

PRESS RELEASE [for immediate release 20/12/18]: Whitstable Biennale and Open School East announce 2018 partnership projects



We are delighted to announce a partnership with [Open School East](#) (OSE) for 2018. The partnership will comprise two projects culminating in public presentations at Whitstable Biennale 2018.

Firstly, all previous alumni of Open School East will be invited to propose a new work for Whitstable Biennale via an open call. A panel will select one work, which will be developed with curatorial support, and shown as part of Whitstable Biennale 2018. Emerging artists cite Whitstable Biennale as a major stepping stone in their career:

*“Having our project commissioned by Whitstable Biennale has really moved our practice forward both creatively and professionally. The whole experience has changed the way we think about our practice, and what is possible for us as young artists” - [Webb Ellis](#) whose video installation *Parlour Walls* was commissioned for Whitstable Biennale 2016*

*“The commission gave me the excellent opportunity to create a large-scale and ambitious series of new work, one of which included working with experts at the London Centre of Nanotechnology, and journeying to the Sahara desert. It allowed me to experiment with a new model of working, and concretise different and more original ways of thinking and creating, which will affect my practice for a long time to come.” - artist Katie Paterson whose *About This Night Every Time* was commissioned for Whitstable Biennale 2010*

Secondly, next year’s OSE [Associates](#), the cohort who will start in January 2018 will collaborate on an event to take place as part of Whitstable Biennale 2018. The event will be developed through workshops and discussions with visiting artists to OSE.

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Open School East was founded in 2013 in response to spiralling tuition fees and student debt, and the decrease in both studio provision and civic spaces in the capital. It was instituted as a space for artistic learning and production that is experimental, versatile and highly collaborative, and has been based in Kent since relocating to Margate in 2017.

Whitstable Biennale is a festival of contemporary visual art showcasing new and experimental work in performance, film and sound. The festival and associated projects taking place along the north Kent Thames Estuary coastline enable emerging artists to develop ambitious new works and reach a large and diverse audience. Since 2002 we have commissioned over 50 new works and presented work by over 500 artists.

Whitstable Biennale and OSE will both join Arts Council England’s National Portfolio 2018-2022.

See: [Open School East](#) and [Whitstable Biennale](#) websites

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