

# Paradox: Unravelled at the London Wetland Centre

Paradox is a major temporary exhibition that aims to showcase extreme or conceptual craft in a site-specific context, showing in the outdoor environment of the London Wetland Centre (LWC), Barnes, London from April 2020 - March 2021.

Unravelled is an arts organisation that works with artists and crafts people who explore extreme or conceptual craft. The directors of Unravelled and the curators of Paradox are Polly Harknett (Independent Curator & Cultural Projects Manager), and Caitlin Heffernan (Artist & Curator). The group and exhibition are supported by Arts Council England and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT).

Please see [www.unravelled.org.uk](http://www.unravelled.org.uk) for further details.

Submissions Sought for:

## 1. New site-specific work for the London Wetland Centre

For Paradox we are offering up to six commissions for artists or makers using or subverting the notion of craft in extreme or conceptual ways. Proposed artworks should be site-specific and engage with the idea of creating interventions that will be shown outdoors, within the wetlands setting at the London Wetland Centre.

We will aim to include a broad cross section of artists working in a variety of media and at various stages of their careers. The exhibition will provide a high profile showcase for contemporary artists and makers and engage artists with a conservation environment and the science of conservation. It is strongly recommended that prospective artists visit the London Wetland Centre before submitting their proposal. Please see below for details of our open day.

There will be 3 exhibiting opportunities (of 4 months length each) to display work during the exhibition. Artists may propose to show their work during any or all of the slots. The commission fee is fixed and not dependent on the length of display of the work. Proposals to show work for more than one slot must show that they have considered how their work might evolve and respond to the seasonal changes in weather and wildlife.

Slot 1	Slot 2	Slot 3
Spring/Summer	Summer/Autumn	Winter/Spring
April 2020 - July 2020	August 2020 - November 2020	December 2020- March 2021

The overarching theme for the exhibition will be an exploration of conflict.

Nature reserves are perceived as tranquil places where human visitors pause to unwind from the pressures of modern life. The LWC is a person-made site, carefully managed to encourage selected species to thrive.

But look beyond the human experience and this site is, in fact, a zone of conflict where battles such as native vs non-native, wild vs managed and change vs preservation are played out. Species fight for their survival in an environment controlled by decisions made both locally and globally. These conflicts happening simultaneously at microscopic, local and global levels are not straightforward to resolve. They prompt debate that is intellectual, physical, ethical and moral.

Although proposals can respond to any aspect of the site, there are specific themes that are particularly strong at the London Wetland Centre, that artists may want to explore through the commissions.

### Migration

The WWT location in Barnes becomes very poignant when thinking about the migration of animals and people, as the animal migration witnessed on the site is so completely surrounded by urban development and city life. People and animals migrate to sustain themselves; the fight for space, food and shelter are common to all species.

### Seasons

Each season offers a different perspective and experience of the site. Seasons are expressed through weather conditions, movement of people and animals, breeding patterns and availability of food. Battles and conflicts are inherent in these. Artists may want to select a particular season, or element of it to work with, and this may determine when would be most appropriate to show their work.

### Climate Change

The London Wetlands Trust is a site where the effects of climate change can be expressed very directly. Challenging and risk-taking commissions can be developed to communicate some of the complexities and realities of climate change in thought provoking and engaging ways.

### WWT Conservation Programme

Working with conservationists this is an opportunity to share research and the impact on environments and the work of WWT. Commissions could, for example concentrate on exposing some of the behind the scenes work that happens at the London Wetland Centre in order to tell more stories about the work of the WWT and the battles they face.

For more detailed information visit the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust website at [www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk)

## 2. Visitor-focussed events during the project

Artists may propose to deliver an event that would happen during the exhibition showing that explores the themes and engages with current visitors. The event may, for example, be a performance of existing work, mini-residency or a workshop. There is a separate fee for this element of the exhibition.

### Open Days

Two half-day site visits at the London Wetland Centre in Barnes have been arranged, starting at 10:30 or 14:00 on Thursday 9th May. On these days artists interested in making a proposal will have the opportunity to meet with Unravelled and Wetlands and Wildfowl Trust staff and scientists, who will give more information about the London Wetland Centre and work of the Wetlands and Wildfowl Trust. There will be a brief tour of the site and a question and answer session.

If you would like to attend a site visit please book at place using [eventbrite](#). Places are free but numbers are limited.

### Submission of ideas

If you would like to be considered for the exhibition, please submit the information as detailed above and include a completed exhibition summary sheet within a single pdf (see below). We have also included an equality monitoring form. Filling in this form is entirely voluntary.

The submission should include one or both of the following:

- a proposal of new work that meets the remit of the exhibition
- a proposal for an event to be held during the exhibition programme

Artists should propose work that responds to the site and any of the themes described, and can be displayed as an intervention, whether large or small on the London Wetland Centre site.

Please send a single pdf containing the following information.

- Up to 3 images of existing work
- a CV (no longer than 2 pages)
- short artists statement (100 words)
- a short artist's proposal (300 words). If you are proposing both a commission and event your proposal can be 600 words long.

- budget summary
- and a completed Exhibition Summary Sheet

Please send by email to: [info@unravelled.org.uk](mailto:info@unravelled.org.uk) by the closing date of 11.59pm, Sunday 16 June 2019.

#### Further Exhibition Information:

- A fee of £3000 will be paid to the commissioned artists to create new according to the contract payment schedule.
- A fee of up to £500 will be paid to the commissioned artists to create an event to be held during the exhibition programme
- Full artist credit will be given in the exhibition and in any publications and publicity.
- The costs of getting the work to and from The London Wetland Centre will be borne by the artist.
- The work must be displayable in the conservation environment of the London Wetland Centre, and suitable for a particular location specified in your proposal. If you have any doubts as to whether your work would fit this criterion, please contact us to discuss in more detail.
- The ownership of the object remains with the artist.
- The proposals for accepted work will need to be finalised before commissions are awarded.
- Shortlisted artists may be asked to develop their proposals further in consultation with the Unravelled Team and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust staff and scientists before they are contracted.

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Exhibition Summary Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you hear about the exhibition? \_\_\_\_\_

Submission of work that meets the remit of the exhibition

Please make sure you also include the following :

- up to 3 images
- CV (2 pages)
- Artist's statement (100 words)
- budget
- Artist Proposal (300 or 600 words)
- An equality and diversity monitoring form, if you chose to fill one in

Send email submission as a single pdf only to: [info@unravalled.org.uk](mailto:info@unravalled.org.uk)

## Equality and diversity monitoring form

We strive to ensure that this commissioning opportunity is open to all. We treat all proposals equally, regardless of age, disability, gender identity or gender expression, race, ethnicity, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation or any other equality characteristic.

Filing in this form is voluntary; any information you chose to submit is anonymous and we will use it for monitoring purposes only.

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**Gender** Man  Woman  Intersex  Non-binary  Prefer not to say  If you prefer to use your own term, please specify here .....

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**Age** 16-24  25-29  30-34  35-39  40-44  45-49   
50-54  55-59  60-64  65+  Prefer not to say

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### What is your ethnicity?

Ethnic origin is not about nationality, place of birth or citizenship. It is about the group to which you perceive you belong. Please tick the appropriate box

#### **White**

English  Welsh  Scottish  Northern Irish  Irish   
British  Gypsy or Irish Traveller  Prefer not to say

Any other white background, please write in:

#### **Mixed/multiple ethnic groups**

White and Black Caribbean  White and Black African  White and Asian  Prefer not to say  Any other mixed background, please write in:

#### **Asian/Asian British**

Indian  Pakistani  Bangladeshi  Chinese  Prefer not to say   
Any other Asian background, please write in:

#### **Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British**

African  Caribbean  Prefer not to say   
Any other Black/African/Caribbean background, please write in:

#### **Other ethnic group**

Arab  Prefer not to say  Any other ethnic group, please write in:

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**Do you consider yourself to have a disability or health condition?**

Yes  No  Prefer not to say

What is the effect or impact of your disability or health condition on your ability to give your best at work? Please write in here:

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**What is your sexual orientation?**

Heterosexual  Gay  Lesbian  Bisexual

Prefer not to say  If you prefer to use your own term, please specify here

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**What is your religion or belief?**

No religion or belief  Buddhist  Christian  Hindu  Jewish

Muslim  Sikh  Prefer not to say  If other religion or belief, please write in:

## Key Dates for Paradox: Unravelling at the London Wetland Centre

Call for Submissions:	28 April - 16 June 2019
Open Days:	Thursday 9 May, 10:30 and 14:00
Deadline for Submissions:	Sunday 16 June 11.59pm
Notification of Selected Artists:	by Friday 28 June 2019
Delivery of Work to LWC:	dependent on exhibition slot, tbc
Opening of Exhibition to the public:	2 April 2020
Last Day of Exhibition:	21 March 2021
Take Down of Exhibition:	dependent on exhibition slot, tbc