

Curatorial Development Opportunity

Fenton Town Hall Ballroom, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 3AF

August 2025



+THREE COUNTIES
OPEN ART
EXHIBITION

Visitors 2024.
Photo credit: Jenny Harper.

keele.ac.uk/about/artskeele/threecountiesopenart2025/

Curatorial Development Opportunity

Are you passionate about art and curious about how exhibitions come together behind the scenes? We're offering an exciting **paid internship opportunity** for up to **two individuals** to join the curatorial team for the 2025 Three Counties Open Art Exhibition.

This is a hands-on, immersive experience ideal for anyone looking to gain real-world insight into curating a large-scale public art exhibition in a unique and historic venue.



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Exhibition 2024. Photo credit: Jenny Harper.



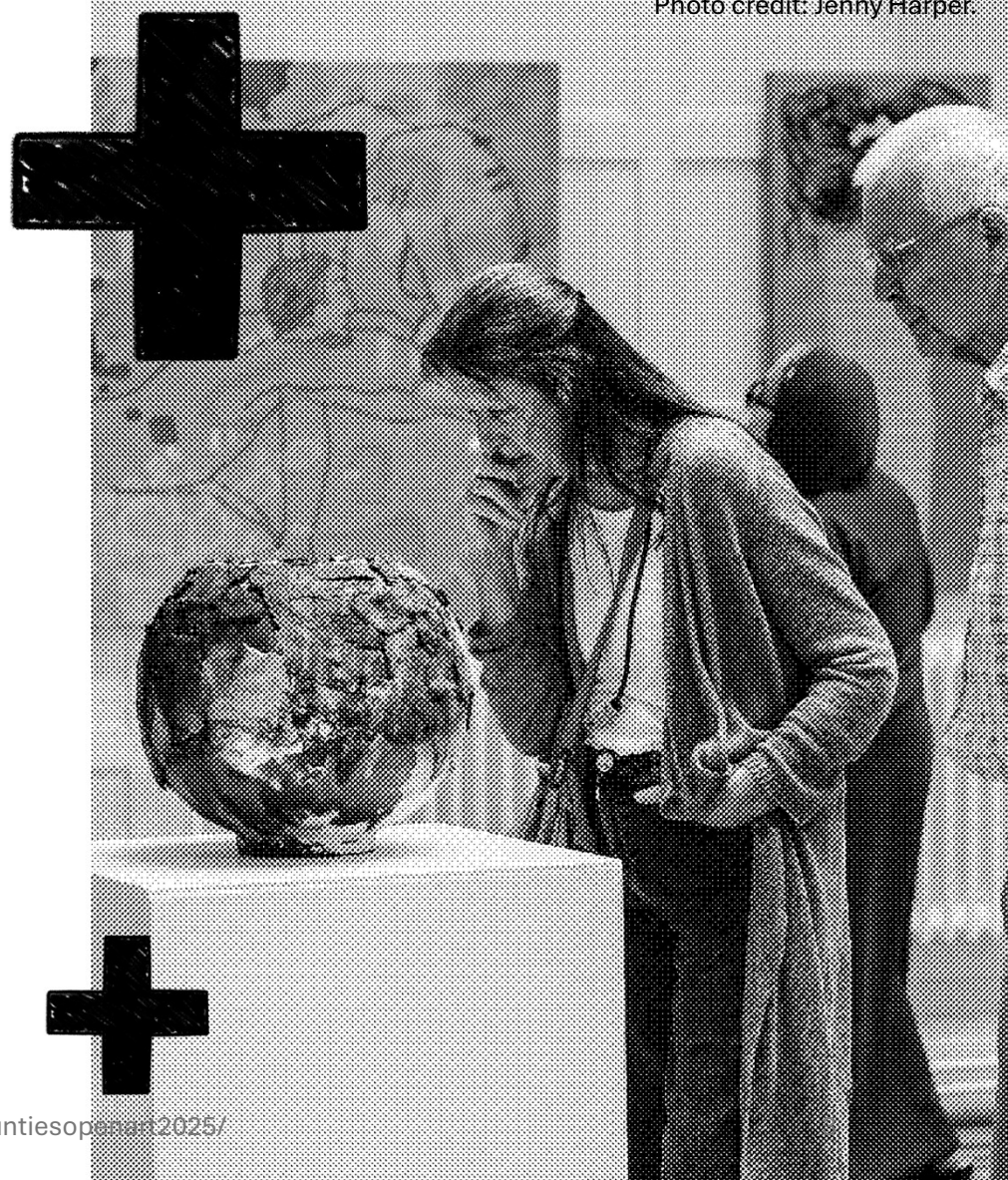
About the exhibition:

- ❑ Running since **1996**, the Three Counties Open Art celebrates creativity across the region.
- ❑ Work from artists with a connection to Staffordshire, Cheshire and Shropshire.
- ❑ In 2024, we received **268 submissions**
- ❑ **97 artists selected to show** in 2024 —48% of whom were first-time applicants.
- ❑ The exhibition welcomed over **1,300 visitors** last year!
- ❑ Usually at Burslem School of Art but this year at **Fenton Town Hall Ballroom**.
- ❑ We hold a range of **workshops and activities** during the exhibition for visitors, in 2024 these included sessions featuring lino print, cyanotype, charcoal drawing, collage and clay.

“Extremely open-hearted and welcoming volunteers” – Visitor feedback

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Visitors 2024.
Photo credit: Jenny Harper.



What you'll gain:

This internship offers a valuable opportunity to:

- Learn practical curatorial skills
- Work closely with experienced arts professionals
- Contribute to the planning and layout of a major exhibition
- Build your CV with real-world experience in the arts and cultural sector
- Network with artists and creatives from across the region
- Be part of a vibrant, supportive, and fun team



Exhibition 2024. Photo credit: Jenny Harper.

What we offer:

Mentorship & Support – We'll guide you through the process and ensure you feel confident and included.

Paid Role – Your time and input are valued. This is a paid internship of £15/hr, total of £225.

Travel & Access Costs Covered – We'll reimburse your travel and any access needs.

Refreshments Provided – Snacks and drinks will be available throughout the day.

Social Events – Join us for celebration events and connect with the wider arts community.

References – We're happy to provide references for dedicated participants.



Key Dates & Time Commitment:

You'll need to be available for the following:

- **Saturday 2 August (10am–3pm)** – Artwork delivery day: see the work in person for the first time and begin thinking about layout and presentation.
- **Monday 4 August (10am–5pm)** – Curation Day: work with the team to plan and finalise the exhibition layout.
- **+ 3 hours remote prep** – Review selected artworks in advance via a digital PDF. Meet the team via online call.

Total time commitment: approx. 15 hours



Exhibition 2024.
Photo credit: Jenny Harper.

How to apply:



Send a short **expression of interest** telling us a bit about yourself and why you'd like to be involved in curating the 2025 Open Art Exhibition.

Email: arts@keele.ac.uk

Deadline: **23rd June 2025**

To: Kerry Jones & Deb Hilditch, ArtsKeele, Keele University

We also have **voluntary roles** available for those interested in gaining additional experience: Exhibition Invigilation and Installation & De-rig Support.

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More Info:

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