

Please tell us about yourself and your creative practice (up to 1,800 characters including spaces)

I describe my work as socially engaged environmental portraiture, focusing on subcultures and underrepresented communities. I spend as much time as I can with subjects in order to fully engage with their personal stories.

I now have 10 years' professional editorial photography experience, but also the passion to develop more abstract and lyrical ideas in collaboration with professionals in the field who can help me make this step change in my career.

Although my self-initiated projects are successful, they would absolutely benefit from the time and financial investment of a DYCP grant. Having reflected on my work to date, furthering my technical skills to work with large format cameras would allow me to realise my vision of slowing down my approach and working on even more impactful projects.

Exhibitions to date and their role in my creative development:

2020 ... funded by... Self-initiated project, from concept to completion.

2018 ... award-winning exhibition at My 1st major commission for ...

2018 ... Portrait of Britain winning image, published in the 1st Portrait of Britain book and shown UK-wide. Self-initiated.

2017 ...British Art Show Fringe.... 2nd ACE-funded project. Self-initiated.

2012 ... shown at ... Festival. Self-initiated. Editorial coverage of an international LGBTQ event.

2010 Exhibited with Manchester Pride and Birmingham Shout! Festival. 1st ACE funded project, produced with Self-initiated.

My press photography has been published by the Guardian, Daily Telegraph, Sunday Times, Vice magazine, Daily Bulletin (AUS), Irish Times and other international publications.

Tell us about the developmental opportunity you want to undertake, what you hope to get out of it, and how you will go about it. (up to 1,500 characters)

Stage 1. R&D. Jan to June

1 day ... course at ...

6 month mentoring programme with ... to:

- discuss ideas with mentors

- collaborate with photographers

- plan future projects
- evaluate and market my work
- learn to make my work sustainable and manage the effects of Covid.

I will study ... photographic archive and compare it with work held at ... exploring photographers such as ... who documented ... and using their work as visual references for a new project (see below).

Stage 2. Making New Work. June - Dec

..... will explore as it embarks on It will tell the story of ... investigating themes such as

I will draw on my experience to date as a portrait photographer, reference other photographers' work (see above), and experiment with a new poetic approach.

I will draw on my personal history of growing up in ... linking it to my current life as a ... resident. The final images will be edited with mentor ...

Having worked as a press photographer for 5+ years in ..., I will use my network of contacts with diverse communities to develop relationships and find subjects to photograph.

› **Why is this important for your practice at this point, and how will this help create future opportunities? (up to 1,500 characters)**

Lockdown has given me space to reflect and time to reappraise my practice. I can now see the direction my work needs to go in to reach the next stage of my development. DYCP funding at this time is important as it will allow me to put these ideas into action. Not only will my activity plan be a springboard to a new phase of my career, but my ideas are fresh and relevant to the city at this particular point in history. Capturingnow ... is a single moment that won't be repeated. It is a one-off opportunity in terms of subject but also in my career development. By capturing ... now I will position myself as a prominent artist working here, and will be better positioned to take the opportunities on offer.

Large format will help me slow down my process, moving away from editorial photography, which necessitates speed, towards a more thoughtful approach towards subjects and communities. This funding would set me off on a new journey, and learning new techniques at this point in my career will enable me to work across a wider range of media, making me a better artist in the future.

My aim is to apply for a project grant to exhibit this work in 2022.