

# UNLIMITED...

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**Unlimited, the largest supporter of disabled artists worldwide, announces latest awards with over £120,000 to support the development of ambitious new artistic work**



Unlimited, the arts commissioning programme which supports disabled artists to create and present exceptional work across all art forms, today announces its 13 latest awards to artists to develop ambitious new work.

Funded by Arts Council England, Arts Council of Wales, British Council and Spirit of 2012, and delivered by Shape Arts and Artsadmin, Unlimited has provided nearly £2

million to disabled artists since 2013 through commissions and awards. Unlimited-supported commissions include high-profile works such as Liz Carr's 'Assisted Suicide: The Musical', Touretteshero's 'Backstage in Biscuit Land' and Noëmi Lakmaier's 'Cherophobia'.

These new projects are supported through two different awards:

- 7 Research and Development (R&D) Awards, for mid-career artists to explore a new creative project, including 1 R&D Award supported by Wellcome Trust, for an artist to develop a creative project that engages with health and science research;
- 6 Emerging Artist Awards, for artists who are still early in their career to develop or produce a new artwork or participatory project.

"Wellcome are delighted to be working in partnership with Unlimited to support one of the 2018 R&D awards. We hope Wellcome's funding will encourage the development of exciting and innovative ways that health or science research is explored in the creative process and how this collaboration might offer different perspectives to both the artist's practice and the work of researchers. We're eager to see how the commissions evolve and the new and ambitious work that will develop out of this."

– Saphia Bishop, Public Engagement, Wellcome Trust

The 2018 awarded artists and works include:

- **I was naked, smelling of rain** by **Aidan Moesby**, a series of artworks that explore technology, wellbeing and the weather.
- **TrueLove** by **Jane Gauntlett**, a dark comedy combining interactive theatre and Augmented Reality to explore the impact of shared data and technology on our future encounters and relationships.
- **A Very Queer Nazi Faust** by **Vince Laws**, an experimental participatory performance celebrating homosexuality and highlighting issues around cuts to disability benefits.

"This latest batch of fantastic artworks in receipt of Unlimited's awards showcases perfectly disabled people's immense capacity for artistic brilliance. These eclectic, ambitious projects are all so exciting, engaging, provocative and beautiful - I am very much looking forward to seeing how they develop, and am delighted that they serve to illustrate so well the importance and successes of Shape's own mission: for disabled people to break creative barriers in the arts."

– David Hevey, Chief Executive, Shape Arts

"This round of Unlimited commissions demonstrates the compelling artistic projects that are being created by disabled artists today. Engaging with issues such as identity, wellbeing, climate change, homelessness and data, we look forward to seeing the creative risks and fresh perspectives that these artists will take. Artsadmin is proud to

be partner on Unlimited, a project whose bold radicality and mission for inclusion very much chimes with our own ethos."

– Cecilia Wee, Head of Artist Development, Artsadmin

The works were selected from 200 applications by two selection panels comprising arts sector professionals, including Paul Bonham (Arts Council England), Ruth Gould (DaDaFest), Tamsin Ace (Southbank Centre), independent artist Richard Butchins, and independent curator Rose Lejeune.

"I am delighted to see yet another exciting set of projects funded through this wonderful 2012 legacy project, Unlimited. The programme and awards have gone from strength to strength over the years, and I am so pleased that artists and audiences have benefited so much not just from the work itself, but also from the expert advice and support provided by the programme leads Shape Arts and Artsadmin. This new set of projects will be appearing at events and venues right across the country, featuring a variety of art forms. No excuses - get out there and enjoy!"

– Joyce Wilson, London Area Director, Arts Council England

"With so many high quality applications spread across different artforms and tackling a wide variety of issues, this year's selection process was stimulating and enriching. The British Council is committed to support work by disabled artists and I was impressed by the extraordinary creativity of the proposals. I hope to work with some of these artists on future international projects."

– Carole McFadden, Theatre and Dance Programme Manager, British Council

"Spirit of 2012 was established to break down barriers between disabled and non-disabled people through culture and the arts, as well as sport. We know that disabled artists have to fight harder than most for recognition and reward, so we are very proud to help fund these awards to encourage new and emerging talent to reach and inspire wider audiences. We look forward to seeing the six Emerging artists realise their ambitions and create new, challenging and inspiring work for the next generation of talent to aspire to."

– Debbie Lye, Chief Executive, Spirit of 2012

Current Unlimited commissions, awarded in 2017, including five international collaborations, will feature as major highlights of Southbank Centre's September 2018 Unlimited Festival.

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

**Image: Joel Brown and Eva Mutso – 111, 2017; photo by Vik Singh Taak**

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## Notes to Editors

### About the 2018 awardees

#### R&D Awards

- **Adrian Lee – 'Metamorphoses'**  
Music, London
- **Aidan Moesby – 'I was naked, smelling of rain'**  
Visual arts, North England
- **Jane Gauntlett – 'TrueLove'**  
Combined arts, London
- **Jess Thom – 'Language Generating Machine'**  
Combined Arts, London
- **Laurence Clark – 'Cured'**  
Theatre, North England
- **Sophie Woolley – 'Augmented.'**  
Theatre, London

#### Wellcome R&D Award

- **Jamie Beddard – 'Delicate'**  
Combined arts, London

#### Emerging Artists Commissions

- **Amy Rosa – 'Gallanach'**  
Visual arts, Scotland
- **David Tovey – 'Man on Bench Fairytale'**  
Combined arts (participatory project), London
- **Felix Peckitt – 'The Goldilocks Mixer'**  
Visual arts (participatory project), South East England
- **Joel Brown – '111'**  
Dance, London
- **Neal Pike – TENTACLES**  
Literature (participatory project), Midlands
- **Vince Laws – 'A Very Queer Nazi Faust'**  
Combined arts (participatory project), South East England

**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 has been delivered by the disability-led arts organisation Shape Arts and arts-producing organisation Artsadmin since 2013, and is funded from 2016-20 by Arts Council England, Arts Council of Wales, British Council and Spirit of 2012. Since 2013 Unlimited has awarded nearly £2 million to ambitious disabled artists working in theatre, visual arts, literature and music. These artworks resulted in over 2,300 performance and exhibition days, which were seen by more than 132,000 people.

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

[www.twitter.com/weareunltd](https://www.twitter.com/weareunltd)

[www.facebook.com/weareunltd](https://www.facebook.com/weareunltd)

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

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

[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)

[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 2015 and 2018, we will invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million 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)

**Arts Council of Wales** is responsible for funding and developing the arts in Wales. Arts Council of Wales is an independent charity, established by Royal Charter in 1994. Its members are appointed by the Welsh Government's Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure. Its principal sponsor is the Welsh Government and they also distribute funding from the National Lottery and raise additional money where we can from a variety of public and private sector sources. Working together with the Welsh

Government, they are able to show how the arts are helping to meet the Government's policy ambitions.

[www.arts.wales](http://www.arts.wales)

**The British Council** is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We work with over 100 countries in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Last year we reached over 65 million people directly and 731 million people overall including online, broadcasts and publications. We make a positive contribution to the countries we work with - changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We receive 15 per cent core funding grant from the UK government.

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

**Spirit of 2012** is a funding charity, established by the Big Lottery Fund with a £47m endowment from the National Lottery. Spirit was founded to continue and recreate the spirit of pride, positivity and social connectedness that people experienced during the London 2012 Games. Spirit funds projects that bring people together – to learn something new, do something different, or experience something unique – and that leave behind a social legacy of increased wellbeing at an individual level, as well as happier and more connected communities. For more information as well as up-to-date news on all Spirit's projects and funding opportunities, go to [www.spiritof2012.org.uk](http://www.spiritof2012.org.uk).

**Wellcome** exists to improve health for everyone by helping great ideas to thrive. We're a global charitable foundation, both politically and financially independent. We support scientists and researchers, take on big problems, fuel imaginations and spark debate.

[www.wellcome.ac.uk](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk)

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