



National Centre for Writing launches 'Open Doors' a new programme of commissions and open submissions

Press Release

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The National Centre for Writing (NCW) has today announced a set of new commissions and open submissions inviting writers to respond to the challenges of our times. Open Doors will explore innovation in the presentation of literature events and reflect on the experience of lockdown. Collaborations between writers, scientists and artists will result in new audience experiences on digital platforms and in person. The activity is supported by Arts Council England through the Ambition for Excellence programme.

Peggy Hughes, Programme Director at NCW says:

“The year has been full of closed doors. Bad news, rising peaks, strange weather, grief. But in these awe-struck days, the strangest of our lives, art has consoled and comforted, challenged and enlivened, brought hope. To open a door, as Miroslav Holub reminds us in his celebrated poem, is to allow other worlds in, as well as gardens, trees and woods. To imagine that something else and some other place is possible. In this season of new work, we invite you to open new doors.”

NCW is therefore creating these new opportunities to support writers to work in collaboration to imagine and present these other worlds:

New partnership with Norwich Research Park - open submission

Over 3000 researchers work at this globally recognised innovation community. Through a series of structured open commissions pairing writers with scientists we will explore the public understanding of life sciences, health and medical research.

New ways of working - open submission

What has been learnt through lockdown about literature and the audience experience? In a socially distanced world how can festivals break out of the Zoom? Two commissions available for literature producers to collaborate on a literature experience for our times.

The best of digital - open submission

How to create incredible literature experiences through digitally native pieces. Two collaborations for a writer working with an artist or practitioner from a different field to create digitally native pieces.

Writer residences at NCW's home Dragon Hall - open submission

Three one-week Writer-in-Residence opportunities at NCW's home Dragon Hall taking place in January, February and March 2021 (can be virtual residencies depending on guidelines/need).

Commissioned pieces four writers from across the UK will be asked to reflect on 'the weather with you' and how the experience of the past year has impacted on their work and their perceptions of the role of the writer. Further details to be announced early 2021.

Open Doors has been made possible with the support of Arts Council England's Ambition for Excellence fund. Amy Vaughan, Director, East of England, Arts Council England said:

"Open Doors is a really exciting programme of commissions and we're very pleased to support it thanks to National Lottery funding. It will provide freelance writers the opportunity to creatively explore lockdown, looking at its impact, how it has changed ways of working and the role of digital technology. I am really pleased that this will offer vital opportunities for freelancers and look forward to seeing the commissions develop."

For more information about Open Doors and details of the submission process see:

<https://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/open-doors/>

1. Press enquiries: Alice Kent, Communications Director at alice@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk / 01603 877177

2. About National Centre for Writing

The **National Centre for Writing** (NCW) is a place of discovery, exchange, ideas and learning for writers, literary translators and readers. Based in the restored and extended 15th-century Dragon Hall in the heart of Norwich England's first UNESCO City of Literature, it explores how writing can inspire and change the world we live in. Its year round programme of events, festivals and courses reaches over 14,000 people a year with an additional 110,000 engaged online. Through its learning and participation programme it supports 5,000 young people a year and has a commitment to working with those in the most disadvantaged areas. NCW's patrons include Margaret Atwood, JM Coetzee, Kei Miller and Elif Shafak.

www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk