

Part 1 : Project Proposal Application

To be completed by the lead proposed supervisor(s) and non-HE partner organisation.



SECTION 1: PROJECT PROPOSAL AND CASE FOR SUPPORT

Proposed Project Title:			
Project Summary: <i>(Maximum 100 words)</i>			
Name of Non-HE Partner Organisation:			
Name of Contact at non-HE Partner Organisation:		Email Address:	
Primary AHRC Subject Area:			
Secondary AHRC Subject Area (if Interdisciplinary):			
Does the project Include a creative practice component?		YES	NO
If you have listed two subject areas above, do you consider the project to be interdisciplinary?		YES	NO N/A

If Yes, please briefly state why:

(Maximum 100 words):

Please provide full details of the proposal and make your case for support below:
(Maximum 750 words)

Please provide details of any resources and facilities, including details of any high cost equipment, fieldwork, training, etc., that may be required to complete the project successfully, and where you will seek these resources (e.g. NBCDTP; partner resources; departmental/school funds). Please include estimated costs:

(Maximum 200 words)

Please outline the arrangements for communication between the partner organisation and academic host organisation in regard of the project management and the monitoring of academic progress:

(Maximum 150 words)

What benefits will accrue to the student and the partner organisation as a result of your collaboration?

(Maximum 300 words)

Please briefly state what financial (if any) or in-kind contribution the partner will be making over the duration of the award:

(Maximum 100 words)

Please describe the nature of the collaborative arrangement and the activities the student will be taking with the organisation:
(Maximum 300 words)

SECTION 2: SUPERVISION AND EXTERNAL ADVISORS

First Supervisor:		School/Department:	
		Email Address:	
Second Supervisor:		School/Department:	
		Email Address:	
Additional Advisor:		Organisation/Institution:	
		Email Address:	
Additional Advisor:		Organisation/Institution:	
		Email Address:	

Explain how the expertise of the supervisory team and external advisors will allow them to support the proposed project and the selected student:
(Maximum 500 words)

SECTION 3: RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

Please provide details about the research environment the selected student will be joining and its suitability:
(Maximum 500 words)

Laing Art Gallery
New Bridge Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 8AG

Telephone: (0191) 278 1611
Textphone: 18001 0191 278 1611

1 November 2021

Re Collaborative Doctoral Awards Project Proposal: Historicising Nerys Johnson

I am writing to confirm strong support and enthusiasm for the collaborative doctoral research award to Northern Bridge Consortium for 'Historicising Nerys Johnson'.

The Laing Art Gallery is in the process of acquiring the archive and collection of Nerys Johnson (1942–2001), an artist and curator active in the North East of England throughout the late twentieth century. The archive comprises both personal and professional documents, including correspondence, diaries, photographs, notebooks and publications and ephemera relating to the Laing Gallery and Durham's Light Infantry Museum. The collection includes paintings and etchings which builds upon, and will be studied in the context of, the Laing's existing holdings of 62 drawings and watercolours, prints and oil paintings by Johnson.

This important and extensive acquisition is in line with the Laing's Collection Development Policy which has identified the need to prioritise the acquisition of work by women artists, historically underrepresented in the collections, as well as items which have a cultural significance to the North East. This PhD project will be vital to unlocking the potential of this new acquisition and to understanding Johnson's contribution to British Art and to the region.

Dr Esmé Whittaker, Keeper of Art, will supervise the research at the Laing, providing mentoring and full access to the archive and collections including the collections database and stores. Further support will be provided by the Chief Curator of Art Galleries, Julie Milne, and there will also be the opportunity to engage with the wider curatorial and learning team.

The project will have tangible and essential outcomes for the Laing. The cataloguing and digitisation of Johnson's archive and collection is of primary importance to the gallery enabling it to be made accessible for research and public engagement via the collections search facility on Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums' website. The cataloguing process will enable the student to closely examine the collection providing them with a unique insight into its potential for research and display. The student will use this insight to inform an exhibition, co-curated with Dr Whittaker, to be held in the Laing's Barbour Watercolour

Gallery. We are also keen to work with the student to explore a range of further possible activities relating to the research including an online blog, public talks and workshops.

The successful candidate will undertake training and development crucial to a future career in the museum and heritage sector. They will benefit from working closely with an established curator, providing them with a thorough grounding in cataloguing, collections management, museum interpretation and exhibition planning. They will also learn from Julie Milne's extensive programming and managerial experience to gain a holistic understanding of gallery practice. The researcher will have access to training opportunities within the wider Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums Service.

We welcome this opportunity to develop our existing links with Northumbria University, especially as we do not currently have the capacity to carry out the in depth research and cataloguing that this new acquisition requires. This project would enrich our understanding of Johnson's work as an artist and curator while also making the archive and collection accessible to a wide audience for the first time. We therefore wholeheartedly support this application.

Yours Sincerely



Julie Milne

Chief Curator of Art Galleries



Esmé Whittaker

Keeper of Art (Art Galleries)