



DAiSY: Emerging Artist Commissions

This year we are offering Emerging Artist commissions for disabled artists who are based in Surrey. The programme will support artists to develop their practice by offering mentoring from industry professionals and fostering connections with our cultural partners across the county.

Royal Horticultural Society Garden Wisley Partnership Commission

We are proud to offer a partnership commission with RHS Garden Wisley, which aims to help artists foster connections with our cultural partners across the county of Surrey.

The RHS flagship garden at Wisley is one of the UK's most visited and best-loved gardens attracting over one million visitors each year.

The Grade II listed garden has been home to RHS Science since 1903 and the School of Horticulture since 1907 and was designed to be a living laboratory for experimentation and education in horticulture.

Today, Wisley continues to be a national centre for learning and a source of inspiration for millions of gardeners. Its collections are of significant scientific, historical, cultural and social value and interest with many stories hidden from view, waiting to be revealed.

The RHS has been awarded a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to support the transformation at RHS Garden Wisley including inspirational new public engagement programmes with access and inclusion at its heart and to further knowledge, skills and widen engagement to our heritage.

We want to engage more people with the opportunities that gardens provide for improving physical and mental health, and the sense of identity, belonging and happiness along with the proven benefits of engagement with the arts is known to build.

After all, gardens are more than spaces for relaxation and cultivation; they are also creative spaces with great power to develop individual self-expression and artistic potential.

rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley

For this award, there is additional criteria. RHS Garden Wisley encourage applications from artists who would benefit from the use of their spaces to support this award, and also to respond to the theme of **Wellbeing and Mindfulness**.

The commission offer includes:

from DAiSY:

- One-to-one time throughout the commissioning year with an artist mentor. Artists will be supported in their creative practice to develop a piece of work as part of the commission.
- A cash sum of £1000 to pay for materials and other expenses

from RHS Garden Wisley:

- A tour of the gardens
- Arranged study access to the gardens
- An Introduction to Growing workshop
- Access and membership to the libraries, collections and archives (including digital) resources for one year

This commission is open to gifted, emerging artists who identify as disabled, who live, have a base, or work in Surrey, and who are keen for some support to progress their artistic development.

RHS Garden Wisley partnership work with DAiSY is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund #NationalLotteryHeritageFund @heritagefunduk as part of the Wisley Inspiring People to Grow project.



If you wish to apply please complete the short application form downloadable on our website, or if you prefer, record a video (no longer than 5 minutes):

daisyfest.co.uk/rhs-gardens-wisley-partnership-commission/

Applications should be sent to projects@daisyfest.co.uk

The deadline for applying is 9am on Friday 2nd July 2021, with successful applicants being contacted within two weeks.

If you have any questions or require further access support with the application process please talk to us and tell us what works best for you by contacting projects@daisyfest.co.uk and we will get back to you by email or call you back.

About DAiSY

DAiSY is a collection of disability and mental health focused arts organisations which promote and celebrate the great artistic work being created in Surrey. The organisation strives to develop the South East as the lead region in the UK for disability and deaf cultural activity, making Surrey a welcoming and inclusive place for all artists to practice. DAiSY works with its member organisations to share skills, resources and grow together.