KETTLE'S YARD COLLECTIVE

Artist Opportunity: Kettle's Yard Collective Project Artist

Kettle's Yard Community and Learning programme are commissioning a Project Artist for six months to create a programme of work for Kettle's Yard Collective (KYC), a young adult's programme that enables 18-25 year olds to access modern and contemporary art in a safe and inclusive space.

This is a unique opportunity for an artist with a mature socially engaged or participatory practice aligned to the visual arts, to develop an ambitious and innovative programme, working collaboratively with young adults to create an outcome that celebrates their creativity, voice and agency at the heart of Kettle's Yard's 70th anniversary in 2027.

Funded by Alexandra Reinhardt Memorial Award (ARMA), Kettle's Yard is one of three partner organisations that make up the ARMA 2027 cohort. For the successful artist, ARMA will provide time to develop their social practice with a unique peer-led group whose lived experience inform their understanding of creativity, wellbeing and cultural confidence.

The project will take place alongside *Christopher Wood: in Love*, running from February to June 2027 and Kettle's Yard's 70th anniversary celebrations. The exhibition explores Wood's life and work through the places, people and relationships that shaped him, offering possible starting points around identity, relationships, belonging, place and self-expression. The successful artist will not prescribe how young people respond. Instead, they will explore what happens when historical artwork becomes a prompt for young people to make their own connections, challenge assumptions and create contemporary responses from their perspectives.

About Kettle's Yard Collective

Kettle's Yard Collective, formerly Circuit Cambridge, was established in 2014 and relaunched in 2024 after recognising that its peer leaders did not reflect the diversity of our wider community. Current members have joined the group through established community partners, including Centre 33 include young adult carers, LGBTQIA+ young people and young people experiencing homelessness. Membership fluctuates between 7–11 participants, and our experience is that establishing trust takes time. A sustained commission allows relationships to develop before expectations around an outcome are established.

Kettle's Yard Collective is a creative programme for young adults aged 18 – 25 years. Our aim is to connect young adults who live or work long-term in Cambridge, with modern and contemporary art. We are keen to readdress the balance of voices of young people taking part. Kettle's Yard Collective (KYC) is a safe, inclusive space, where individualism is supported and fun is encouraged.

We work with community partners in the city of Cambridge, to enable more young adults to have access to creativity, gain experience and to grow in confidence. Our current partners include The Kite Trust and Centre 33. The programme is guided by the group, and we are excited to support their ideas and future projects.

The programme was formerly known as Circuit, which was part of the original sector-leading national network led by Tate and initiated in 2014. Kettle's Yard partnered with Wysing Arts Centre to deliver this innovative programme until funding ended in 2017. A paired down programme was delivered by Kettle's Yard until spring 2020.

Rebooting in 2024, Kettle's Yard ran a pilot that focused on developing a new peer-leaders programme working in partnership with community and third sector organisations in the city to nurture the cultural confidence of young people who have often, through systemic inequalities, encountered barriers to arts and culture. By participating in a series of targeted projects, young participants develop the skills to become young cultural leaders.

Since December 2024 we have been working with Young Adult Carers aged 18 – 25 on a series of projects. We also invited young adults from Cambridge Youth Foyer, a local organisation that supports accommodation for young people who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. Some members of the group join through other avenues, including former students from one of Kettle's Yards partnership schools, or by recognising they have a need and contacting our learning team directly. From September 2025, the invitation opened to young adults from The Kite Trust which is a local LGBTQ+ charity that supports young people through youth work, advocacy and wellbeing programmes.

Many of the group members report challenges with their mental health. Feedback from the group has told us that joining Kettle's Yard Collective has meant that they are able to get out of the house and have a break from home, individuals have been able to make friends and socialise, and that for many, Kettle's Yard Collective sessions have a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

The ideal Kettle's Yard Collective artist:

- A demonstrable, ambitious and inclusive social arts practice
- Experience of working with vulnerable people, creating a safe space and listening to their unique needs and aspirations whilst creating work with them in response to this. Experience of working with Trans and Queer people is advantageous. As part of this project, we are scheduling training with The Kite Trust on working with Queer and Trans young people.
- Demonstrable experience of successfully collaborating with young adults to co-create an inspiring and engaging programme of work that improves cultural confidence and wellbeing
- Knowledge of working with SEND needs and requirements including Autism and ADHD
- Successful experience of partnering with busy institutions
- An arts practice rooted in or with evident connection to contemporary visual art
- A developed working understanding of collaboration and co-creation
- A willingness to collaborate and co-create with young people and ensure their agency is at the heart of activity
- A creative, resilient, flexible and responsive approach
- A positive, calm and helpful manner, whilst still enabling fun and risk taking
- Strong organisational skills, and who is motivated and able to keep to deadlines
- An interest in responding to the Kettle's Yard collection and programme
- An interest in exploring and responding to queer histories
- A willingness to participate in programme research and evaluation in response to the needs of ARMA
- Ability to embed reflection and evaluate success throughout the project, responding to the needs and ideas of the group

An outline of the aim of the project:

For an artist to co-create with the Kettle's Yard Collective young adults to create an ambitious participatory artwork in dialogue with the Kettle's Yard collection and inspired by the *Christopher Wood: in Love* exhibition and queer histories at Kettle's Yard. This outcome will be a part of Studio 27, a week of celebrating the community as part of the 70th anniversary programme. It may also be represented at Liverpool Biennial as part of the ARMA national programme.

Key delivery/meeting dates:

Kettle's Yard Collective session dates that run from 5:15pm – 7:15pm:

Thursday 18 February 2027
Thursday 25 February 2027
Thursday 4 March 2027
Thursday 11 March 2027
Thursday 18 March 2027
Thursday 22 April 2027
Thursday 6 May 2027
Thursday 13 May 2027
Thursday 20 May 2027
Thursday 27 May 2027
Thursday 3 June 2027

Other dates:

January 2027 – DATE TBC – An online induction to take place with ARMA, including the participating Award Hosts, Artists and Partners.

There will be three ARMA cohort online meetings to share practice during the course of the project. The successful artist will be required to attend.

June 2027 – Outcomes and/or findings shared with ARMA to bring together elements from across projects run at all three cohort organisations and potentially hosted by Liverpool Biennial.

June/July 2027 – DATE TBC – The Zoology Museum Pride Celebration (Subject to additional fees and funding)

Other opportunities may arise subject to additional fees and funding.

How to apply:

Please submit one PDF file titled LastName_FirstName including:

• A one-page A4 CV
• Details of two referees
• And answering the following questions:

1. Please outline your overall project vision with consideration to how you will enable the young adults' voices and decisions to take shape alongside your ideas.
2. Please outline how your creative practice and experience make you the right person for this role.

• Please also feel free to include two examples of relevant recent creative projects with young people or communities that clearly explain how the work was co-created with young people. You may also include one example of your own art practice.
• Please do not send additional catalogues or other material in the post as it will not be reviewed or returned.
• Please submit your application to collective@kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk with the subject line: KYC Artist Opportunity

Deadline for applications: 12:00pm on Wednesday 25 November 2026. Late submissions will not be accepted.

The successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.

We welcome applications from individuals with disabilities. We are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process and will make adjustments to enable candidates to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so and, if successful, to ensure they have all necessary support during the project. If you would like to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please contact us on:

Charlie Bryan (she/her) – Learning and Engagement Coordinator: charlie@kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk
Karen Thomas (she/her) - Community Manager: karen@kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk
01223 748100

Selection process:

Artist applications will be reviewed and shortlisted by the Community and Learning Team with support from partner leads at The Kite Trust. The shortlisted artists will then be invited to interview on Wednesday 9 December 2026. The interviews will be held with the Community and Learning team and young adults from Kettle's Yard Collective. Two artists will be selected through this process to move forward to the final stage.

The final stage of interview will take place on Monday 14 December 2026. Two artists will be invited to deliver a 30-minute creative taster session to members of Kettle's Yard Collective and the Kettle's Yard Community and Learning team as support. Feedback from the participants will feed into the final selection. This will be on 16 December 2026.

There will be a fee for being part of the interview process. We ask that shortlisted candidates also hold the workshop date if successful. There will be a stipend for all interviewed candidates of £50 plus up to £30 for travel expenses with receipt. For the final two artists, there is a fee for planning and delivering the workshop of £95 plus up to £30 for travel expenses with receipt.

Project Artist fees

Planning and meetings	10 hours	£15 per hour
Delivery of workshop	11 sessions of 2 hours	£160 per session
Outcome realisation		£1000
ARMA Cohort	Attending national ARMA cohort meetings, evaluation and possible event at Liverpool Biennial (TBC)	£300
Subtotal:		**£3210**
Travel	11 return journeys to Kettle's Yard	Up to £55 per session
Materials	11 sessions	Up to £30 per session
Outcome fabrication		£1000
Total:		**£5145**

About Kettle's Yard

Kettle's Yard, part of the University of Cambridge, is a leading gallery and unique house with a remarkable collection of 20th-century art. Its founders Jim and Helen Ede believed in art's ability to transform lives, a vision upheld today through critically acclaimed exhibitions, pioneering community and learning programmes, and research of the highest quality. Our aim is to offer an inspiring and enriching experience for everyone who visits. Find out more and get involved at: www.kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk

About the Alexandra Reinhardt Memorial Awards (ARMA)

ARMA is a programme developed by Engage, the professional body for art engagement, to enable galleries, art museums and visual arts venues to support a dedicated programme of visual arts engagement and wellbeing activity with children or young people. The Awards were initiated and funded by the Max Reinhardt Charitable Trust.

Engage, the professional body for art engagement, has been running ARMA with the Max Reinhardt Charitable Trust since 2013. Most recently, artists Nicky Arscott, Dan Thompson, Sound Play and Tony Wade were each commissioned as a cohort of awardees hosted by Oriel Davies Gallery, Fabrica, DCA and 20-21 Visual Arts for ARMA 2025.

Artist Beth Shapeero was selected for ARMA 2021 at The Tetley, Leeds; Lindsey Mendick completed ARMA 2018 at The Turnpike, Leigh; Alison Carlier, ARMA 2016 at aspex, Portsmouth; Anne Harild, ARMA 2015 at the Bluecoat, Liverpool; in 2014, Maria Zahle was hosted by New Walk Museum and Art Gallery, Leicester and in 2013, Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva was at MIMA, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art.

From 2005, artists undertook residencies in NHS hospitals through a programme coordinated by Paintings in Hospitals. From 2010, the artist residency programme was coordinated by The Art Room, an organisation that works with art and artists to support vulnerable young people.

In 2026-2027 the Alexandra Reinhardt Memorial Award (ARMA) is entering a new phase of development. Building on previous learning, the programme will continue to prioritise participatory art practice with children and young people, while strengthening its contribution to the wider visual arts sector.

ARMA 2027

The 2027 Awards focus on deepening impact, improving sustainability, and increasing ARMA's value as a generator of knowledge, networks, and legacy.

A key priority for ARMA 2027 is to strengthen recognition of the artist's role within education and community settings - not as an adjunct, but as central to supporting young people's confidence, agency, imagination and critical engagement with the world.

At its core, ARMA remains a learning-led programme. Its purpose is to support artists and organisations to develop meaningful, reflective participatory practice, with visibility emerging through strong documentation, storytelling, shared resources, and the continued prominence of Alexandra Reinhardt's story as a motivating narrative across the programme.

Cohort model

Following the success of ARMA 2025, ARMA 2027 retains the existing three awards per year model, maintaining a consistent scale and level of opportunity across the sector. During the project, the artist, Kettle's Yard and the Kite Trust will attend national ARMA cohort meetings to share knowledge and experience of the process to enhance sector learning.

Alongside this, the 2027 programme introduces a ring-fenced additional award for a strategic partner organisation.

For this next iteration, this partner is Liverpool Biennial, taking place from 5 June to 12 September 2027. The Biennial's focus on childhood and youth provides strong conceptual alignment with ARMA. This ring-fenced award is intended as a pilot model for deeper partnership working, complementing rather than replacing the open call.

About the Kite Trust, our lead community partner

The Kite Trust was founded in 1993 by a small group of dedicated and committed local people from all walks of life. From our formation we were known as The Kite Club, and from 2003 as SexYOUality. We were established to support lesbian, gay and bisexual young people aged under 25 in Cambridge.

In 2014, we amended our constitution and adopted the name 'The Kite Trust'. We now also work extensively with trans and gender questioning young people and their families. In 2020, we adopted a new strategic plan and expanded our work. We now cover all of Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and surrounding areas and extended our age range up to 30

We support the wellbeing and creativity of LGBTQ+ young people in Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and surrounding areas through information, support and groups. We build inclusive communities to tackle inequalities through consultancy, training and education to all sectors.

KETTLE'S YARD

A. Reinhardt
Alexandra Reinhardt
Memorial Award

Engage
Bringing people and art together

MAX REINHARDT
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