

## The Dover Prize 2021 Guidelines

The Dover Prize supports excellence and experimentation in the arts and creative industries and this year we are pleased to announce that a prize fund of £17,500 is available to artists and creative practitioners from across the UK.

This year we gave consideration to the effects of COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown on artists and practitioners especially those who have had a loss of income or where collaborative networks have retracted. With thanks to contributions from our partners<sup>1</sup>, we have increased available funding this year to help support more artists to progress their practice. This year the Dover Prize comprises:

### 1. The Dover Award:

A bursary of £10,000, will be paid across **two years**, to an individual or collective<sup>2</sup> to provide time to think, research, reflect and/or experiment with new ideas, to create work that will be premiered in Darlington.

### 2. The Creative Awards:

The Panel will make a further five awards of £1,500 for **one year** to help artists develop an element of their practice. Again, consideration must be given to how this will be reflected in Darlington.

You need only submit one application to the Dover Prize (although you can choose on the application form whether you are more particularly interested in applying to one or the other awards). Decisions about the winner of the Dover Award and each of the Creative awards will be made by Panel following shortlisting interviews, and discussions about how an award might help you.

The funding is intended to allow artists time to:

- Consolidate current ideas and build on existing work
- Make a step-change in your work or develop a body of work with new ambition
- Explore new collaborations and contexts for making work
- Experiment with new approaches and fresh perspectives
- Generate new ideas
- Discover new sources of inspiration.
- Test ideas and develop new research/ approaches

On applying, you must outline how you intend to use the funding. It can be used to pay for costs directly related to developing work, which might include but are not restricted to:

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<sup>1</sup> Darlington Borough Council through [Creative Darlington](#)

<sup>2</sup> The artist, in this instance, may be any individual, partnership or small collective<sup>1</sup> of artists who collaborate to produce a joint show. This excludes work with participatory or community art groups.

- Travel to other art practices, galleries, (including other countries where it can be shown that there would be a specific benefit)
- Training/workshop costs attached to developing the work
- Items of equipment
- Art materials
- Materials for the final exhibition or premiere

Applications are welcome from artists working in the visual arts fields including painting, sculpture, ceramics, print- making, photography, digital art, film making, performance and installations. The Dover Prize is open to any UK-based creative practitioner, individual or collective. We are particularly interested in hearing from artists from under-represented backgrounds. We also welcome applications from previous Dover Prize applicants.

The artist applying must meet **a minimum of 3** of the following criteria:

- The artist is regularly making and exhibiting artwork
- The artist has received professional grants or awards
- The artist is involved in organising self-created professional opportunities, for example running an artist-led studio or project
- The artist has a degree in visual or applied arts at undergraduate and/or post-graduate level
- The artist has been commissioned by a public institution
- The artist's work has been previously purchased by a public collection
- The artist's work has been previously reviewed or featured in an art journal, magazine, newspaper or on-line curated platform
- The artist is represented by a gallery
- The artist has taken part in a recognised residency or artist placement scheme

### Expectations of the Prize

The aim of the Dover Prize is to raise within Darlington the profile of contemporary arts, and to make a positive impact on the town:

- The Creative Awards winners should expect to engage with fund representatives, digitally or otherwise, to discuss their ideas and to consider how to promote their work in Darlington.
- The Dover Award biennial winner must agree to a final show that will premiere in Darlington on completion of their 2-year bursary. Support will be made available to help the artist to identify appropriate locations/venues<sup>3</sup> if required but it isn't necessary at application stage to specify what they might be.

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<sup>3</sup> We are interested in extending the reach of the Dover prize to engage with traditional as well as new or 'non-traditional' audiences. As such, it is not a requirement that any final exhibition or work is necessarily site-specific or within a traditional art space or gallery; we are open to artists exploring the creative potential of digital technologies and new media to help meet this goal.

## Applying to the Dover Prize

To apply to the Dover Prize, you must complete the online application form. You will also provide examples of your work as attached JPEGs or, for installations/digital art, a link to an appropriate website.

A shortlist of artists will be chosen for an interview with the Panel either in person or online via a video conference call, to provide a brief narrative of how they propose to meet the aims of the Dover Prize.

## How to apply online

The link to apply online for the Dover Prize is available [here](#). Please read the registration instructions carefully, tick to say you agree and have understood the criteria for applying, enter your e-mail address and click on the “send e-mail and continue” button.

Once you have done this you will be sent an e-mail with a link to complete your online application form. You should receive the email within a couple of minutes (if you do not please check your spam folder). There are help notes available as you go through the online application form and you can save your application at any point and come back to complete it at any time before the closing date.

## Application deadlines

The deadline for receipt of applications to the Dover Prize Fund 2021 is Sunday 14th February 2021. We recommend that you complete your application as soon as possible.

## What will happen next?

Your application will be reviewed and checked to make sure it meets the eligibility criteria. The Dover Prize Panel will assess your application in line with the fund criteria and make a recommendation as to whether your application should proceed to the next stage. Once a decision has been made you will receive that decision via email. If shortlisted, you will receive an offer by email to attend an interview. Interviews will take place via a video conference.

If you are successful in being awarded an award you will receive a letter outlining the terms and conditions, which you will need to sign and return to the Foundation. These documents will explain how any funding awarded will be released. If you are unsuccessful you will receive a letter via email.

## Need more help?

Please contact CDCF if you need help with your application or have any queries about the Programme, marking your query “Dover Prize”.

E-mail: [info@cdcf.org.uk](mailto:info@cdcf.org.uk) [www.cdcf.org.uk](http://www.cdcf.org.uk)