



+++++++ OPPORTUNITY+++++++

### **Art Gene Student Summer Placement 2018**

Art Gene are looking for two students aged 16-25 years old, studying in the borough of Barrow-in-Furness, who would like to work on a placement over the Summer break July until Sept 2018.

### **What is involved?**

**Extreme Views** is Art Gene's current programme which aims to examine the collisions of art, industry and nature in the social landscape. Barrow-in-Furness is ranked first in England for the quality and number of its natural heritage assets. The project hopes to deliver a series of artworks, events and exhibitions which embark upon how the community and the wider world sees these assets.

Working over 6 weeks on agreed days (2-3 days a week) with the Art Gene Project Manager you will be an integral part of the team, planning and delivering the events and workshops. You will have the opportunity to learn new skills within the creative arts industry. This would be an ideal situation for a student looking to improve their understanding of a creative working office environment and the management processes of artistic events.

### **The successful candidates will be expected to:**

- Assist with administrative tasks using Microsoft Word/Excel
- Assist with flyer design using Adobe Photoshop/Illustrator (knowledge not essential but a willingness to learn)
- Assist in documenting the activities with photography and film
- Promote the events through flyering and social media.
- Assist with the setting up of the events
- Telephone and door duties
- Meeting and greeting the community
- A willingness to facilitate the activities on the day
- Be willing to do tasks required for the projects



### **This is a voluntary, unpaid opportunity so why do a placement with Art Gene?**

- Significantly improves your CV, gain a good reference and thus enhance your future employment prospects;
- Being able to apply the theory and practice gained during your academic studies in a real-life working context, and to appreciate the relevance of your qualification;
- Time to learn organisational, management and personal skills, and develop an awareness of the workplace culture;
- The understanding gained during a placement in a professional environment can be important in project work and study, and assist in improving final year results;

### **The ideal candidates would:**

- Be polite and enthusiastic
- Have good time keeping
- Have a willingness to learn
- Have some digital media skills
- Have an interest in the community and local landscape

If you are a student aged 16-25 years old in Barrow-in-Furness, have an interest within the creative arts industry, then please apply with a covering letter and CV by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 5pm to:

Rachel Capovila  
Art Gene & Coastal Team Project Manager,  
Art Gene,  
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Barrow-in-Furness,  
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[www.art-gene.co.uk](http://www.art-gene.co.uk)



## Who Are Art Gene?

Art Gene is a unique, independent, international research facility founded and led by artists **Stuart Bastik** and **Maddi Nicholson**, and based in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

Following the establishment of their studios in the then derelict former **School for the Advancement of Science, Arts and Technology** in 1998, Maddi and Stuart (alongside **Julie Hammerton**, Co-Founder Director ) began working with **Cumbria County Council** to repurpose the building for arts use. This process led to the building's rescue and refurbishment and the formation of Art Gene in 2002.

Art Gene quickly established an international programme of residencies and exhibitions, adapting to and learning from collaborative working with a number of highly skilled associates including artists and, more recently, architects and other specialists from all over the world. These associates contribute to our research through studio-based residencies, fellowships, charrettes, seminars and exhibitions in the **Art Gene Gallery**, and partner with us to develop and realise a wide portfolio of projects.

Art Gene places a strong emphasis on research, undertaking a range of pure research activities which inform and are applied to the development and realisation of projects. We work with the local community, alongside multidisciplinary teams of architects, artists and other specialists to realise our aim of Re-Visioning the regeneration of the social, natural and built environment.

We are currently engaged in the development and delivery of many projects with integrated educational initiatives delivered locally, regionally and internationally.

## **Our Approach**

Our approach begins with in-depth consultation and educational activities within communities, local authorities and regeneration agencies to create environmentally aware, future-focused, design-led projects that are appropriate, high-value, affordable and sustainable: we seed engagement and learn from those who will ultimately care for and 'live' places beyond our involvement.

We pride ourselves on creating links between these stakeholders, contextualising local cultures on the world stage and bringing high-quality contemporary art, design, architecture and thought to revitalizing and Re-Visioning the regeneration of the social, natural and built environment.





*“We want to shift to a perspective that makes transformation possible”*

Alison Hand, former member of the Art Gene Board of Trustees

We engage artists, architects and others in programmes of work which identify and enhance the particularities of place, and consider the social, natural and built environment as a whole, suffusing it with an artistic sensibility (rather than placing isolated, commissioned artworks and buildings within it).

We deliver projects that are appropriate, high value, affordable, effective and sustainable, and which work with the complexities and apparent contradictions of a site. Our deep knowledge of our own town and surrounds feeds our understanding that the interactions between communities, industrial activity and the natural environment can be symbiotic – and in many cases act as a trigger for rich and very particular landscapes, cultures, fauna and flora.

## About Barrow-in-Furness

Situated at the end of what has been deemed ‘the longest cul-de-sac in England, Barrow-in-Furness is an exciting location for artistic engagement, where new ideas can be tested against new audiences in a challenging yet dynamic social, political and cultural context. Despite its geographical isolation, Barrow has a long tradition of links with people from all over the world – and this tradition of internationalism and the tenacious pursuit of excellence makes it a perfect fit for the aspirations of Art Gene.

## Further Reading

In *Thoughts I’ve been Having with Myself*, Stuart Bastik, Co-Founder Director presents his unusual methodology, drawing conclusions from years of research with Art Gene, in a visual and entertaining way.

Download the free PDF:

[Thoughts I’ve Been Having with Myself](#)

Additional research papers include *Re-Visioning Utopia*, and *Re-Visioning Utopia II from Yokohama with Love*, both written by Stuart Bastik as part of the *Re-Visioning Utopia Charrette*. This event brought national and international Artists, Architects and Academics together in small multi-disciplinary teams that were fuelled both by an intensive series of research field-trips exploring the diversity of Barrow and its islands, and chaired debates on both achievable and imaginable objectives (for both Barrow and beyond).

Download the free PDFs:





Re-Visioning Utopia  
Re-Visioning Utopia II from Yokohama with Love

For further information about our methodology, please see our Mission Statement (link below).

Additionally, you can read client testimonials and a list of all our partner and customer organisations (link below).

For more information about current Art Gene projects, click the current projects link [here](#).

*“Barrow is so fortunate to have Art Gene stardust sprinkled over/under /in it”.*

Walter Menzies, Re-visioning Utopia Charette Participant, 2009.