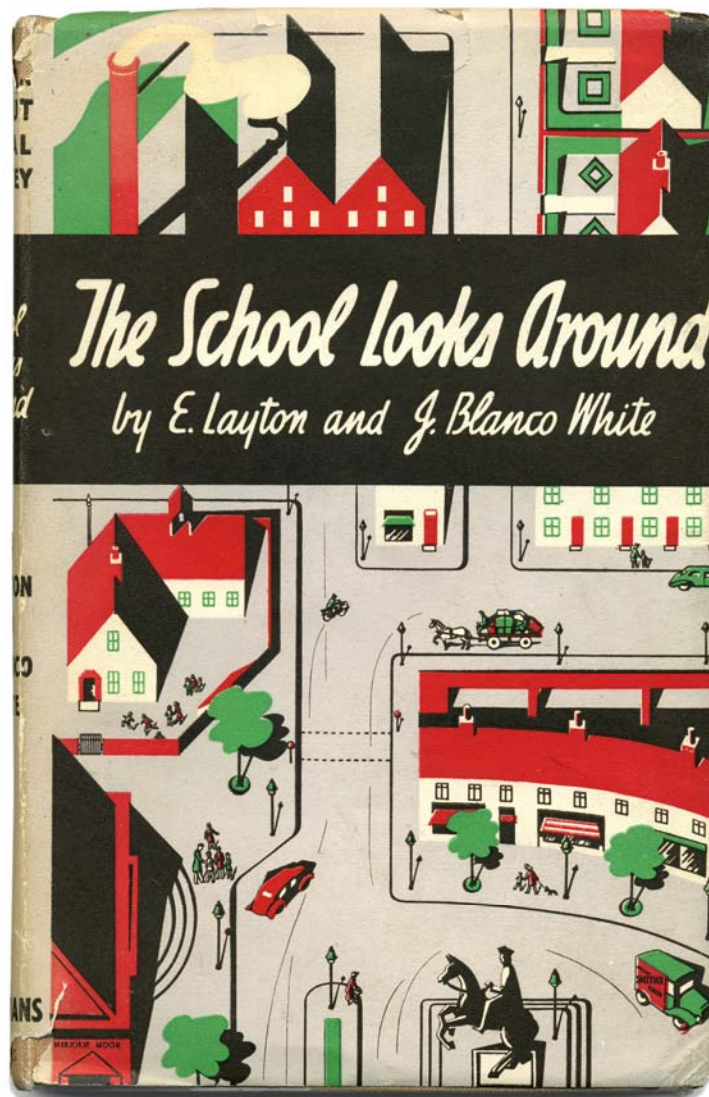


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**Daisi seeks two visual artists to take lead artist roles in *The School Looks Around*, a new project for 2010: a partnership project between Daisi, Devon County Council Libraries and Devon Record Office, with London partners the Whitechapel Gallery and General Public Agency.**



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## **Introduction**

Daisi seeks two visual artists to take lead artist roles in a new project, *The School Looks Around*, starting February 2010. This is a partnership project between Daisi, Devon County Council Libraries and Devon Record Office, with London partners the Whitechapel Gallery and creative consultancy General Public Agency. The two participating Devon secondary schools are the King's School in Ottery St Mary and South Dartmoor Community College in Ashburton. There will be one lead artist per school.

## **Background**

The idea for *The School Looks Around* originated from the rediscovery by General Public Agency of a publication of the same name written in 1948, which promoted the idea of **the local survey as an adventurous and open-ended process, a 'voyage of discovery into the life, history and organisation of the locality'**.

This project shares the twin aims of the original book, of **using creativity to make the local area and issues of society and citizenship come alive for young people, and establishing new and lasting connections between schools and their communities.**

*The School Looks Around* is the focus of this exciting, new project opportunity. Throughout the project activity, exploration, assessment and interpretation of the local neighbourhood, the public realm, the built and rural environment and its socio-economic make-up will be carried out by students with a lead artist and other professional practitioners such as geographers, historians, poets, sociologists, writers, architects or cartographers\*\*\*.

The process will encourage young people to uncover clues about the history and development of their area, to question local people about their lives and experiences, and interpret and document their findings in imaginative and personal ways. The outcomes will create a usable archive for wider external use and consideration, housed at the Devon Record Office.

**This project would suit visual artists who are increasingly interested in working in the field of the built, natural and social environment and social relations and who can lead creative documentary, mapping and archiving processes.**

## **What does the project activity involve?**

The activity takes place across 3 terms, starting February 2010. The basic structure is outlined below.



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**Term 1 (Spring 2010):** X1 Twilight Inset, X1 planning meeting, X5 workshops, X2 Gallery/studio/cultural resource visits, X1 Evaluation forum, all per school  
**Term 2 (Summer 2010):** X1 Twilight Inset, X1 planning meeting, X5 workshops, X2 Gallery/studio/cultural resource visits, X1 Evaluation forum, all per school  
**Term 3 (Autumn 2010):** Development of a toolkit and commission for exhibition and archive

The project activity will involve regular 'field trips', or external visits to public spaces and cultural resources in the local area as well as visits from different practitioners. The intention is that one particular group of young people from each school engage with the project, though it is expected that the project will produce benefit and impact across the school and beyond to the extended school and wider community.

The lead artists will not necessarily undertake all the above activity, as some sessions will be delivered by a professional practitioner from another discipline (see \*\*\* on page 2) or by two practitioners working in partnership. The archive development and build will be a separate commission which will be introduced once the project is underway.

### **Links to the Curriculum**

This project encourages opportunities for linking practitioners across disciplines – an ambition which mirrors not only aspects of contemporary art practice, but also current developments in the National Curriculum, particularly at Key Stage 3, encouraging teachers to find links between subjects and teaching thematically across departments. *The School Looks Around* builds on these investigations, and while it could be 'timetabled' through the Art department, it has the potential to support learning across the curriculum – for example in English, Maths and Science, as well as Geography, History and Citizenship.

### **Other key project themes**

The project aims to engage with volunteers from local heritage societies, with different generations within the local community through an oral history element and to incorporate consultation methods through which the young people can influence and shape the project design and processes.

### **I am interested – what should I do?**

Please contact Daisi with a letter entitled '*The School Looks Around Expression of Interest*', (maximum 500 words) explaining why you are interested in being a lead artist and the experience that you have which makes you suitable for the role (with reference to the 'duties and responsibilities' and the 'personal specification' below). Please state if there is a discipline(s) with which you would most like to collaborate (see \*\*\* on page 2).



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Please send this to Daisi (contact details above), with a maximum of two supporting images, by 12.00 noon on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010. If you are not a Daisi registered artist please include your CV.

Daisi will contact short listed candidates for interview which will be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Short listed candidates must also be available to attend the Project Awareness Day on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February from 12.00pm to 5.00pm in Exeter.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

- Attend all meetings and training sessions listed in the project outline above
- Plan and deliver workshops and activities listed in the project outline above
- Develop an effective working partnership with the teacher, staff members and any external practitioners you are partnered to work with over the course of the project
- Document the process and progress of the residency and contribute to the development of a project archive
- Co-operate with the winner of the project's commission to research, develop and build the project's archive, which will be held in the Devon Record Office

### **Personal specification**

- Strong artistic practice showing experience and / or awareness of projects engaging with the public realm, for example exploring social and community issues related to geography, history and heritage.
- An interest in wider debate around community engagement in the public realm
- Experience of working with young people between the ages of 11 and 19
- Excellent communication skills and ability to engage positively with a wide range of people
- An interest in how the context of the school or encounter with young people might inform your own practice
- Experience of and openness to collaborating with other practitioners from a range of disciplines



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- Flexibility with time and good availability across the project's time-frame

### **Conditions of contract**

- Freelance basis
- Project hours and activities will be agreed based on the activities outlined on page 3
- Fees will be based on the Daisi artist rate of £190 per day for workshop delivery and £150 per day for meetings and events
- Project artists are subject to all usual Daisi safeguarding procedures (these include holding a certificate of enhanced disclosure from the CRB and your own public liability insurance)

### **Is there anything else I need to know at this stage?**

This is a new, unprecedented partnership opportunity for Devon County Council Libraries, Devon Record Office, Daisi, 2 Devon secondary schools and local creative and cultural practitioners. The opportunity to work with two creative organisations in London, developing, sharing and comparing and contrasting our learning together, is also unique to this project.

The project brings an opportunity to build on current and previous work in Devon, offering to formulate contemporary forms of investigation, giving the central role to creative practitioners and placing young people's critical thinking, perception, artistic engagement and decision making at the heart of the process and outcomes.

For more information about Daisi please visit [www.daisi.org.uk](http://www.daisi.org.uk). You can follow this link to find further information about previous projects <http://www.daisi.org.uk/index.php/teachers/project-archive.html> and look at this link <http://www.daisi.org.uk/index.php/teachers/project-examples.html> to find further, brief examples, of how schools are currently engaging with artists and other creative practitioners.

For further information about the project partners, please follow the links below:

[www.devon.gov.uk/community/libraries.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/community/libraries.htm)

[www.devon.gov.uk/record\\_office.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/record_office.htm)

[www.daisi.org.uk](http://www.daisi.org.uk)

[www.whitechapelgallery.org](http://www.whitechapelgallery.org)

[www.generalpublicagency.com](http://www.generalpublicagency.com)

Liz Hill

Director, Daisi, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010



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