

CREATIVEHUB

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# CREATIVE HUB

## MAY EDITION

Welcome to your monthly update on all things creative in Exeter. Our May edition takes us outside with the Right Of Way film programme and Creative Roaming walk, and celebrates with the announcement of the Bloom Festival Programme, and Exeter's first Book and Art Festival at Maketank. Plus lots more!

### What have you been up to this month?

Have a piece of creative news or an opportunity you'd like to be shared? Send us a message on the [Creative Hub Facebook page](#) and we'll include what we can in future editions.

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## Right of Way: Writing Commission by Louisa Adjoa Parker



*Pastoral Malaise* (2022), dir Ufuoma Essi

This season Studio 74 is heading outdoors with a series of screenings exploring rights and access to nature. *Right of Way* is a new feature-length programme of short films that mixes stunning new commissions with historical archive films that give a bigger picture of questions of access and inclusion in the UK countryside.

The three short films commissioned for *Right of Way* were inspired by the foundation of the National Trails. Set up to resist sweeping industrialisation, these protected landscapes were created with a vision to 'connect people to the rural landscape'. But during the COVID-19 pandemic – as people realised anew the importance of nature and open spaces for our health and mental wellbeing – inequalities of access to rural land were being exposed, revealing the disconnect felt by millions of people towards the UK countryside.

The new commissions interrupt and challenge the enduring perception of the rural idyll as an untouched and unchanging space where time stands still. What happens when Black, Asian and other ethnically diverse people enter these landscapes? How can our natural spaces be homes to protest, trespassing, activism and raves?

Poet and writer **Louisa Adjoa Parker** has been commissioned by the Independent Cinema Office to respond to the films through poetry, and will be performing her work in the post screening conversation. We also asked Louisa some questions about her practice:

### How does the outdoors feed into your writing practice?

For me, it's about context and the fact that my work is located in a rural area as I've lived in all three counties in the region - Devon, Dorset and Somerset. I take inspiration from those surroundings but also I'm interested in the human stories within these places; our experiences of being in nature - particularly for people of marginalised backgrounds and what our experiences are like. It's a source of inspiration and a way to tell those stories, and the hidden stories, from various groups who live in these spaces.

### What was your experience of responding to the Right of Way programme?

That was really interesting for me because before I watched the films, I thought I would have responded to Dan Guthrie's film. I loved all the films, but was very drawn to writing about the rave culture film (*Syncopated Green*, Dir. Arjuna Neuman). I found it incredibly powerful and really moving - it brought back a lot of

memories of my own experience of being young and going to those kind of free parties back in the 80s, before I became a mum. I really wanted to think about the past, the present and the connections to being outside with that community feeling of being together and being a part of something.



*Syncopated Green (2022), dir. Arjuna Neuman*

### **What advice do you have for aspiring South West based writers?**

The first thing is to keep going! Whether you want to write for yourself, or for publication or performance, it's very much a journey and I think realising that you want to write and that you have a voice is the first step. There are many different pathways you can take - some people are fortunate and they write something as a one-off and get published straight away, but that's quite rare. For most writers, it's a case of working hard

and finding different ways to supplement your income: looking at what you can manage, finding ways to carve out time and space to do your creative practice when you can. Another key thing is networking - finding other people and opportunities such as open mics, publications or submissions. Sign up to lots of newsletters, particularly local ones; for example, Literature Works share a lot of great opportunities.

Reading is really important too. Read as much as you can and in a variety of different genres. Seek out work by diverse writers; particularly diverse writers from rural spaces and the South West - it's not always straight-forward, but seek out those voices and hear the experiences from different people, because we learn a lot from a range of perspectives. Being a writer is a process and it will inevitably involve rejection and challenges, but that's fine!

Keep going and believe in yourself - it's really important for people from this region to tell our stories because it's a beautiful part of the world and we have particular experiences living here!

**Join us for the Right of Way screening + post screening conversation with Dan Guthrie and Louisa Adjoa Parker on Thu 18 May, 7.45pm**

### **Want to read more of Louisa's work?**

Check out *Let the river sing*, written during her residency in Exeter for Quay Words with Literature Works:

[Read here](#) | [Listen here](#)



## Bloom Festival: Programme Announced!

Bloom is a day of community gathering and activity, with a focus on the rich connections between mental wellness and creativity. The event was born out of a need to talk about, connect with and platform the mental health and wellness experiences of our community in a mindful and safe space.

It is vital to us as a multi-arts venue, who work with and support artists, that we explore and celebrate the richness of the arts as a tool of expression and healing. Bloom aims to bring our community together to explore ourselves and our life experiences through creativity.

This year we have reached out to the local community to bring a wealth of arts organisations, support groups, charities and mental health and wellbeing practitioners together under one roof for the festival; who will be taking over the whole of Exeter Phoenix for the day!

For 2023 - the day will include a live performance from world renowned DJ and beatboxer **SK Shlomo** - *Breathe: A Rollercoaster Love Letter to Music* by SK Shlomo, **Laura Loft's Big Silly Gig**, *Mindful Mending* with **Molly Rooke** (Darn Good Studio), an *Open Mic* with **Spork!** plus much more.

Join us for Bloom on Sunday 21st May, all day from 10am.

View the full programme [here](#)

## BLOOM PROGRAMME



**BREATHE: A ROLLERCOASTER  
LOVE LETTER TO MUSIC  
BY SK SHLOMO**



**LAURA LOFT BIG SILLY  
- FAMILY INTERACTIVE GIG**



**BLOOM OPEN MIC  
WITH SPORK!**



**MINDFUL MENDING  
WITH MOLLY ROOKE**

**+ TALKS, WORKSHOPS,  
MUSIC AND MORE!**

**Sun 21 May  
All day from 8am**

View the full programme:

exeter**phoenix**



## Social [practice]: Creative Roaming #1



In conjunction with the *Right of Way* and *Right to Roam* film screenings we will be launching a new Social [practice] series - *Creative Roaming*. Social [practice] offers an alternative platform for artists and creative producers to meet and make together in a series of practical projects hosted by creative practitioners.

In this new series we invite you to put on your walking shoes and join our hosts to explore the role that walking plays in connecting artists to the landscape and the way it creates a space for processing ideas and facilitating conversations.

Exeter-based artist Erika Cann will be hosting our first Creative Roaming event. Her art practice investigates place through accounts, both historical and contemporary, within the guides and maps of an area. Erika is an advocate for public access to nature and has

recently been awarded a New Perspectives bursary from Campaign for National Parks to use her practice to engage local communities with public transport access to Dartmoor National Park. She hopes to engage local communities with the landscape in a position of care and enjoyment through exploration, which is ecologically considered yet adventurous.

Exploring ideas around observation, boundaries, and roaming both in a creative sense and in relation to the landscape, the *Creative Roaming* walk invites you to bring along something related to your practice to work with as we walk – whether that's a camera, sketchbook, notepad, sound recorder – any and all creative mediums are welcome.

We want to encourage conversations between people from different creative backgrounds working in/connected to the local area and ask that you are open and welcoming to everyone, using the event as an opportunity to chat to people you haven't met before. We will walk to the Double Locks where there will be a chance to grab a drink and share some observations/ideas – then we'll walk back together.

This event is open to everyone – the walk is 44 min each way from Exeter Phoenix and the paths are accessible/easy terrain. There is a hill on the way in/out of town!

**Join the Creative Roaming #1 walk on Sat 13 May, meeting at Exeter Phoenix Box Office at 11.15am**



## Famehungry: The Value in Works-In-Progress



Award-winning performance artist Louise Orwin will be sharing a work in progress performance of FAMEHUNGRY Friday 5th of May, 7pm followed by a Q&A. We spoke to her about why the opportunity to share work in progress is so important to creative process, and what you can expect from the performance.

‘Sharing my work at early stages can be super important, especially when I’m developing a show that looks at how audiences engage with TikTok and then how they engage with me! Being allowed to have research and development time to play around with ideas, techniques and digital possibilities is what makes a show come to life so being able to share that with audiences at this early stage is a gift.

Sharing work at this early stage can also be incredibly exposing as I’m sharing ideas which are super fresh and often not quite fully formed (which is often what makes them exciting!), but also with this outing at Exeter Phoenix I’ll be taking some (informed) creative and personal risks. I won’t say too much more now but if you come along you’ll know exactly what I’m talking about.

All I ask is that if you do decide to come along for the ride you keep an open mind, and come prepared to look at some knotty (but also fun) questions. All that being said, I’m super excited to be sharing the very first work in progress ever of FAMEHUNGRY with audiences at Exeter Phoenix.’

**Catch FAMEHUNGRY at Exeter Phoenix on Friday 5th of May, 7pm**



## Tom Stockley: Platform Gallery

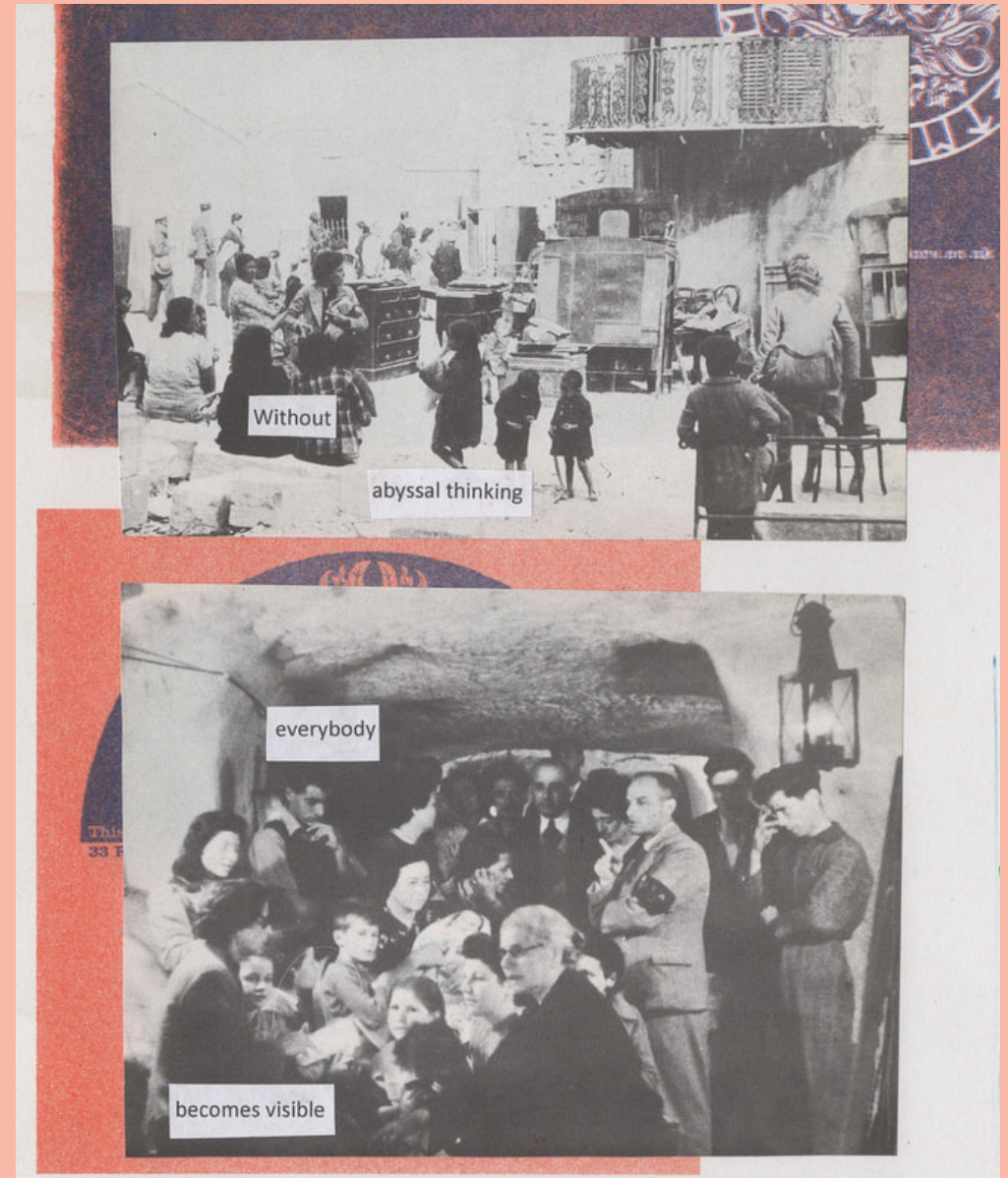
Our next exhibition in Platform Gallery is 'A Violence Filled With Flowers' by Tom Stockley.

This new artwork was developed as part of the Creative Fellowship based in the University of Exeter's Law School and concentrates on traumatic events related to social oppression, such as racism, sexism, classism and xenophobia.

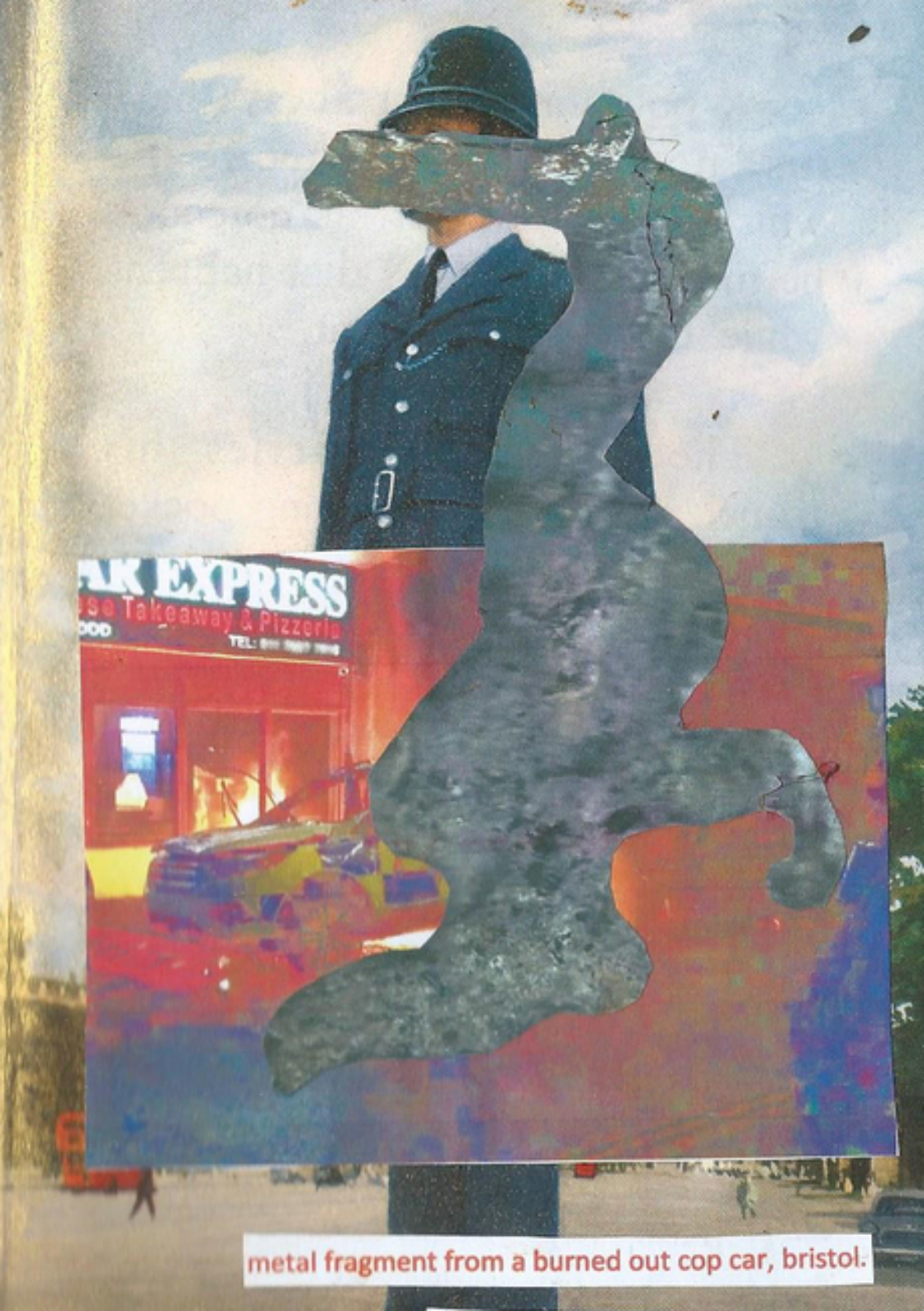
Exeter Phoenix's Platform series offers artists based in the South West region opportunities to test out ideas, new work and recent developments in their practice. We asked Tom about his exhibition, and what it was like to work collaboratively on this project.

**How have you found working collaboratively with researchers on this project?**

Amazing! I don't think of myself as an academic so I was a bit intimidated going into the process. But Natalie has a knack of being simultaneously hugely knowledgeable and astute but also very down to earth. The majority of our work together has taken the form of conversations – with a lot of intersecting experiences and thoughts on social politics, community justice and our shared Jewish identity. The students have been amazing too – they've taught me how to view the themes and case studies in another dimension, academically and in the context of legal structures – as well as producing some beautiful visual pieces in a group workshop. I don't think I'll be doing a law degree any time soon though, I'll leave that to them.







metal fragment from a burned out cop car, bristol.

**How does the format of Platform gallery lend itself to your work?  
Is there anything new you're trying out in the space for this exhibition?**

I think it's going to allow me to get back to my roots a bit. The majority of my practice now lies around writing and performing, but I still very much see myself as a visual artist. It was my first creative outlet as a teenager growing up in Torquay, discovering the joy of cutting up, rearranging, saying what I wanted to say in a visual language. The Platform space, and the installation itself, is going to visualise our collaborative process in a perfect way, too – combining all the interconnected images, text and physical objects that have become the poetic materials for me to explore the case studies and their implications. It's also very representative of my process too – experimenting, improvising, learning as I go. I'm not even sure what the end result is going to be, and that's a space I'm very much comfortable to sit in. It will definitely be the biggest collage I've made – with materials including a metal lump from a police car, a taxidermied seagull and charcoal applied directly to the walls.

**View *A Violence Filled With Flowers* from Wed 17 May in the Platform Gallery space**

*This project is supported by Arts and Culture University of Exeter, as part of their Creative Fellowships Programme.*

*Images courtesy of the artist.*



## Maketank: Make Your Own Book Festival



Maketank are launching their 'Make Your Own Book' festival on the 2nd of May, featuring indie creators & artists in Exeter. We asked them about the event and the importance of an event like this in Exeter.

### What can visitors to the MYOB Festival expect?

There will be an exhibition, book fair and a series of free and affordable workshops. The free exhibition of art & books will be on from the 2-11th May, and the Book +&/ Art fair and low-cost/free workshops & activities will take place on 12 & 13th May (Friday and Saturday). We have a range of workshops including dry point

etching, collage club, zine making and family-friendly Story Shuffle - plus lots more!

### What does the festival celebrate?

Make Your Own Book festival celebrates indie creators who are making incredible in-betweens of arts and books in Exeter and the surrounding area. We hope that by presenting this event, you can find the next thing in your room & reading list by people from the place you live in, at the place you live in.

### Why is a book festival important for Exeter?

This is the first-ever Art Book Fair in Exeter - face-to-face with local artists! We believe that art doesn't have to be inaccessible: a small artist might be living on the same street as you, selling their beautiful and original work at an affordable price. We hope that the MYOB festival will make independent book/art artists more visible in the city and encourage people to shop locally - if you wish to decorate your room, we believe you should visit the small artist instead of Amazon!

A quote from one of the MYOB creators, Megan Dowsett: *'I have been thinking about how to connect with other book artists and the possibilities of a book arts network etc etc, as it felt slightly as though there's lots of book arts going on but that we don't have a framework to talk to and inspire each other. And really I just want to geek out with real people and not just online!'*



## What do you hope visitors will take away from this experience?

A few hours of reading & viewing. Some photos for their instagram. Books & prints that they can't buy from anywhere else. But the most important thing is the spirit of the Make Your Own Book festival - we want to show how important it is to know and make connections to your local artists! We called the festival a 'Book +&/ Art' event because we wanted to highlight that so many indie creators & artists are doing incredible things that can't just be described within the categories of book or art. We want to share with you the amazing works and the local creators behind them, and hope that visitors get to find a new favourite artist, take away something they've made or bought, whilst learning about the variety of creatives in the South West!



**Head over to Maketank (Paris Street) from the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> May to check it out!**





# OPPORTUNITIES

## Exeter Contemporary Open: Call for Entries

**Deadline: Midnight, 11th June**

Exeter Contemporary Open is an annual open submission exhibition, established in 2006 and hosted by Exeter Phoenix, a busy, multi-artform venue and contemporary art space situated in Exeter's historic city centre. The exhibition aims to provide an important national platform for contemporary visual art with an emphasis on supporting emerging talent alongside more established artists.

The exhibition will run from 15 September – 5 November 2023 and is open to contemporary visual artists working in any media including painting, sculpture, photography, print, drawing, video, mixed and digital media. Artists should make submissions that reflect their current practice, and the selection panel will particularly be looking for work that reflects current directions, themes and concerns in contemporary practice.

[Find out more and apply here](#)



## Art Week Exeter: Callouts for participation

Art Week Exeter is a visual arts event happening Tuesday 13th to Sunday 18th June, citywide.

If you are an artist, a group, an association or organisation and you'd like to be a part of the event, please apply to one of the opportunities below.

[Apply for What's the Zine x Print! | Deadline 19 May](#)

[Apply for the Art Car Boot | Deadline 19 May](#)

[Moving Image Screening at Library Lates | Deadline 12 May](#)

## RAMM: Devon-based photographic artist commission | Deadline 22 May, noon

This is an opportunity for a contemporary artist or collective based or working in Devon to create new work inspired by Dartmoor and the Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery's collections of Dartmoor-related material. As an artist working with photography, you will have a track record of exhibiting both nationally and in the South West. The selection panel is looking for work that engages with current issues affecting the communities and landscapes of Dartmoor, including the interconnected ecological and climate crises. You should currently employ photography within your practice but do not need to only use this medium.

[Find out more](#)

## b-side: Opes And Dreams Artist Callout 2023

This is an opportunity for an emerging or early career artist or artist group to create an audio/visual artwork as part of a community-based project for b-side festival 2023.

The work will respond to an archive of hopes and dreams created by Portland's communities and visitors and which have been collected over the 2021 and 2022 b-side festivals.

[Find out more and apply](#)



# OPPORTUNITIES



## **Submissions for Two Short Nights 2024 are now open! Deadline: 30 June**

This year Two Short Nights Film Festival is celebrating its 22nd edition, championing and promoting short films and the people who make them. The festival is proud to nurture new and emerging talent through selected screenings, workshops and our famous 48 Hour Film Challenge.

The 22nd edition of Two Short Nights Film Festival will take place on 8th & 9th of February 2024. We are currently accepting Earlybird submissions for the festival, so if you have a winning short film get submitting now!

[Find out more and apply here](#)

## **Submissions for Depict! 2023 now open | Deadline Sun 14 May**

Depict is a super-short film competition running since 1998 as part of Encounters Film Festival (September, Bristol, UK). Depict is about creative freedom and imagination – it doesn't matter what your budget is or what genre you're working in as long as you show originality and are able to connect with audiences.

The competition is open to anyone from anywhere in the world, and entry is absolutely free – but there is ONE simple rule: your film MUST be 90 seconds or less in duration. Accept the Depict challenge and get creative in just a minute and a half to be in with a chance of winning!

[Find out more and apply](#)

## **BFI NETWORK England short film funding | Deadline: 12noon, 23 May**

Our short film funding programme supports projects with directors based in England and is run in partnership with the BFI NETWORK Talent Executives who work with filmmakers on the delivery of funded projects. This fund supports the production costs of standalone fiction shorts, in live action, animation and immersive/VR. The fund is intended to stimulate new ideas and stories, so it doesn't support adaptations of existing material. We welcome applications for amounts from £5,000 up to a maximum of £25,000. We are seeking applications for projects of any length up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

[Find out more and apply here](#)

## **Documental Theatre: Callouts**

Documental Theatre is developing a musical called Mary & the Matrons. This will be based on the life of Dr Mary Sheridan, a child development pioneer.

### **- Casting Calls | Deadline Mon 08 May**

We are calling for the character of Mary and Millie for the production, along with two Multi-Rolers.

[Apply for Mary](#) / [Apply for Millie](#)

### **- Musical Director | Deadline Mon 08 May**

We are looking for a skilled MD who is excited by working on and developing new musicals. The MD would be working closely with the creative team, including a composer to develop the musical language of the show.

[Apply for MD role](#)

## **Poet Callout: New Ecological Sound Trail for Streatham Campus, Exeter | Deadline 10 May**

The University of Exeter's Sustainability team are looking to work with a poet who will collaborate with students to develop a new sound trail around the Streatham campus, Exeter.

[Find out more and apply here](#)

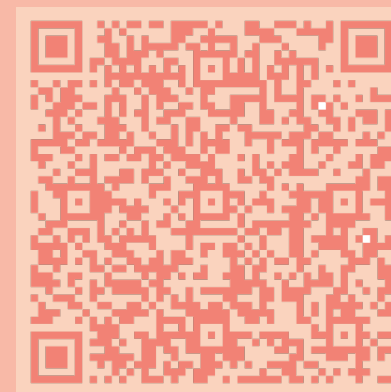


## Events

- [Harriet Bowman: Reading and Walking event](#) | Sun 21 May, 1.30pm | Exeter Phoenix
- [Social \[practice\]: Creative Roaming #1](#) | Sat 13 May, 11.15am | Exeter Phoenix
- ['Book +&/ Art Fair'](#) | 12-13 May | Maketank
- [Bloom Festival](#) | 21 May | Exeter Phoenix
- [Scratch Night](#) | Mon 22 May, 7.30pm | Exeter Phoenix
- [Drawn To It, Find Joy in your Sketchbooks!](#) | Wed 24 May, 7pm | Exeter Phoenix

## Exhibitions

- [Harriet Bowman: Maybe They Had An Urgent Call](#) | Launch and Reading: Sat 6 May, 4-6pm | Exeter Phoenix
- [Still Moving: In-tuition](#) | Tue 04 Apr - 06 May | The Plough Arts Centre
- [Adam Garratt: Embodied Labour](#) | Sat 22 Apr - 13 May | Studio KIND
- [Design for Life: Art and Architecture - Part 1](#) | Sat 18 Mar - 02 Jul | Hestercombe Gallery
- [Earth Spells: Witches of the Anthropocene](#) | Sat 11 Feb - 07 May | RAMM
- [Make Your Own Book Festival](#) | 02 -11 May | Maketank



We are looking to understand our Creative Hub a bit better, so that we can better highlight news and opportunities that match the interests of our followers. Please scan to complete our short anonymous survey.

Have a piece of creative news or an opportunity you'd like to be shared? Send us a message on the [Creative Hub Facebook page](#) and we'll include what we can in future editions.





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