

Artists Brief

Atopic Art : Expressions of Eczema

Introduction

Atopic Art : Expressions of Eczema, is an innovative new collaborative project between:

- **Dr. Sara Brown** - Clinical Senior Lecturer & Hon Consultant Dermatologist at University of Dundee
- **Eczema Outreach Scotland** - Scotland's support charity for families affected by eczema
- **ASCUS Art & Science** – An advocate for collaboration between the arts and sciences
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The project will specifically target families with children who suffer from eczema (age range 0-18 years).

The ambition of the project is to increase engagement with families affected by eczema through a series of three travelling workshops in the following locations: Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness. Following on from this, Atopic Art will bring the output of these workshops to the wider public through the creation of a participatory artwork and a travelling exhibition that will take place in schools and communities across Scotland. In order to facilitate the exhibitions in schools and communities, the final piece will be reproduced to make 5 mobile exhibition packs which will be transported and used by families in their community. This process will begin with a focus group meeting in June with Sara Brown, Eczema Outreach Scotland staff and designer, parents from the Edinburgh Support Group and the artists.

The project aims to:

- Increase eczema awareness, knowledge and self-confidence amongst workshop participants and the general public.
- Increase the self-esteem of children, by shared experience and involvement, breaking cycles of isolation.
- Decrease stigma in communities leading to increased inclusion of people with eczema.

The project has been made possible through the generous support of the Manknell Charitable Trust, an endowment provided by a lady affected by eczema.

The Venues

Edinburgh Zoo - EH12 6TS
Glasgow Science Centre - G51 1EA
Inverness the Smithton church
Dundee focus group

Date: 7 February 2015
Date: 28 March 2015
Date: 16 May 2015
Date: Early June 2015

The Commission

Atopic Art will commission two artists over the duration of the project (February – August 2015) to design an inspiring, thought-provoking, and fun workshop to create a participatory

artwork. Each artist will lead and deliver workshops to families with children suffering from eczema ranging in ages from 0-18, taking place over a two hour period (2pm-4pm) in three locations (Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness). The number of participants attending each workshop may be between 50 and 100 participants (20 to 40 families). Eczema Outreach Scotland will provide additional staffing support for the workshops on the day. Families will be free to attend either workshops or move between both workshops. This workshop session will then be repeated at the two following locations, followed by a focus group meeting in Dundee at the beginning of June for the artists to present their proposals. This meeting will also be attended by Dr Sara Brown, EOS staff and a representative family of the Edinburgh support group. What is produced in the workshops by participants must be either part of the final artwork itself or must directly inform the resulting artwork. High quality replicas of the final art piece created in collaboration with artist and the designer will be produced in Jul-Aug, in consultation with the Edinburgh families and EOS staff for the mobile exhibition in schools and communities from September onwards. The original piece will be displayed at a launch event in Perth in November 2015 and may be used for subsequent exhibition programme at a later stage.

Artists are asked to submit workshop proposals responding to either of both the following themes:

1. The Science of eczema
2. Living with eczema (the emotional and social aspects of living with the condition)

Useful Resources:

Background about eczema:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/eczema-%28atopic%29/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

<http://www.bad.org.uk/for-the-public/patient-information-leaflets/atopic-eczema>

<http://www.lifesci.dundee.ac.uk/people/sara-brown>

Eczema support work:

www.eczemaoutreachscotland.org.uk/

The creative process

Workshops

We will be looking for artists who can animate the identified themes in a fun, playful and inclusive way that will encourage participation and increase sharing of information, breaking cycles of isolation for eczema sufferers and their families. Selected artists will demonstrate the ability to interpret Atopic Art themes in an innovative way, designing workshops that encourage participation from children, teenagers and adults alike. This could involve a wide range of sculptural, multimedia, performance, spoken word or digital practices. These could include multi-sensory artworks that in some way involve sound, vision or touch. We advise that proposals consider the use of physical and digital resources which would be possible to replicate, transport and display in community settings.

Exhibitions

Launch event in Perth in November 2015

Subsequent Exhibition Programme (pending funding)

We want the participatory artwork to engage exhibition visitors, increasing awareness and knowledge of eczema, helping to decrease stigma in communities and leading to

increased inclusion of people with eczema.

Schools and communities

Artists will work closely with EOS and the contracted Designer to assist with the production of the exhibition pack which will be created to showcase the project in schools and community settings.

Requirements of the commission

1. Have the ability to engage with a family audience (children/teens and parents).
2. Work produced in the workshop by participants must be either part of the final artwork itself or must directly inform the resulting artwork.
3. The final piece created by the artist will be adaptable for a number of different exhibition spaces and venues.
4. Final works must have clear set-up and installation instructions.
5. With the help of the contracted Designer, the work will be replicable for the exhibition pack for schools and communities.

Eligibility

The opportunity is open to Scotland-based artists. Applicants should be able to demonstrate a strong commitment to their artistic practice and evidence of a body of work and strong track record. Applicants should ideally have experience of leading and delivering workshops.

Timescale

Atopic Art is a project taking place from February – August 2015 (over 7 months)

PRODUCTION	Feb-May	3 family focused workshops
DISCUSSION	Early June	Dundee focus group with Sara, EOS, Edinburgh families and Designer during which the artists explain their vision (not the final output). The discussion should help shape the final piece with the replica specifications in mind.
FINAL PIECE	End of June	Final piece produced by artists, with input from families if required
REPLICATION	Jul-Aug	Collaboration led by the Designer to create the replicas for exhibition pack for schools and communities

Artists must work closely with Eczema Outreach Scotland and the Designer in delivering final artwork and contributing to the delivery of the exhibition pack during June/August that will tour schools and communities from September 2015.

Management

ASCUS Art & Science will be the main point of contact for the project. The artist must also work closely with Eczema Outreach Scotland and their Designer. EOS will be hosting each workshop in the four different locations and will be responsible for the management of the mobile exhibition programme for schools and communities beginning September 2015.

Budget

A fee of £1500 is available for each artist. This should cover research and development,

delivery of 3 workshops in 3 locations, the Dundee focus group and resolving of workshop materials into a final piece to be exhibited at the launch event in Perth in November 2015 and subsequent exhibition programme (pending funding). This also covers contributing to and collaborating with the EOS Designer leading the exhibition pack design to be used in schools and communities across Scotland. Additional to this £500 per artist for materials and £250 towards travel costs is available.

Application process

To apply for this opportunity please send the following information to submissions@ascus.org.uk no later than 5pm (UK Time) on Wednesday 7th January 2015.

- A written statement detailing your current practice and your workshop proposal including workshop title Please include details in your statement of how you would consider replicating, transporting and displaying the resulting artwork in schools and community settings. (500 words maximum).
- An up-to-date CV including contact details for two referees.
- Up to six images of your previous work or workshop outputs (Jpegs no larger than 1MB each) with the titles of the work/workshop as the file name.

Please note that applications will be assessed by a panel that will include Dr. Sara Brown, representatives from Eczema Outreach Scotland and ASCUS Art & Science.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to discuss their proposals in more detail at an interview taking place in Edinburgh on Tuesday 13th January 2015.

For any questions please contact Miriam Walsh at walsh.ascus.org.uk

Application check list

Please make sure to follow this checklist as we are be unable to consider incomplete applications.

- Artist statement (detailing workshop proposal, title, replication in schools)
- Artist CV
- Up to 6 images (with title as file name)