

Brief for curatorial support for spring exhibition, Serial Dissenter with artist Tony Heaton at Peter Scott Gallery, Lancaster Arts

Overview

[Lancaster Arts](#) (LA) is a combined arts organisation featuring a contemporary arts programme within the portfolio of Arts Council England through presentations, commissions and arts sector support. We are responsible for the University art collection, held at the Peter Scott Gallery, which is an accredited museum. We curate our programme through the lens of an annual theme; this year it is Land, next year, Dissent.

We are finalising the Spring 2026 programme in November. The Curator for Lancaster Arts left the organisation in late October, and we have put interim management of all spring exhibitions in place prior to the recruitment of a new curator in the spring. An Assistant Curator supports all activities in the gallery and the Director and Operations Manager are overseeing the project.

The second exhibition of 2026 (early February to end of March, dates to be finalised shortly) is entitled Serial Dissenter with sculptor, Tony Heaton OBE. This high-profile exhibition will need additional support from a freelancer with a track record in exhibition project management to focus on both the logistical support required and curatorial oversight of the installation. We have only just received confirmation of funding to support the exhibition, hence the last-minute nature of this call.

Description of role: Interim Curatorial Support for Serial Dissenter

The key responsibilities of this role will require project management to enable the exhibition to be ready for installation in early February. This will primarily comprise of the following activities, all of which will be done in collaboration with the Lancaster Arts team:

- Liaison with the artist
- Liaising with the museums and sites of works
- Managing loan agreements and the transport of all works
- Working closely with the Assistant Curator and the artist to agree on all aspects of the installation
- Overseeing interpretation panels, to be signed off by the artist and Director
- Install the exhibition with support from the technical team, Assistant Curator and Lancaster Arts team, as required
- Working with the Communications and Marketing Manager on communications and evaluation to ensure join-up of all aspects of the exhibition
- Liaising with the Lancaster Arts team and the artist to explore the potential of site-specific participatory interventions in publicly accessible areas of the university campus
- Work with the Lancaster Arts team to create and deliver an accessibility plan for the exhibition
- Deinstallation alongside the team

We anticipate this to be achieved between 12 and 15 days. The role will be supervised by the Director of Lancaster Arts. We anticipate that the role will balance working remotely, including online meetings with working live and directly with the team at the gallery.

Fee

The fee for this role is £3000 (to include any necessary travel and other expenses).

Timeframe

The exhibition dates are likely to be 16 February to 27 March 2026 to be confirmed in November. It would be beneficial to have a day for induction with the team in December. The primary period of work will take place in January 2026. The installation will likely be in the week of 09 February 2026. Projected Opening will be the week of 15 February 2026.

Person Specification

- Demonstrable track record in working in curatorial roles in museums and galleries within contemporary art programmes
- Demonstrable track record in working directly with artists to shape an exhibition
- Experience in managing loans and transportation of artworks
- Experience and confidence in working within a multi-disciplinary team
- Experience in the development of participatory methodologies and innovative engagement
- A deep understanding of access

A description of Serial Dissent

Heaton studied at Lancaster University. This enables a unique context for engaging with his formation and offering audiences the chance to understand the starting point for themes and practices he has continued to explore. We will incorporate or restage subversive student work challenging hierarchies within the university, as well as the art world.

These works have not been exhibited since the 1990's. We will also explore experiences and encounters, nurtured and generated by the experience of university, that contributed to threads within Heaton's work. These include a decision to centre lived experience of disability in the context of the birth of the disability rights movement, and to draw on working-class roots. These will be contextualised amongst the other rights-based issues unfolding at the time, including feminism and the Black arts movement. The project will engage with the formative influence of northern artists like Andy Goldsworthy, Moore, and Hepworth and the development of Grizedale Forest Sculpture, on which Heaton did his dissertation, and the development of Yorkshire Sculpture Park, at which Heaton exhibited as a student, exploring how these influences coalesced. It will also consider the particular considerations of engaging with sculpture, land art and the landscape as a disabled artist. The examination of Heaton's career through the lens of dissent offers the opportunity to explore wider questions, including:

- What distinctive role does sculpture have to play in dissent?
- What happens if an activist artist decides to make work that isn't what we have come to expect?

- What is the role of humour and irony in dissent?

We will work with those who currently hold Heaton's work in their collections, for example The Grundy and the National Disability Arts Collection and Archive to borrow key works.

Application process

Please send a CV and a covering letter explaining how your skills, experiences and expertise will enable you to respond to the brief, including links to relevant previous projects, to serena@lancasterarts.org by midnight on **Sunday 23 November 2025**

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Serena. Thank you.

Online interviews are likely to be held on **Monday 1 December 2025**