

**Connect! is an arts project that happens as part of the Museums at Night festival: it is produced by Culture24 and funded by Arts Council England.**

### **What is Culture24?**

[Culture24](#) is a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity set-up over ten years ago originally as an online publisher.

### **What is Connect!?**

[Connect!](#) is a public vote competition which enables audiences to choose which venue will 'win' an artist to conduct a participatory event during the Museums at Night festival. The project creates new and lasting connections between artists, venues and audiences.

### **What is Museums at Night?**

Museums at Night is the annual UK-wide festival of inspiring after-hours events, which takes place in a huge range of arts, heritage and cultural venues. In 2016 we expect over 600 venues to put on over 900 events in places as diverse as historic ships, national art galleries and heritage allotments!

### **How does Connect! work?**

Connect! is a public vote to choose which one of four cultural venues will 'win' an artist for their Museums at Night event. We invite six artists to take part and each one of the polls will result in each artist leading a participatory event at the winning venue. The process by which we get to the event broadly spans seven stages.

1. Each artist participating in the project provides a statement for the website outlining in general terms the kind of event they would like to conduct
2. An open call goes out to all cultural venues on [the Culture24 network](#) to respond to one of the artists' statements with an individual idea for an event which brings out a connection between the venue's collection and spaces and the artist's practice
3. These venue submissions are shown to the artist, who picks their top five to go ahead to the competition.
4. The competition goes live for two weeks in May 2016 with six polls each consisting of five venues vying for an artist
5. The polls close, the winning venues are announced and introduced to the artists
6. Each artist conducts a site visit to meet the venue and discuss their event
7. The artist led participatory event takes place in October 2016

### **How does the finance work?**

Each participating artist/artist group is paid £2,500 plus the venue is awarded £3,000 to deliver the event. The venue is also expected to contribute at least £830 more towards the event, which can include in-kind support, although they almost always put in a lot more.

### **Who has taken part before?**

The artists that have taken part before have included; **Grayson Perry, Gillian Wearing, Martin Creed, Jessica Voorsanger, Matt Collishaw, Polly Morgan, Spencer Tunick and Julia Vogl.**

The venues that have won the competition and hosted events before have included: **the ss Great Britain in Bristol, the Freud Museum in London, the York Museum, Discovery in Newcastle, Manchester Museum and Art Gallery and Cardiff Story Museum.**