



SUMMARY

Remote Performances is a new programme of events centering on Outlandia, (the remotely sited artists fieldstation and studio and a legacy project of the Year of Highland Culture 2007). *Remote Performances* will involve a series of new residencies enabling invited UK based artists, working in a range of disciplines, to creatively respond to this specific rural environment of mountain, forest and river; bird, flora and fauna. The invited artists will be commissioned to create a series of live performances in and around Outlandia for radio broadcast. In addition a series of *Remote Performance* workshops will be offered to schools and youth groups at Outlandia to facilitate engagement with the natural environment through creative activities to include creative writing, photography, sculpture, film and performance.

A major outcome of the project will be a publication *Remote Performances* to be launched in Fort William, Edinburgh and London and distributed internationally. Outlandia is a unique and nationally significant element within the Nevis landscape. The *Remote Performances* project will extend the reach of Outlandia to both local and national audiences.

Ben Nevis has a rich history of inspiring both scientific and artistic exploration, provoking new ways of thinking. The intellectual and artistic heritage of the area will be made more tangible and accessible by raising awareness of Outlandia and its outputs.

Project Description

Remote Performances will be based on a series of new residencies and radio broadcasts that will take place in and around Outlandia.

Outlandia offers an imaginative space to immerse its occupants in a very particular environment, provoking responses to and encouraging creative interaction between artists and the land.

Outlandia, conceived by London Fieldworks, and designed by Malcolm Fraser Architects, is remotely sited on Forestry Commission land in Glen Nevis. The physical position of Outlandia in Glen Nevis, with a view directly to Ben Nevis, two miles from the town of Fort William, provides a complex relationship between geography and creativity: an intense relationship between place and artist, enabling an emotional and intellectual intimacy with the structure, its surroundings and its seasons. Outlandia is a place of escape and creative generation and aims to create opportunities for artists to engage with the natural environment in Scotland, and to help encourage communities to benefit from woods and forests.

The selected artists will explore their practice in relation to this unique environment; in particular exploring relationships between live networks, ourselves and the world; inhabiting media; landscapes of history and memory; environmental soundscapes; mobility in the landscape; environmental depletion and environmental anxiety. The *Remote Performances* might include dialogues on the artists' artmaking strategies, readings of poetry or stories, soundworks, conversations with other people living and working in the area with a range of

specialisms and experience in, for examples, the arts, forestry, mountain culture, wildlife and local history.

Since it opened in 2010 Outlandia has hosted 25 short artists' residencies documented on www.outlandia.com. These residencies have been inspirational and contributed to the development of artists' practice as a result. There have been artist talks, poetry readings, open studio events and walks to Outlandia that have proved popular with the local community. This project will build on these past residencies and activities to further integrate and embed the project in the local community and to reach out to a national and international audience.

Remote Performances will encourage positive human engagement with the natural world. It will demonstrate the ways in which art in the landscape can bring new perspectives about place to local communities and provide additional value to conservation and management strategies for the benefit of society.

DELIVERABLE OUTPUTS

The *Remote Performances* will be created for dissemination to a wide audience through radio broadcasts – these will be presented in collaboration with stations that will include; BBC Radio Scotland, BBC Radio 3, BBC Radio 4, Resonance FM and Nevis Radio, and will be a mixture of monologues, dialogues, soundworks, interviews and discussions. In addition we are in discussion with Edinburgh Art Festival about developing a series of “live transmissions” from Outlandia for the 2014 festival and an exhibition resulting from artists' residencies for the festival in 2015.

A proposed publication *Remote Performances* will explore the ways in which being in the field impacts on artists and permeates through to the artworks they create. It will consider the use of the tools and modalities of geographical knowledge in contemporary art, including maps and mapmaking, fieldwork methodologies, and documentary practices. It will explore and reflect on human engagement with environment and offer different perspectives on landscape. It will chart the artists' explorations of the ecological and cultural value of the natural environment, questioning our perceptions and relationships to landscape, climate and their changes. The book aims to compile an inspiring collection of ways to think differently about our relationship with the changing natural environment.

The esteemed nature writer Robert Macfarlane, Outlandia's patron and author of *Mountains of the Mind*, *Wild Places* and *The Old Ways*, will write a foreword for the publication. Artists Bruce Gilchrist & Jo Joelson (London Fieldworks) who initiated and developed Outlandia will write the introduction to the book. The dialogues with local experts from a range of disciplines (such as mountaineering, forestry, environmental management, tourism) will form the main part of the publication, alongside visual material from the artists' residencies in Outlandia. Tracey Warr, an author, academic, and researcher who has had a long-term involvement with Outlandia since its inception, will write the conclusion, drawing together key points from all the dialogues. The book will be launched at the Mountain Festival, Fort William, in London and at the Edinburgh Art Festival to reach an international audience. At each launch there will be performances from the participating artists. The artists chosen for the residencies and remote performances will be established and chosen for their engagement with art and landscape.

A series of *Remote Performance* workshops will be offered to schools and youth groups in and around Outlandia to facilitate engagement with the natural environment through creative activities such as:

creative writing, photography, film and performance. The workshops will be led by the artists alongside a range of experts working in the local environment. A selection of the creative work produced by the young people will be included on the Outlandia website and broadcast on local radio.

OUTPUT INDICATORS AND TARGETS

Remote Performances will:

- Provide residencies at Outlandia for 8-10 artists/artist groups.
- Lead 6 workshops for a total of 60 young people
- Develop a series of radio broadcasts to reach a projected local, national and international audience of approx 500,000.
- Develop a series of live transmissions/exhibition with Edinburgh Art Festival, reaching a
- potential audience of approx. 300,000 over 3 weeks.
- Create a publication with a print run of 4,000 and international distribution
- Host 4 book launches with live performances reaching an approx audience of 3000.
- Reach and inspire new audiences through activities at the Fort William Mountain Film Festival.
- Make artistic works more accessible through an annual exhibition/event.

OUTCOMES

This programme of activity will allow Outlandia to permeate into the local community and beyond developing its profile and reach. Through its development Outlandia will build links with local schools, colleges, artist and gallery networks across Lochaber and beyond, forge lasting partnerships that will strive to contribute to the creative economy and rural culture helping contribute to rural regeneration and environmental sustainability.

This project will explore the connection between human society and the wild and managed environment of Glen Nevis. What it means to be in this environment, how it is changing and how artists' perspectives can encourage us to review our relationship with nature.

ACTIVITIES AND TIMETABLE

July 2014: Planning meeting – London Fieldworks and NLP Manager: ensure range of audiences fully engaged, and range of landscape heritage covered by artists

July-Sept 2014: Artists in residence at Outlandia – conducting and recording interviews / dialogues / conversations / Live Performances. A series of Live transmissions to Edinburgh Art Festival and Radio Broadcasts. Video documentation of the process.

July-Sept 2014: Public Events in Fort William – Artists' Talks / In Conversation / Workshops for Schools and Youth Groups.

Aug/Sept 2014: Review meeting - London Fieldworks and NLP Manager: Analysis of process, engagement and outputs. Implement any necessary changes

30 Oct 2014: Deadline for Publication Foreword, Introduction, Residencies Materials, Conclusion, Biographies, Bibliography.

Nov 2014-Apr 2015: Publication Content Editing.

Feb 2015: *Remote Performances* event at Mountain Festival, Fort William (including artist performances and video showing).

May 2015: Publication Design/Layout.

June 2015: Publication to Print.

Aug-Sept 2015: Publication Launches in London, Oxford, Edinburgh and Fort William. Exhibition of residency artworks and other outputs in Fort William and Edinburgh Art Festival.

4 Annual displays/events (2014-2019) TBA

EVIDENCE, REVIEW AND REPORTING

Records of attendance of school workshops will be kept – artistic outputs being recorded digitally – with some being showcased at the Mountain Festival (including video documentation of the project)

Number of attendees at all Public Events will be recorded and reported to the NLP scheme Manager. Audience figures from broadcasts and live transmissions (e.g. at EAF) will be recorded.

Radio broadcasts will be recorded for digital upload to Nevis Website and Outlandia Website.

Photographs of Artists works will be uploaded to Nevis Website and Outlandia website. The NLP manager will meet with London Fieldworks prior to the start of the project to attend an artists residence and workshop, meet with London Fieldworks and review process, public engagement, outputs.

Number of Publications distributed will recorded.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

The project conserves the area's association with artistic inspiration and creative thinking. Contemplation on complex issues such, as climate change, habitat and our place in nature are essential precursors to conservation.

The conservation movement itself was founded on the remote and often solitary contemplations of luminaries such as John Muir, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Aldo Leopold, Arne Naess, etc...

The project will fundamentally encourage a wider range of audiences to contemplate the landscape and its many layers of value. This is the starting point for any social change towards an increased care for our shared heritage.

The project will aim to increase locals' perception of their natural environment, encouraging a greater sense of pride and appreciation of the local area, helping to build community cohesion and understanding. It is hoped that this will in turn lead the community to act collaboratively and engage in ongoing activities to maintain and improve the area.

BENEFICIARIES & COMMUNICATION

This project aims to benefit:

Creative Practitioners - by expanding their practice during the residencies at Outlandia through engagement with this unique environment and an opportunity to create a work for radio broadcast, live transmission, publication and exhibition;

Young People – by participating in the workshops will be given the opportunity to experiment with different media and learn new skills from professional practising artists to create their own creative responses to the landscape and project themes;

Local Communities - through attending the artists' talks and events in Fort William will gain new perspectives about their surrounding environment and by seeing and hearing creative responses will gain new insights and understanding;

Local, National and International Audiences – by listening to the radio broadcasts, attending the live transmission events, exhibitions and publication launches they will have an opportunity to understand the value of artists engaging with the natural environment and the merit in bringing these experiences to a wider audience.

Each of the events will be publicised through relevant media (e.g. through local and national press, mailing lists, websites and online portals).

Key messages of the project:

- deliver an innovative project in support of rural community development, the creative rural economy, arts and rural regeneration, rural tourism and social inclusion initiatives
- contribute to the debate aimed at supporting sustainable approaches to enjoyment of the natural environment
- encourage and support contemporary arts practitioners to unlock their creative talents and achieve their full cultural potential
- engage young people through creative skill sharing and documenting and creating responses to the natural environment and landscape of Glen Nevis
- document and draw attention to the importance of engaging positively with and conserving the landscape for future generations

WIDER CONTEXT

The Project interlinks with many of the other NLP scheme projects – particularly: Celebrating the Wild, Future Forests, Pinewood Restoration, Ben Nevis Film+

PROJECT BUY-IN

Curatorial/programming expertise - Sorcha Carey (Director of Edinburgh Art Festival)
Writer/Academic, Tracey Warr (Publication Editor)

Writer/Patron of Outlandia, Robert Macfarlane (Publication Foreword)

Residency Artists (tbc)

Workshop Leaders (tbc)

Radio Producers (tbc)

PROJECT LEAD

Bruce Gilchrist & Jo Joelson
(London Fieldworks)

London Fieldworks have over 15 years experience of producing and delivering ambitious projects and commissions to deadline and budget. Since 2006 a number of these projects have been commissioned for the public realm and have involved multi-sector working, including numerous outdoor projects and installations for which community consultation, planning permissions, management of health and safety issues and care for the environment have been critical. The artists have been creating projects in Lochaber since 2003 (including outreach projects for young people and schools groups).

London Fieldworks have been supported by numerous funders and sponsors including: British Council, Arts Council England, Scottish Arts Council, Arts and Business, Highland 2007, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Arts & Humanities Research Council, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Henry Moore Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts (USA), Channel 4, ICA/Toshiba.

Their projects have attracted awards and prizes including;

ICA Best Experimental Short Film at the London Short Film Festival 2014;
AJ (Architects Journal) Small Projects Award shortlist for Outlandia, 2011;
Ars Electronica, Honorary Mention Hybrid Arts, Linz, Austria, 2010;
AJ (Architects Journal) Small Projects Award shortlist for Superkingdom, 2009;
Vida 10.0 Special Mention for Hibernator: prince of the petrified forest, Madrid, 2007;
Millennium Fellowships award by the British Association for the Advancement of Science & The Royal Society, 2000.

Outlandia is also strongly supported by Forestry Commission Scotland. The rest of the Partnership, greatly value the significance of Outlandia and wish to support its growth and extension to a wider audience.

PARTNERS / CONTRACTORS ETC.

Forestry Commission (landowners)
West Highland College
Lochaber schools

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Since the original round one proposal, a process of consultation and stakeholder dialogue has evolved the thinking of the Partnership. The original idea of an interactive salmon sculpture was seen as simply trying to repeat something that had happened in Kinlochleven with limited success. On deeper analysis of the role of art and creativity within the landscape and the scheme, it was deemed far better value for money and more appropriate to extend and grow Outlandia. Outlandia is unique and significant, with few parallels, yet remains relatively unknown amongst visiting and local communities.

Greater impact, sustainability and legacy will be achieved through developing key elements within the landscape rather than needlessly adding new elements.

BUDGETS

Expenditure:

Artist Residencies: 8 x £500: £4,000
Travel & Accommodation: 8 x £500: £4,000
Broadcast content development & production: £1,000
Publication content development/editing: £1,000
Project management/admin costs: £600
Publication copy editing: £400
Publication Printing/Proofs: £7,000
Publication Launches (x4): £4,000
Distribution: £2,000
Total: £24,000 + vat = £28,800

Income:

Oxford Bookes University: £4,000
Nevis Partnership: £4,800
Arts Council England: £14,000
Creative Scotland: £6,000

Total Income: £28,800

PERMISSIONS AND COMPLIANCE

Outlandia has a lease agreement with Forestry Commission until 2017. This lease provides consent for artistic activity to take place at Outlandia. The lease requires a maintenance report to be carried out yearly which London Fieldworks manage using a local surveyor.

LEGACY AND MAINTENANCE

Remote Performances will inform the local and wider community about Outlandia and it is a hope that through the successful delivery of this project will lead to an increase in funding for future projects and an interest from other organisations/schools/community groups to collaborate or get actively involved.

In addition national and international partnerships will be developed to continue raising the profile and extend the reach of the project through future exhibitions, conference presentations, and publicity.

Broadcasts and images of artists' residencies and works embedded with the Nevis Website and Outlandia Website.

Publication will remain relative and in distribution after the project funding ceases.

During the lifespan of the Nevis Landscape Partnership (June 2014-March 2019), proceeds from sales of the publication will be invested back into the scheme. This income will be used to extend the life of the project, potentially running additional workshops and performances during 2016-2019.

RISKS AND RISK MITIGATION

The key risk is a lack of local engagement with the project - this will be mitigated through closeworking relationships with the Nevis Landscape partnership, local schools, the college and art groups. London Fieldworks carries public indemnity insurance up to 5 million.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

London Fieldworks have experience of delivering a highly successful arts project in Lochaber that benefited the wider community of Fort William and 13 schools from the surrounding Lochaber area. Subsequently Outlandia was commissioned to encourage local artists and those from Scotland and beyond to be inspired and respond to the natural environment of Glen Nevis.



Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba



FOR
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