme (October 2020) and the second half in February 2021. The second payment will be dependent on the delivery of your first event and the submission of a report.

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.

The bursary can cover:

- Venue and AV hire
- Catering
- Video or written commissions
- Speaker fees where inviting a voice from another discipline, outside the group
- Softwares/subscriptions to run online events
- Website creation and upkeep
- Closed captioning for online events
- Sub-group member travel and childcare fund
- Other access costs

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 sub-group would not be possible without this bursary.

I was a sub-group lead in the 2019-20 funding round and we didn't manage to hold all our events due to the Covid-19 crisis. Can I apply with the same plans?

We acknowledge the fantastic work and great effort put into planning sub-group events for 2019-20 and share in the disappointment that some of these events were not able to take place. For our new funding round, we are adapting and refining the structure of sub-groups based on learning and evaluation data. As such, while we absolutely encourage you to apply again, it will be necessary to adapt your proposal and read carefully the aspects of this new call-out that differ from the previous funding round. We are requesting a mix of online and in-person events and a flexibility around format and content (shaped through new learning design workshops). There is also an increased focus on research questions, which should be at the core of your application.

I'm not yet a member of the British Art Network. Can I still apply?

BRITISH ART NETWORK – SUB-GROUPS

We are always looking to expand and diversify our membership and very much welcome applications from new members. Please do mention in the body of your application email that you are yet to become a member. Membership is always free and open, and includes a number of networking activities including thematic and topical research seminars, a quarterly newsletter and the opportunity to join the register of expertise.

I don't have a 'venue'. Can I apply?

Yes – it is not mandatory for any of your sub-group events to take place in person. If you do wish to hold 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 meeting and to include this information in your application.

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

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. 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 sub-groups are able to operate over the full period to June 2021.

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

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. We subscribe to 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 sub-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.

How should I formulate my research question(s)?

Research has three characteristics that apply across activities and disciplines: questioning, a structured process of enquiry and the creation of original knowledge that goes out into the world.

Any research question should be rooted in the subject and/or activity that sparks your interest or that you feel needs urgent attention. Sub-group research questions might focus on a specific genre or area of British art, or they might centre around curatorial or research practice more widely.

The questions below can serve as useful prompts. There are also numerous helpful online resources, for example: <https://www.scribbr.com/research-process/research-questions/>

- What is interesting or problematic?
- What is unresolved?

BRITISH ART NETWORK – SUB-GROUPS

- What interests and/or bothers you about a subject or how something is currently being done?
- Has your question been comprehensively addressed elsewhere?
- What might your research contribute to ongoing debates?
- Is it possible to address this question systematically – is it too broad or narrow?
- Is it likely to lead to new insights that are useful to others as well as yourself?
- What methods might you employ to explore the question?
- Will you be embedding the investigation into your practice? What might that look like?
- Will you be working with others?
- Test out your question with colleagues – are they as captivated by it as you are?

What counts as a sub-group ‘research output’?

Traditionally research outputs constituted published papers, preferably in peer reviewed journals. However, the growing interest and acceptance of practice-based research has enabled a wider range of outputs to be recognised. This can include material forms of practice such as images, performances, films, sounds and objects, as well as words, numbers, graphs and formulas. What is important is to be clear on how and why the new knowledge generated through the research is best articulated through the medium you plan to use.

The expectation for a sub-group output is not to match the scale of a formal, academic research output. Its purpose is to create something that can be shared, both within the sub-group and beyond, to bring together the knowledge generated through the sub-group’s activities and conversations over the funding period. The sub-group bursary must be able to cover any costs relating to the output. It could be, for example, a short, commissioned video interview or piece of writing, or a graphic recording from a visual scribe. This output could be shared on a sub-group blog or social media account, and potentially on the British Art Network’s webpages.

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 British art researchers and curators outside the UK applying for this opportunity. In these cases, we would encourage selecting a deputy lead who is UK-based to ease with the facilitation of events.