

Artistic research and production commission

Justheat: Looking back, moving forwards: a social and cultural history of home heating

Call for expressions of interest for commission for one artist in Romania, one in Finland and one in Sweden.



The commission invites the development of a new body of work that explores individual experiences of keeping warm, home heating, place, and the local, in a context of past and current energy transitions.

Taking place across a year, the commissions involve short time periods spent exploring two selected locations in each country, working alongside researchers interviewing communities, plus time to develop new work, in dialogue with an international community of artists and researchers. There will also be scope to present work in progress, and further exhibition possibilities as the project develops.

We are looking for three artists, one based in each of the three nations (Finland, Romania and Sweden) that meet the following criteria:

- An active contemporary artist working in any medium/or multiple media.
- A proven interest in exploring communities or other people's experiences, or of responding to place.
- Some interest and previous engagement with one (or more) of the core issues of Justheat – this might include the home, warmth, heating, energy, infrastructure, climate change, history, justice, or inequality.
- English language proficiency as all artistic discussion/work with teams is likely to be in English.
- It will also be useful to have basic capacity in the national language- but we do anticipate some scope for support by national teams.
- To have an interest in interdisciplinary discussion.
- Having the flexibility to spend short time periods in field work locations.
- Own work space. We do not provide a studio so the development of works would take place in your existing work place/studio.

About Justheat

Justheat is an international research project bringing together social sciences, oral history and art research to explore experiences of past home heating and energy change, to encourage fair and just transition beyond fossil fuels. The project is a partnership between researchers in Romania, Finland, Sweden and the UK.

<https://www.shu.ac.uk/centre-regional-economic-social-research/projects/all-projects/looking-back-to-move-forward-justheat>

The project is led by Sheffield Hallam University in the UK, with Professor Aimee Ambrose as the principle investigator and artist researcher Becky Shaw to support artists, lead the commission process and work as the UK artist.

<https://www.shu.ac.uk/about-us/our-people/staff-profiles/becky-shaw#firstSection>

Arts Catalyst Sheffield are also advising us on the development of the commissions.

<https://www.artscatalyst.org/>

There are further details about the organisation of Justheat at the bottom of the document.

We are keen to understand the ways that keeping warm and home heating are deeply embedded in people's daily lives including in their work, rest, materials and places. Keeping warm matters to individuals and is also connected to our relationships with family, community and nation. By using both oral history research processes and art we are exploring people's past experiences of home heating from the perspective of the present. Artists' capacity to explore and communicate the temporal, sensory, emotional, personal and political dimensions of experience is an essential part of the project, working alongside researchers from social sciences, architecture, politics and history.

We are particularly keen to understand how people experience change to home heating, such as one when one fuel or heating system is replaced with another. Transition can have unexpected consequences when the specific experiences of different communities are not taken into account by top-down processes. Justheat gathers reflections on past experience to review the present and future, so that policy-makers, energy suppliers and governments can better understand how transition affects individuals and communities, and can avoid exacerbating or creating injustice.

What the commission will involve

The project is organised around two periods of fieldwork in every host country. The final decisions about sites are still being made but are being chosen to give a breadth of different community responses to energy transition. Some of the sites may be rural, suburban or post/industrial, and each will include different relationships to change, framed by unique politics and geographies. Each national project may have slightly different structure/time-frames depending on the needs of the teams.

A period of settling in in **February 2023**, will then be followed by **a period of field-work between February-April**. In this period we anticipate between 4-12 days (as you feel is required) 'hanging out' in the location. As the focus is on personal experiences of heating, we would expect this to involve spending time in places where people gather informally, talking to people, exploring the places, working alongside, and talking to, researchers who

are gathering oral histories and developing visual materials to work with afterwards. Artists will be supported in this period by online conversations with the wider artistic team, and also by the local team of researchers. All artists processes will need to comply with the ethical protocols in each lead university.

After the fieldwork period we would expect the artist to be developing new artwork in response to what they have drawn from the periods of fieldwork and by accessing oral history recordings, and also feeding in other materials to develop into work. There will be at least monthly check-ins remotely with the international artists group during this period including sharing work. There will also be work-in-progress conversations with the national team including discussing how the artist's observations and experiences connect with those of the wider Justheat teams.

In winter 2023 the second period of fieldwork will happen, with a corresponding period of studio work to follow.

Across the project we will also have a UK-based film-maker developing a film about the project, and we anticipate artists meeting with the film-maker and also sending relevant materials for inclusion in the film.

In partnership with local teams we anticipate there will be opportunities to develop works to be shown in community spaces as part of 'stakeholder conversations', and eventually an exhibition in the UK that draws together all artists work. We intend to develop an international touring exhibition but this may be longer term.

Fee

The fee for the whole commission is £13,000 (depending on exchange rate- on 23/11/2022 it is 15026.70 euros) and will be paid in instalments at three key points- at the beginning, before second field work period and at the end. Living accommodation in field work sites and travel will be provided as necessary but there are no additional studio costs provided. Exhibition fees will be additional and will follow national recommendations. While the whole engagement spans a year we understand this as a part-time project, with some periods of more intense work in fieldwork periods. All artworks remain the property of the artists but we would anticipate a shared interest in disseminating documentation of the work.

How to apply

Email in English, using your chosen nation in the email title eg:

Application to Justheat FINLAND or

Application to Justheat ROMANIA or

Application to Justheat SWEDEN.

Include **one** attached document in word or pdf, that includes both:

- A CV

An expression of interest which is no more than 2 pages and describes

- why you would like to undertake this work,
- how you meet the criteria below
- how you imagine the work developing (this will be understood as speculative rather than definite).
- inclusion of examples of your practice via web links to online collections/repositories/web pages.

For clarity, the qualities we are looking for and which you should make evident in your expression of interest are listed below. However, if you feel you meet some and not other aspects we would still encourage you to apply.

- An active contemporary artist working in any medium/or multiple media.
- A proven interest in, and experience of, exploring communities or other people's experiences, or of responding to place
- Some interest and previous engagement with one (or more) of the core issues of Justheat – this might include the home, warmth, heating, energy, infrastructure, climate change, history, justice, or inequality.
- English language proficiency as all artistic discussion/work with teams is likely to be in English.
- It will also be useful to have basic capacity in the national language- but we do anticipate some scope for support by national teams.
- To have an interest in interdisciplinary discussion.
- Having the flexibility to spend short time periods in field work locations.
- Own work space. We do not provide a studio so the development of works would take place in your existing work place/studio.
- To be based in the country where you are applying for the commission, to avoid unnecessary travel internationally as all aspects of the project are being undertaken as sustainably as possible.

For any further questions please do email: Becky Shaw b.shaw@shu.ac.uk

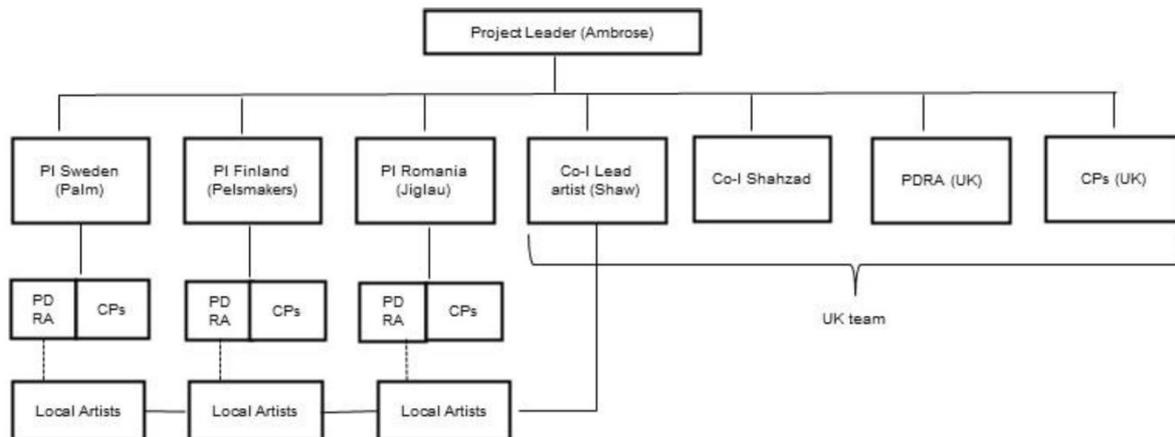
Deadline: 9am GMT December 19th 2022.

Please email all application materials to: cresr@shu.ac.uk

Online interview dates for short-listed artists will take place between 9th-20th January 2023 and you will be notified in early January whether you are shortlisted or not.

Further information on the organisation structure of the Justheat project

Project structure



National team details

The Finnish team is led by Dr Sofie Pelsmakers, Faculty of Built Environment, Tampere University

The Romanian team is led by Dr George Jigla, Political Science, Babes-Bolyai University

The Swedish team is led by Professor Jenny Palm (IIIEE) Lund University.

Funding details

<https://chance.org/justheat/>