

# UNLIMITED...

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Unlimited III to be delivered in partnership by Shape Arts and Artsadmin;  
awarded £1.8m by Arts Council England**



Shape Arts and Artsadmin have been awarded £1.8m by Arts Council England to deliver the third Unlimited programme from 2016 until 2020.

Building on its success over the past 3 years, Unlimited will continue to produce ambitious and high-quality work by disabled artists, award research and development grants and provide mentoring to disabled artists, with Jo Verrent continuing as Senior Producer.

Tony Heaton OBE, Chief Executive of Shape Arts, says that “Shape relishes the opportunity this continued funding and partnership with Artsadmin will bring to

increase the impact disabled artists have on the creative diversity of our cultural life. This vote of confidence in us demonstrates the richness Unlimited has brought to the cultural offer and recognises that an inclusive and civil society must include the unique creativity of disabled artists within it.”

Jo Verrent comments: “The whole team working on Unlimited is delighted that Arts Council England is continuing its investment in such a pivotal programme. Unlimited - and the many more initiatives and programmes working in similar areas – are playing a vital role in ending discrimination by challenging the barriers in making, creating, platforming and sharing work. We look forward to a time when equality and diversity are commonplace within the cultural sector, knowing that Unlimited will have been so instrumental in its making.”

Manick Govinda, Head of Artists' Advisory Services and Artists' Producer at Artsadmin, comments “Unlimited has made some important strategic interventions into the UK arts infrastructure and has also brought amazing artists into the limelight and will continue to effect change in the cultural fabric of the nation. The Shape-Artsadmin partnership is a brilliant working model of two influential organisations working together and learning from each other.”

Joyce Wilson, London Area Director of Arts Council England, said: “It is vital that no Deaf or disabled artist experiences barriers to realising their ambitions, whether that be socially, physically or economically. Unlimited demonstrates the Arts Council's commitment to this belief. We are excited to be working with Shape Arts and Artsadmin, who will use their expertise and insight to build on the success of the work to date and continue to develop the positive profile of the Unlimited brand. This year, there will be an enhanced focus on talent development and, with our support, international partnerships, building on the excellent existing partnerships with Southbank Centre and Tramway festivals to make new connections across the globe.”

Over the next four years, Unlimited's position as a catalyst for change in the cultural sector will be amplified. The new programme will continue to support talented disabled artists to develop their practice and build new relationships and collaborations with venues and festivals so more audiences get the opportunity to see the work. Comprising 3 separate commissioning rounds, applications for the first round will open this October and artists to be commissioned will be confirmed in March 2017.

**For more information please contact Lulu Nunn – Arts Engagement, PR and Marketing Officer at Shape at [lulu@shapearts.org.uk](mailto:lulu@shapearts.org.uk) or on +44 (0) 20 7424 7357**

**Image: Aaron Williamson – “Demonstrating the World”, Unlimited commission 2015-16**

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## Notes to Editors

**Unlimited** is an arts commissioning programme that aims to embed work by disabled artists within the UK and international cultural sectors, reach new audiences and shift perceptions of disabled people. Unlimited is delivered by the disability-led arts organisation Shape Arts and arts-producing organisation Artsadmin and is funded from 2013-16 by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, Arts Council of Wales and Creative Scotland.

The new Unlimited programme will build on the success of the two previous Unlimited programmes that took place between 2009 and 2016, initially created as part of the Cultural Olympiad 2012. So far, Unlimited has produced 20 commissions by artists which have been exhibited in high-profile arts venues all over the world, and has supported over 50 artists in total with 75% of Unlimited funds going directly to artists. Previous works commissioned and developed by Unlimited have included Touretteshero's 'Backstage in Biscuit Land', Cameron Morgan's 'TV Classics Part 1', Sheila Hill's 'Him' and Aaron Williamson's 'Demonstrating the World'.

Shape and Artsadmin received funding in early 2016 from British Council and Arts Council England's Ambitions for Excellence award for international development of the programme, extending Unlimited's reach around the world.

Unlimited Impact, funded by Spirit of 2012, focuses on supporting young people, geographic reach and ensuring legacy.

[www.weareunlimited.org.uk](http://www.weareunlimited.org.uk) and [www.unlimitedimpact.org.uk](http://www.unlimitedimpact.org.uk)

**Shape Arts** is a disability-led arts organisation working to improve access to culture for disabled people by developing opportunities for disabled artists, training cultural institutions to be more open to disabled people, and running participatory arts and development programmes.

[www.shapearts.org.uk](http://www.shapearts.org.uk) and [www.twitter.com/shapearts](https://www.twitter.com/shapearts)

**Artsadmin** enables artists to create without boundaries, producing bold interdisciplinary work to connect with local, national and international audiences. At Toynbee Studios in East London, Artsadmin have established a centre for the creation and presentation of new work. Their advisory service supports artists at every stage of their development with free advice and opportunities.

[www.artsadmin.co.uk](http://www.artsadmin.co.uk) and [www.twitter.com/artsadm](https://www.twitter.com/artsadm)

**Arts Council England** champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2010 and 2015, we will invest £1.9 billion of public money from

government and an estimated £1.1 billion from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.

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

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