



Callout for Submissions

Dorset Visual Arts Presents:

Cranborne Chase - Drovers and Downs

In partnership with Cranborne Chase National Landscape, Dorset Visual Arts is launching an exciting new Arts and Landscape Project for 2025. The project will award four DVA-supported Bursaries to Dorset artists, enabling them to create new work inspired by and focused on Cranborne Chase.

The project will culminate in a group exhibition at Shaftesbury Arts Centre in November 2025. This exhibition will showcase a diverse range of work exploring the multifaceted ecology and heritage of Cranborne Chase, encompassing its meadows, river systems, and hedgerows, as well as its significance as a place of inspiration and its rich human history.

Artists will have access to Field Rangers and local experts, providing support for exploration, research, and artistic development. The goal is to generate a visual understanding of the fragility and precious habitats of the Chase's natural environment, fostering audience enjoyment, appreciation, and education.

The callout is open to all Dorset artists, with particular encouragement for applications from artists living in or near Cranborne Chase and East Dorset, as well as younger and emerging artists.

This project is made possible by Dorset Council Culture and Community Funding.

Project Outline

Dorset Visual Arts (DVA) invites artists and makers residing or working in Dorset to submit proposals for the Drovers and Downs - Cranborne Chase, DVAtions project 2025. Selected artists will develop and produce new work inspired by the Dorset area within Cranborne Chase National Landscape (bordered by Wimborne Minster, Blandford Forum, Shaftesbury, the River Ebble and Fordingbridge).

Bursary Includes:

- Two research and advice sessions with Cranborne Chase National Landscape Rangers and Experts
- Support and mentoring from Dorset Visual Arts
- £500 bursary (max. 4 artists)
- Opportunity to exhibit work in a group show at Shaftesbury Arts Centre in November

Eligibility:

Open to ALL Dorset artists and makers, with encouragement for applications from:

- Young and emerging artists
- Artists from or near Cranborne Chase

DVA membership is NOT required.

About the Opportunity

Dorset Visual Arts (DVA), in partnership with Cranborne Chase National Landscape (CCNL), is offering an exciting opportunity for four artists to receive a bursary award. Artists will be selected to participate in a research and development programme focused on responding to the ecology, heritage, and histories of the Cranborne Chase National Landscape. The project will culminate in an exhibition at the Shaftesbury Arts Centre.

Artist Selection

A panel of representatives from DVA and CCNL will select up to four artists based on the submitted applications.

How to Apply

Please submit the following via email:

- CV
- 500-word statement on how your work could respond to the ecology, heritage, or other histories of Cranborne Chase National Landscape
- 500-word statement on how the bursary award would benefit and develop your practice
- 5 images of your work and/or links to website and/or social media

Submissions must be emailed to: Polly Hobbs - hello@dorsetvisualarts.org

Key Dates

- Call for artists published: 1 April
- Deadline for applications: 30 May, 5pm
- Decision and announcement: 2 - 4 June
- Programme initiation meeting with selected artists at CCNL HQ/SAC: 6 June
- Research and development period: 6 June - 17 October
- Ranger Days / interim meetings x2 (to be determined)
- Exhibition setup: 4 November
- Exhibition: 5 - 11 November

Programme Requirements

- Participate in all programme dates, meetings, and commitments
- Show clear development of a body of work that demonstrates an understanding of the Chase
- Communicate your understanding to audiences through notes, sketchbooks, and a final reflective account
- Present a resolved body of work for the group exhibition at Shaftesbury Arts Centre
- Invigilate the exhibition for 2 days

Support

- Curatorial and display support from DVA
- Guidance on the number of finished pieces and presentation
- Access to CCNL's knowledge and resources to inform research and develop new ideas

Additional Information

Artists will be required to adhere to the programme dates, meetings, and commitments. The goal of this project is to enable artists to engage with the Chase and produce a body of work that reflects an understanding of the landscape.

We are grateful to Cranborne Chase National Landscape for supporting the project. CCNL have previously run a major Arts/Community/Place project, Chase and Chalke, more information here:

cranbornechase.org.uk

cranbornechase.org.uk/about-chase-chalke

All enquiries and submissions please email Polly Hobbs - hello@dorsetvisualarts.org

END



DVATIONS



**Cranborne
Chase
National
Landscape**



**Dorset
Council**