

COLLECTIVE

Time + Space



pass shadow, whisper shade, 2024, installation view (with works by Rowan Markson and Clarinda Tse). Satellites Programme 2023/24.
Photo: Sally Jubb.

Application Guidelines 2026

Time + Space: Early-career artists' open programme

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Easy Read and audio versions of this document are coming soon. If you need this document in an alternative format, please get in touch via email at timespace@collective-edinburgh.art.

Welcome

Time + Space is Collective's new open programme for early career artists in Scotland, and sits at the core of our mission and creative vision. The programme builds on the success of our previous programmes, *Satellites* (2014-2024) and *New Work Scotland* (2000-2013). We have undertaken a review of our previous *Satellites* programme and reflected with past participants to inform how we can best work with and support early-career artists in the coming years.

Time + Space offers two routes designed to suit different levels of experience. Both opportunities combine learning and professional development with a significant exhibition opportunity – enabling artists to develop and sustain their creative practice, to make and present new work, and to engage with our audiences at Collective.

If you would like to discuss the programme and your application informally, please get in touch at timespace@collective-edinburgh.art.

If you have a question, please check our [FAQs](#) before getting in touch in case we have already answered your query.

Time + Space is supported by Creative Scotland's Multi-Year Funding Programme. To read more about Collective's approach to fundraising, please see our [Ethical Fundraising Policy](#).



Thomas Abercromby, *John*, 2023, video still. *Satellites* Programme 2022/23. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Daniel Hughes.

About Collective

Collective is a free contemporary art gallery that brings creative new perspectives to the city of Edinburgh.

Situated in a heritage observatory, Collective develops and presents world-class exhibitions, events, workshops and discussions from ground-breaking local and international artists. We run artist-led activities for young people, as well as a sector-leading development programme for early-career artists.

Founded in 1984 as an artist-run initiative, Collective now runs from our home on Edinburgh's iconic Calton Hill.

[You can read about our mission, vision and values on our website.](#)



Josie KO, *Mekle Lippis*, 2024, installation view. *pass shadow, whisper shade*, Satellites Programme 2023/24. Photo: Sally Jubb.

Overview

Time + Space is an annual programme of supported opportunities for artists incorporating two routes, designed to suit different levels of experience:

1. Group Exhibition

A professional development and peer-learning programme (with activity over an 11-month period) leading to production of new work and a group show for up to four artists. Designed for early-career artists who have not yet participated in an artist development programme, or taken part in a group show in a publicly funded gallery.

2. Solo Exhibition

A mentorship and development opportunity for one artist (with activity over an 8-month period) leading to production of new work and a solo exhibition. This opportunity is intended to support an artist who has not yet had an invited solo show in a publicly funded gallery.

Both opportunities combine learning and professional development with a significant exhibition opportunity – enabling artists to make and present new work, and to engage with our audiences.

Time + Space has five mutually reinforcing goals:

1. Support and nurture emerging and early career creative practitioners
2. Support creative opportunities for exhibition making
3. Build a supportive and caring community with participating artists and Collective
4. Support early career artists to engage with Collective's audiences
5. Contribute to the resilience and creativity of the contemporary visual arts in Scotland

Programme Details

1. Group Exhibition

This opportunity for up to four individual artists encompasses learning and professional development across an 11-month period, culminating in a group exhibition.

The selected artists must be able to confirm availability to commit to the programme and to participate in key activities for the full duration of the programme from February to December 2026.

The selected artists will receive the following support:

Development Sessions

Combining Collective-led training and development sessions for the group, with contributions from invited guests. These sessions are aimed at developing artists' proposals, exhibitions, related interpretation, and public programme. For example: introduction to working with galleries; negotiating artists' agreements/access riders; budgeting etc.

Critical Reflection

A key part of the programme will be a series of critical reflection sessions designed to allow discussion and in-depth engagement with each participant's practice and work for the exhibition. These sessions will be facilitated by Collective's Programme Manager and will include invited guests selected for their expertise and relevance to artists' practice.

Studio Visits

Studio visits and production meetings with the Collective team.

Retreat

Two-night retreat (23-24 April 2026) allowing the group and Collective team to travel together to a UK location to explore galleries, studios and to meet locally based curators and artists.

Development of New Work

Artists will have the opportunity to make a new artwork (or develop an existing work in progress) for the exhibition – with a dedicated production budget.

Installation Support

Artists will be supported in the planning and installation of their work by Collective's Programme Team and Lead Technician, with additional specialist freelance technicians – budget allowing. A budget for installation materials, equipment etc. will also be available.

Exhibition

The group exhibition will be curated by Collective's Programme Manager in close discussion with the artists, to be presented in City Dome and Hillside for 10 weeks (9 Oct – 20 Dec 2026), with a preview event.

Interpretation

A professional writer or critic will be invited to produce a written response to the group exhibition – as part of interpretation and critical engagement.

Engagement Programme

As part of development of the exhibition, Collective will work closely with the artists to devise a programme of events designed to engage audiences including artists' peer communities.

Documentation

The exhibition and individual artists' finished works will be documented by a professional photographer.

Evaluation and Aftercare

Throughout the programme, Collective will allocate time to reflect and capture learning from the artists' experience. A follow-up session will be programmed with each artist within 6-12 months of completion of the exhibition allowing for further feedback, and to offer support for artists in their forward planning and next steps. Feedback and evaluation will also support Collective to continue to develop this programme, and to respond to the changing needs of artists in Scotland.

2. Solo Exhibition

This programme encompasses a mentorship and development opportunity for one artist over a 9-month period, including production of new work and presentation of a one-person exhibition in Hillside Gallery.

The selected artist will be required to confirm availability to commit to the programme, and to participate in key activities for the duration of the programme from February to September 2026.

The selected artist will receive the following support:

Mentoring

Collective will work closely with the artist to identify a mentor to support development of creative or professional practice – aligning with the needs of the artist – through up to three sessions with the invited mentor.

Development Sessions

Option to participate in elements of the professional development and training programme offered to artists selected for the group exhibition, with contributions from invited guests.

Studio Visits

Studio visits and production meetings with the Collective team.

Development of New Work

The artist will be supported to develop and produce a new artwork based on their exhibition proposal – with a dedicated production and installation budget.

Space to Test Ideas

Collective's Hillside Gallery will be available for the artist to use as a studio or space to test ideas in the period leading up to the exhibition. This might also allow for a slower more gradual installation period if needed.

Installation Support

The Artist will be supported in planning and installation of their work by Collective's Lead Technician, with specialist freelance technicians if required. A budget for installation materials, equipment etc. will also be available.

Exhibition

A solo exhibition will be presented in Hillside Gallery from 10 July to 13 September, with preview event. The exhibition will form part of Collective's programme for the Edinburgh Art Festival. The exhibition will be curated by Collective's Programme Manager working in close collaboration with the artist.

Evaluation and Aftercare

Throughout the programme, Collective will allocate time for reflection and to capture learning from the artist's experience. A follow-up session will be programmed within 6-12 months of completion of the exhibition allowing for further feedback, and to offer support for the artist in their forward planning and next steps. Feedback and evaluation will also support Collective to continue to develop this programme, and to respond to the changing needs of artists in Scotland.



Rabindranath X Bhose, *DANCE IN THE SACRED DOMAIN*, 2023. Satellites Programme 2022/23. Photo: Eoin Carey.

Support

Each selected artist will receive professional support from our team. The Programme team will provide regular meetings and support the development of each artist's research, practice, development of new work, and plans for exhibition and engagement.

All artists will also have the opportunity to work with the wider team, including: Marketing and Communications team for documentation, interpretation, and publicity; and Lead Technician for exhibition planning and installation.

The selected artists will each receive an artist fee, production budget, and installation support. Fees are based on Scottish Artists Union (SAU) recommended rates, reflecting time required to participate.

1. Group Exhibition

Four selected artists will each receive support including:

- £3,760 artist's fee
- £2,000 research and production budget to support a new work
- £1,000 install budget
- Studio visits and production meetings with the Collective Programme team
- Professional technical support in installing work
- Commissioned text responding to the group exhibition
- Professional photographic documentation of new work
- Professional development and training opportunities with the wider Collective team including on budgeting and artist contracts
- Marketing, publicity, travel, and access support
- Support and access to services from PAM Wellbeing

2. Solo Exhibition

One selected artist will receive support including:

- £4,500 artist's fee
- £5,000 research and production budget to support a new work
- £2,000 install budget
- Mentoring support
- Studio visits and production meetings with the Collective team
- Professional technical support
- Commissioned text responding to the exhibition
- Professional photographic documentation of new work
- Option to participate in elements of the professional development and training programme for the artists selected for the group exhibition
- Marketing, publicity, travel, and access support
- Support and access to services from PAM Wellbeing



Hannan Jones, *Hiraeth*, 2024, installation view. *pass shadow, whisper shade*, Satellites Programme 2023/24. Photo: Sally Jubb.

Eligibility

Please read these guidelines carefully, to determine your eligibility and assess which opportunity you might be best suited to apply for.

You can only apply for one opportunity.

Note: If artists are successful in applying to the Group Exhibition, they might in future be eligible to apply for the Solo Exhibition, allowing for a gap of a minimum of two years between completion of the Group Exhibition and a new application.

We do not discriminate and have an equitable approach to the selection process as informed by our Equalities, Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan.

We encourage applications from artists with diverse backgrounds particularly those with lived experience of socio-economic disadvantage, or inequality relating to protected characteristics including: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

For both opportunities, we welcome applications from artists who:

- May be returning to their practice after a significant break
- Have not undertaken formal art training or education; you can evidence alternative routes to developing your practice
- Live and work in any part of Scotland
- Work in all visual art forms/practices
- Have an established collaborative practice – however fees available for participation are fixed

Specific eligibility information for each of the opportunities is detailed on the next page.

1. Group Exhibition

The group exhibition opportunity is suited to artists who are at an early stage in their career and who would benefit from, and enjoy, a supported development programme, with an opportunity to develop new work for a first group show in collaboration with Collective and a group of their artist peers.

We welcome applications from artists who:

- Can demonstrate a commitment to their visual arts practice over a minimum of two years (outwith formal undergraduate or postgraduate studies) – which might include: evidence of recent work; membership of a studio group; participation in short residencies, travel awards, workshop or training opportunities etc
- Have not participated in any other Scotland, UK or international early career artist programme or invited group exhibition
- Have been resident in Scotland for a minimum of one year and who will be based in Scotland for the duration of the programme
- Are not currently represented by a commercial gallery
- Are not currently – or during the time of the programme – taking part in another development programme
- Are not currently undertaking any formal undergraduate or postgraduate studies

2. Solo Exhibition

The solo exhibition is an opportunity for an early career artist whose practice would benefit from focused mentorship, time, and space to make new work and present a solo exhibition in our Hillside Gallery.

We welcome applications from artists who:

- Can demonstrate a commitment to their visual arts practice over a minimum of three years (outwith formal undergraduate or postgraduate studies) – which might include: evidence of recent work; membership of a studio group; participation in short residencies, travel awards, workshop or training opportunities etc
- Have not yet had an invited solo exhibition in a publicly funded art gallery
- Have been resident in Scotland for a minimum of one year and who will be based in Scotland for the duration of the programme
- Are not currently represented by a commercial gallery
- Are not currently taking part in another development programme
- Are not currently undertaking any formal undergraduate or postgraduate studies

How to Apply

Applications close on Sunday 14 December at 5pm

We are using Submittable to anonymise the application process and shortlisting, seeking to minimise unconscious bias in the selection process.

For each opportunity, applicants must answer two questions.

You may choose to record and upload your answers as audio files, instead of written documents. These files must be uploaded through Submittable.

1. Group Exhibition

- Please tell us about your artistic practice (300 words)
- Please tell us what you would gain from this opportunity, both through working with Collective and through being part of a group development programme (300 words)

[Apply for the Group Exhibition Opportunity here.](#)

2. Solo Exhibition

- Please tell us about your artistic practice and what you would gain from this opportunity (500 words)
- Please share an outline proposal for a solo exhibition in Hillside (300 words)

[Apply for the Solo Exhibition Opportunity here.](#)



Kaya Fraser, *Give us a Smile*, 2024, installation view. Satellites Programme 2022/23. Photo: Eoin Carey.

Equal Opportunities Monitoring

For both opportunities, applicants must complete the online [equal opportunities monitoring form](#). This is not reviewed by the panel, but may be taken into account at final shortlisting stage (in accordance with GDPR and Equality law) to help us achieve our diversity and inclusion goals. This is part of our commitment to taking positive action to achieve equality of opportunity throughout the selection process.

Supporting Visual Materials

All applicants must upload supporting visual material files, which will be reviewed by the panel alongside image descriptions.

You may share up to three videos with 3-minute clips of moving image work. Or you can share a link to the whole film and specify which 3-minute section you would like the selection panel to watch.

Using AI for your Application

We acknowledge that AI is a useful access measure for some artists. However, if you choose to use AI for your application, we encourage you to rework your answers so we can hear from you as an individual. You will not be assessed on your literacy skills, rather we just want to hear your voice.

Selection Process

Eligibility checks of all applications will be made by our Programme team ahead of moving forward for consideration by the Selection Panel.

There will be a separate selection panel for each opportunity. They will work with our Programme Manager, supported by the Programme Coordinator.

The Group Exhibition selectors are Adam Benmakhlouf (writer, educator, and curator) and Aqsa Arif (artist, filmmaker, and Learning Programme Manager at LUX Scotland). The Solo Exhibition selectors are Alberta Whittle (artist, researcher, and curator) and Seán Elder (curator, writer, and Interim Director of Programmes at Cubitt).

The panel will discuss and carefully consider how each application meets the criteria and objectives of the programme before making a shortlist.

Interviews

Shortlisted artists for both opportunities will be invited for a one-to-one conversation with the Collective team – before final confirmation of the selected artists. Invitations to shortlisted artists will be issued at least one week ahead of the interview.

Selection Criteria

1. Group Exhibition

Applicants will be assessed and shortlisted based on the following criteria:

- Strength and potential of existing work evidenced through documentation of finished work or work in progress
- Evidence of how the artist will benefit from the opportunity, considering: being part of a group development programme; making new work; participation in a group exhibition

In the final selection, the panel will also consider the balance of ideas and representation of different forms of practice across the group.

For the group opportunity, you are not required to submit a proposal for new work. Applications will be assessed based on documentation of existing work and selected artists will develop a proposal for new work for exhibition as part of the programme.

2. Solo Exhibition

Applicants will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Evidence of a strong body of work demonstrated through documentation of finished work or work in progress
- Strength, potential and suitability of an outline proposal for a solo exhibition in Collective's Hillside Gallery
- The proposal is to be based on research and outline ideas and will not need to include detailed fabrication or installation details, e.g. tech specs or layout
- Clear articulation of the ways in which the artist and their practice would benefit from this opportunity

In making a final selection across the programme, the panels will ensure a diverse group of artists are selected in line with our equality, diversity, inclusion and belonging (EDI&B) commitments. As an organisation based in Edinburgh, we will offer at least one place within the programme to an Edinburgh based artist.

Key Dates

Programme Timeline

14 December 2025	Applications close at 5pm
21 and 22 January 2026	Interviews with shortlisted artists
Late January 2026	Publicly announce selected artists
February 2026	Programme activity commences

Exhibitions

10 July – 13 September 2026	Solo exhibition
9 October – 20 December 2026	Group exhibition

Exhibition dates are provisional and to be confirmed.

Information Sessions

Join an upcoming information session to find out more about the programme and the application process. You will also have the opportunity to ask the Collective team any questions you might have.

Please book your spot in advance using the links below.

[26 November 2025, 2pm: Online](#)

We will also be holding in-person events in Edinburgh, Dundee and North Scotland. Details coming soon – keep an eye on our socials and website to find out more information.

One-to-One Sessions

We will also be holding one-to-one advice sessions online, so you can ask Collective staff directly about your application questions. Please come to these sessions with pre-prepared questions.

[Book your spot in advance here.](#)

Access

We strive to ensure that the *Time + Space* programme is open and accessible to all. We recognise that disabilities and restraints on an individual's capacity take many forms and are not always visible.

We acknowledge that our gallery is at the top of a steep hill and will assist in any travel needs to use the access roads (e.g. taxis).

Support for Application

A small fund is available if you need support for your written application to *Time + Space*.

This fund could be used if you identify as having disabilities or caring responsibilities. Funds can be used toward costs such as additional support in the form of a scribe, proof-reader, assistant, BSL interpreter, or childcare.

Please get in touch to discuss your needs as soon as possible via timespace@collective-edinburgh.art or 0131 556 1264.

Access Document

All shortlisted artists will be invited to complete an access document to highlight any issues – whether physical, mental, personal, or social – that you deem useful to make us aware of for the interview and in preparing to support you through the *Time + Space* programme. Access needs are ever-changing and we are happy for any access information provided to be updated throughout the programme.

COLLECTIVE

Collective is supported by Creative Scotland and City of Edinburgh Council.



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Collective's media partner for *Time + Space* is The Skinny.

THE SKINNY

The Skinny is Scotland's largest independent arts & culture magazine, publishing cutting edge cultural journalism with a grassroots focus since 2005.