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OPEN CALL

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## Open Call for Artist/Photographer proposals UK-Gulf Photography Project

### Introduction

This open call invites artists and photographers who meet the eligibility requirements below to submit proposals for new work to be included in *The Place I Call Home*, a touring exhibition curated by David Drake, Director of Ffotogallery Wales, commissioned by the British Council, that uses photography and lens-based media to explore the notion of home as it relates to contemporary experiences of the Arabic diaspora living in the UK and British people living in the Gulf.

The exhibition is part of a Gulf-wide initiative between January 2017 and March 2020 to create new opportunities to develop mutual understanding and respect through sharing and appreciating Gulf and UK culture, history and heritage.

### The Place I Call Home

Feeling 'at home' in a place embodies many things - a sense of belonging, familiarity, acceptance, independence, security and prospects. 'Home' is a word with a strong emotional resonance, beyond its literal meaning of the 'place one lives'. Home is represented by a combination of factors, affinity with the place where one resides, by the proximity of family and friends, by personal and community identity, by how one lives and works, by shared values and experiences.

With the huge transformational changes happening in the Gulf region and UK – geopolitical, economic, social and cultural – the question of how we create places and spaces where we feel at home is a highly pertinent one. Real estate opportunity, the immense new wealth from oil, gas and mineral extraction, globalisation and technology are powerful drivers for trade and business growth. Equally, intercultural exchange, education, innovation and creativity offer momentum for positive societal change such as increased freedom and mobility, health and wellbeing, diversity and inclusion, and environmental sustainability. These factors make our cities and neighbourhoods more liveable, our communities more vibrant and harmonious, and our sense of belonging stronger.

**The Place I Call Home** is an exhibition curated by David Drake, Director of Ffotogallery, the national photography agency for Wales, that uses photography and lens-based media to explore the notion of home as it relates to contemporary experiences of the Arabic diaspora living in the UK and British people living in the Gulf.

The exhibition, which will be presented in the six GCC countries and UK in 2019/20, will have three interweaving themes:

- **Place-Making:** how planning, design, culture, environmental and technological considerations create a better city or neighbourhood
- **Interculturalism:** promoting dialogue and interaction between cultures to challenge isolation and self-segregation within cultures
- **Citizenship:** social responsibility, leadership, hospitality, inclusion, respect and tolerance

The overall curatorial strategy is to ensure:

- Exhibition content is high quality, contemporary and relevant to and tailored to the needs of the target audience, respecting cultural sensitivities and media content restrictions and controls in the Gulf and UK
- The exhibition content and public programme stimulate an intercultural dialogue focusing on shared history and culture, and debate which is future facing and globally oriented showing how the world is changing and the new opportunities that presents for young people in the Gulf and UK
- The exhibition is accompanied by a combination of physical activities and resources (e.g. talks and events, portfolio reviews, publications) and immersive online engagements (downloadable web resources, use of social media platforms for presentations, debates and creative participation)
- The print and online resources are published bilingually English- Arabic (catalogue, learning resources, mirror website, social media)

### **Focus of the Open Call**

#### Eligibility

It is envisaged that up to 12 photographers/lens-based artists will be commissioned from GCC nationals currently or recently resident in the UK and British nationals with current or recent experience of living and working in the Gulf. The GCC countries involved are Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar.

Responding to the exhibition themes, the commissioned artists/photographers will create new work around the shared stories of people from the Gulf living in the UK and British people living in the Gulf region. The resulting work will be creative rather than purely documentary, and explore the three interweaving themes of the exhibition and accompanying public programme.

We welcome proposals from artists who work in photography, video and lens-based media, digital imaging, installation and mixed media. The proposal can be for entirely new work, or a development of work in progress or a relevant project with a local focus that can be extended to other areas in the Gulf region/UK. As well as the opportunity to travel within the particular country of residence and between the GCC countries and the UK, depending on the focus of the artist's proposal, we welcome proposals from artists who work with archival and 'found' photography in the production of new work.

Commissions will be awarded in early September, and the new work needs to be produced in the period September 2018 – January 2019. The curator will provide support and advice throughout the production period and around the selection, edit and production of the exhibition.

#### **How much is each commission?**

Each commissioned artist/photographer will receive a £5,000 artist fee (to include all production costs, taxes and expenses), payable in two instalments.

Print, production and installation costs relating to the exhibition will be met by Ffotogallery from the core exhibition budget.

### **How to apply for a commission**

Artists and photographers are invited to submit proposals electronically to Liz Hewson, Production Coordinator, Ffotogallery, by **Monday 17 September 2018**

The submission address is [liz@ffotogallery.org](mailto:liz@ffotogallery.org)

Proposals should be in the form of:

- 1) Statement of the nature of the work to be produced and its relevance to the exhibition themes, timescale and process, your experience and why you are eligible (maximum 500 words)
- 2) Examples of previous work (web links, jpegs, pdf)
- 3) Brief artist/photographer CV (six pages maximum, including full contact details and those for two professional contacts who can provide references)

Any questions about eligibility or the terms of reference for the exhibition should be directed to Liz Hewson, Production Coordinator, Ffotogallery [liz@ffotogallery.org](mailto:liz@ffotogallery.org) by not later than 30 August 2018.