

The Alfred Arcade Banner Commission 2024

Open Call

The Brief

'a space' arts are looking to commission a new artwork that will be printed on a banner and hung on back of The Alfred Arcade on Old Northam Road, overlooking the railway. The work could be a collection of words or a phrase containing a message to daily commuters or visitors to the city; or it might refer to artistic activity.

This is the fourth in a series of banner commissions for Old Northam Road. Please see Appendix 2 for examples of previous works: *'Your Existence is Everything'* by Jo Carson, *'Move Past This'* by Issac Fravashi and *'Do You Want What You Want'* by Signe Eliza Pook.

Location and context

The Alfred Arcade is a unique gallery space with six exhibition/studio spaces and a terrace at the back which overlooks the railway. A stone's throw from the city centre, the gallery is situated on Old Northam Road, which is home to a growing community of artists.

In the past, the street was a busy and bustling place in the heart of the city. It became known as the 'antiques-quarter' in the 60s and 70s and attracted visitors from all over the world. In 1988, however, the new dual carriageway and Six Dials interchange were built, leaving Old Northam Road cut off from the rest of the city. Since then, many vendors have gone elsewhere, leaving behind long rows of beautiful Victorian shop fronts.

'a space' arts acquired the Alfred Arcade in 2018 and launched a programme of exhibitions and events in partnership with Solent University, Winchester School of Art and University of Southampton, showcasing the work of recent graduates. Since then, the project has expanded into two other venues on the street, the Hidden Wardrobe and the Alfred Arms.

Today the project is called RIPE. Its primary aim is to support graduate artists in the city to exhibit and engage in artistic exchange and experimentation, forming networks and friendships that will help them sustain a fruitful visual arts practice here in Southampton.

The Commission

- The artwork must be text based
- The artwork will be seen predominantly by passengers on the passing trains. The work may relate to the daily commute or appeal to visiting tourists. It may also be inspired by the site's location and history.
- The banner may hint at, or refer to the artistic activity which takes place on Old Northam Road

- The selected artist may simply contribute the words for this commission and work with staff from 'a space' arts to choose the type and design of the banner, or take a lead on the design. The final artwork will need to be simple and easy to read.
- The banner will be approximately 9m x 1m.
- The artist will be required to give a short talk about the work during the evening of the launch on Friday, 5th April.

Timeline

Monday 15th January - Monday 5th February, 9:00am > Open call

Monday 5th - Monday 12th February > The 'a space' arts team will review applications and make a blind selection of between two and four proposals, which will be put to a public vote

Wednesday 14th February - Wednesday 28th February > Public vote

Friday 1st May > Winning artist and artwork is announced

Monday 4th May - Monday 25th May > Production period, managed by 'a space' arts.

W/C Monday 25th May > Artwork installed

Friday 5th April > Launch event. The artist will be invited to give a short talk.

Fee

There is a flat fee of £250 for the commissioned artist. Production, installation and printing costs will be paid by 'a space' arts.

How to apply

To submit an application for this commission or if you have any questions, please email Mia Delve at mia@spacearts.org.uk by **Monday 5th February at 9am**.

Submissions must include:

- Your proposed text
- Any thoughts or ideas about the design
- 100 words about your research and development

Access

As an organisation we actively look to reduce barriers for artists applying for our opportunities and commissions, and we are committed to being fair, accessible, transparent and inclusive.

We offer a range of access support for artists, including alternative formats for information we release and submissions we receive as well as an artist access fund; please contact us so that we can discuss your individual needs and provide appropriate support for your application or project. Please either email us on enquiries@spacearts.org.uk or call 07824326005.

For more information about this work please visit - spacearts.org.uk/about-us

About 'a space' arts

Established in 2000, by artists for artists, 'a space' arts is a visual arts organisation leading on a range of artist development projects, including the Arches Studios, God's House Tower, the RIPE programme, along with offering a bespoke range of Artist Resources. The organisation is a registered charity and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

For more further information and an overview of our work please visit - aspacearts.org.uk
For project specific information please visit - godshousetower.org.uk and ripesouthampton.org.uk

Anti-racism

To further our mission we are taking proactive steps to becoming an anti-racist organisation. We have pledged to deliver a number of commitments through our Anti-Racism Action Plan over the next two years along with a series of activities to bring immediate benefits to global majority artists. We feel this combination of working towards long-term change and immediate action can make a real difference to Southampton's global majority visual artists and we plan to continue working on this dual approach.

For more information about this work please visit - aspacearts.org.uk/about-us

Climate Action

As a cultural organisation it is our responsibility to raise awareness, as well as reducing and mitigating our own environmental impact. The environmental impact of this commission will be monitored and steps will be taken to reduce CO2 emissions where appropriate.

Please find attached the following supporting documents:

Appendix 1 - Examples of related artworks

Appendix 2 - Photographs of the site with previous commissions

Appendix 1 - Examples of related artworks.

1. Ed Ruscha, *Honey, I Twisted Through More Damn Traffic Today*



2. Robert Montgomery, *All Palaces are Temporary Palaces*



3. Tracey Emin, *I Want My Time With You*



4. Isabella Martin, *Seabound*.

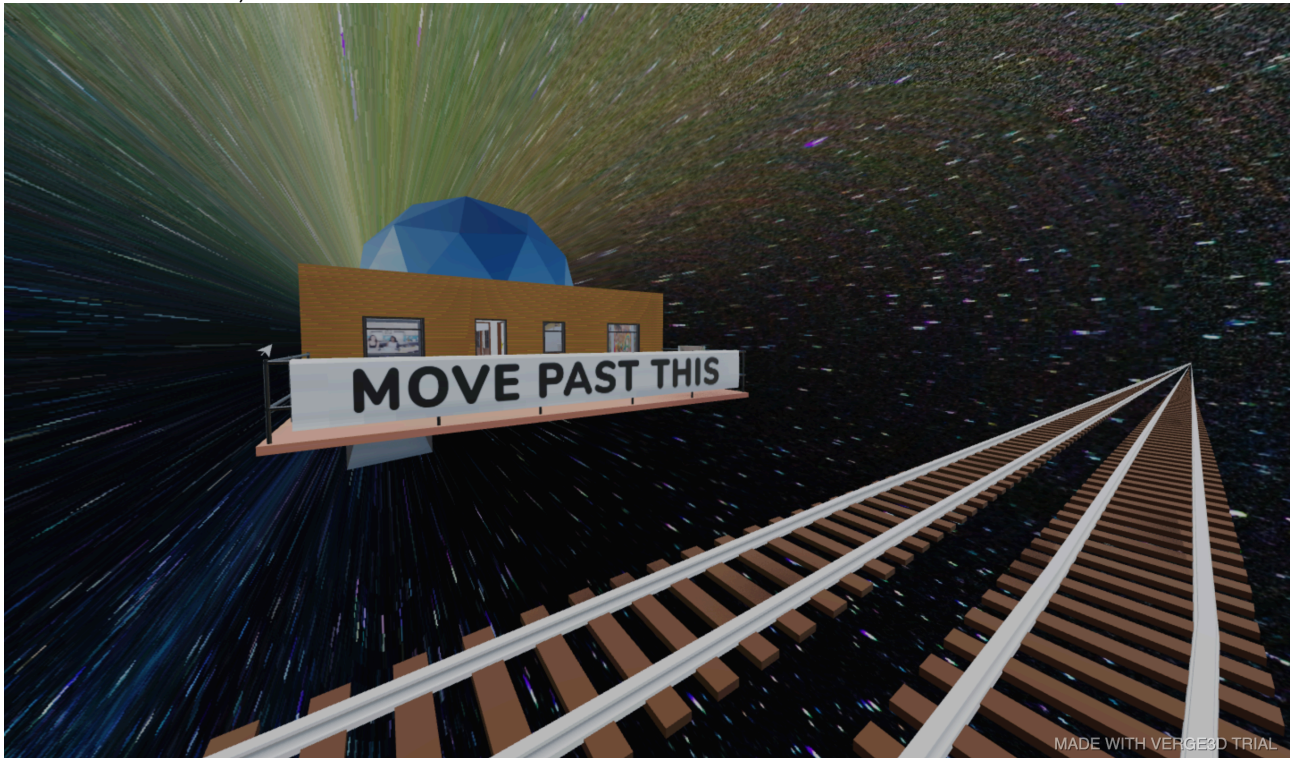


Appendix 2 - Photographs of the site with previous commissions (IRL and URL)

1. Jo Carson, *Your Existence is Everything*



2. Issac Fravashi, *Move Past This*



3. Signe Eliza Pook, *Do You Want What You Want?*

DO YOU WANT WHAT YOU WANT?