



Image: Isabel Lima

# COUNTERPOINTS.

OPEN CALL

To love, care, breathe ...  
as acts of justice

Counterpoints Arts is commissioning three artists, working individually or as collectives, who have not previously been commissioned by us.

We are looking to hear from artists who are exploring themes close to Counterpoints Arts' heart and mission: the intersectional themes of migration, racial and climate justice and the role of art as a catalyst for social change.

As we continue our 2020/2021 commissioning programme, we are acutely aware of the challenges and pressures artists are facing in their immediate practice and everyday lives. We therefore wish to commission and support artists with socially engaged practices, who are re-imagining how we look at history; how we respond to current social movements and emergencies; and are anticipating what world might be possible post-Covid-19.

## The call:

This public call is part of our larger commissioning drive initiated at the beginning of Covid-19, which includes our 'Postcards in Isolation: Another kind of Exile' Instagram based [project](#). 'Postcards...' project was launched in the early weeks of physical distancing and lockdown. Artists from our network responded with rapid and moving portraits, describing the impact on ongoing work, on co-creators and communities, migrant labour, loss of income; impact on bodies, health and families.

In this new public call, we again invite personal, local and wider perspectives on the social changes that are undoubtedly underway. How artists perceive their own practice at a time of the global pandemic and the current social movements for equality; what they are observing in their local contexts and how the personal and the local might connect to larger and global 'narratives'. We invite artists working in any art form and medium (including music), to create content but also kick-start processes of re-imagining, decolonising and cooperating.

## Commissions' details and how to apply:

Commissions will run from January to March 2021. Each of the three commissions will receive a fee of £4000. Additionally, Counterpoints Arts team will support with advice and guidance, links to our

network of artists and organisations, and with access to our enabling, mentoring and learning events and initiatives.

This call is open to artists based in the UK. Artists who have not been previously commissioned by us but have contributed to our panels, workshops and one-off performances can apply.

### **Project considerations**

The commissions' production and presentation is quite likely to happen within certain restrictions and physical distancing. Therefore, we would encourage submission that take into consideration the current situation – such as safety for others, physical distancing measures etc. An amount of flexibility inbuilt in planning will be essential, and we are happy to support this process.

### **How to apply**

To apply, please respond by the deadline date of **14<sup>th</sup> December (5pm)**, via [this google form](#) which will be accessible to Counterpoints Arts' team and the selection panel only. We can also supply this form in a Word doc format.

In case you would find it helpful to respond in a format other than text (if your mother tongue is not English or you have neurodivergent needs, such as dyslexia, dyspraxia etc.) please film your answers to the questions in the google form and email a link (eg. Youtube) to [dijana@counterpointsarts.org.uk](mailto:dijana@counterpointsarts.org.uk). Also, your email has to contain a short biography, a link to your website, all contact details and related content, answers to the monitoring and data protection questions. Please note: if your response is in a film format we do not expect a professionally filmed piece, but it should illustrate clearly your proposed project, and be around 5 to 7minutes in length.

Artists applying in other languages, or in sign language – please get in touch with us ahead of sending in your application so that we can support your access needs.

### **Selection process**

A panel drawn from the Counterpoints Arts team and artists and cultural actors from our network will select the work. The selection panel will meet on 18<sup>th</sup> December and the successful artists/collectives will hear from us the week of 21<sup>st</sup> December. We will aim to publicise our decisions on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2021. We may not have the capacity to respond with feedback to those not selected individually.

### **About Counterpoints Arts:**

Our mission is to support and produce the arts by and about migrants and refugees, seeking to ensure that their contributions are recognised and welcomed within our arts, history and culture.

Counterpoints Arts was set up in 2012 and since that time we have become a leading organisation in the UK in the field of arts, migration and social change. During this time we have developed a trusted network of partners and collaborators from across arts, advocacy, education, media and other disciplines; we have supported hundreds of artists, organizations and communities to develop new skill, connections and produce work.

For further information, contact Dijana Rakovic, Senior Producer, at:

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