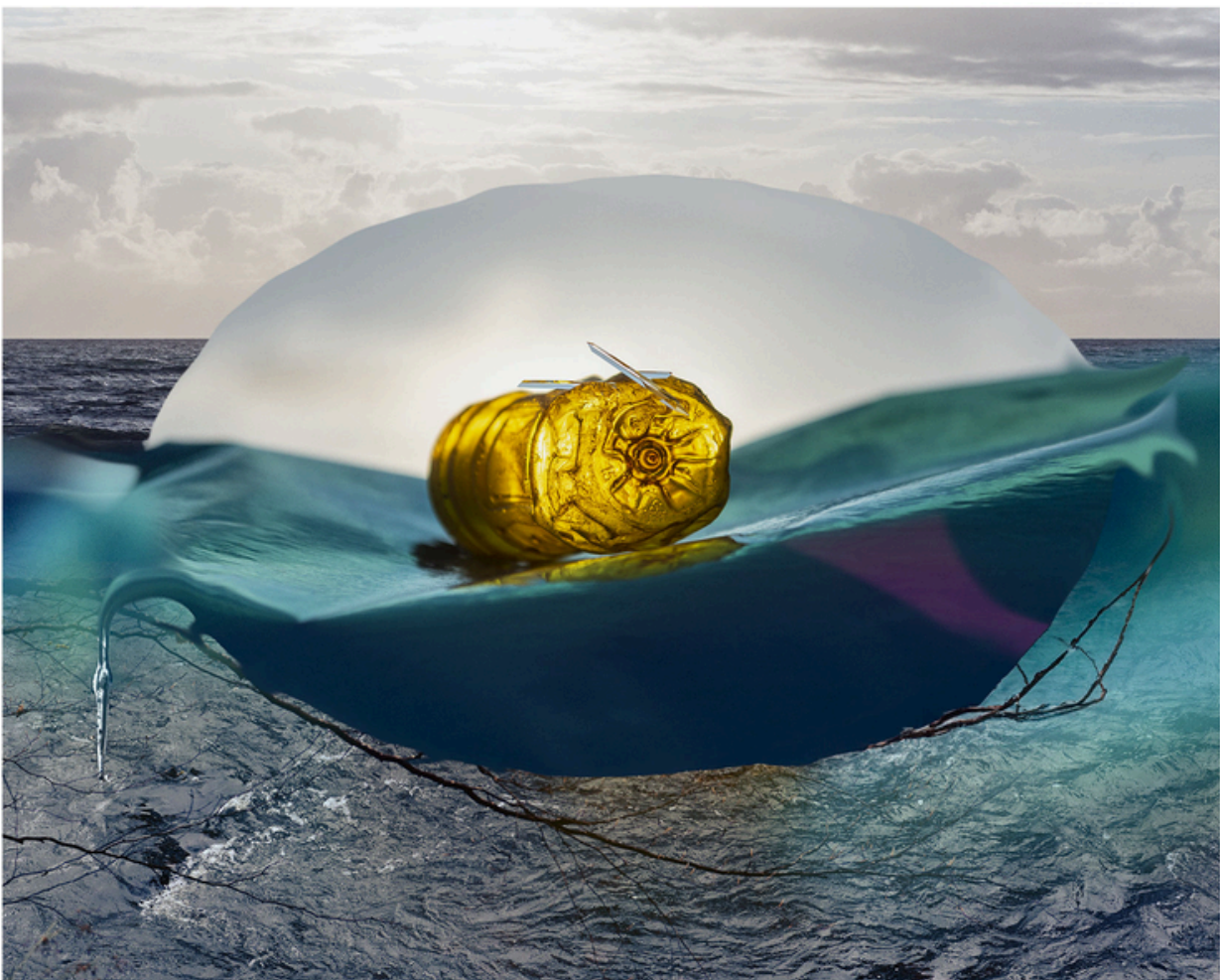


OPEN CALL: DIGITAL COMMISSION



THE BURTON
AT BIDEFORD

The Burton at Bideford is inviting proposals from South West based artists, content and digital creators and designers to tell our story as part of 'A Sustainable Museum', an Arts Council England Capital Investment Fund project.



Detail from Andy Hughes zine 'Shimmer film Machinima', Burton Environmental Commission 2024.

ABOUT US

The Burton at Bideford is an art gallery and museum based in North Devon, situated in the historic town of Bideford where craft, agriculture and maritime heritage meet at the water's edge.

Founded in 1951, we are a National Portfolio Organisation and one of the leading cultural venues in the South West, attracting over 150,000 visitors last year. With two exhibition spaces, a dedicated ceramics gallery, a museum, a commercial craft gallery, a shop, a workshop space and a café, we provide opportunities for people of all ages to access and engage with artists, collections and exhibitions.

Placing community at the heart of our activities, The Burton also offers a rich programme of outreach activities to engage those who do not have easy access to a traditional arts venue in a predominantly rural region. Located in the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the uniqueness of place is a key part of our context and our vision for the future.

Our programme celebrates internationally renowned artists alongside nurturing local creative talent. In 2025 our exhibitions included the major solo project 'Melting Ice | Rising Tides' with Emma Stibbon RA, our annual schools exhibition presenting work by children across Torridge, a partnership with The Hepworth Wakefield to present 'Into Abstraction: Modern British Art and the Landscape', and an installation of lithographs by Spanish Catalan artist Joan Miró in collaboration with Hayward Touring.

The Burton is a North Devon Biosphere Business Partner, a registered member of the Gallery Climate Coalition (GCC), and is working towards a Carbon Literate Organisation Certification.



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COMMISSION OVERVIEW

The commission should:

- use digital technology to creatively engage audiences with the impact of climate change and the importance of lowering carbon emissions.
- complement and/or tell the story of the work The Burton has done as part of our 'The Sustainable Museum' project.
- consider differing access levels in terms of presentation and use of data.
- be able to sit on different digital platforms (website, social media, etc.) considering technology inequality and user experience.

Delivery: End of September 2026

Artist Fee: £2,000

Inclusive of all associated costs. To cover the research, design, production and display of the commission.

Contract: The commissioned artist will be contracted on a freelance basis and is responsible for paying their own tax and national insurance where applicable.

Copyright: The copyright of the artwork will remain the property of the artist who will grant The Burton full use of photographic images in perpetuity without additional payment.

The Commission should consider the different ways in which digital storytelling could engage the general public in understanding The Burton's role as a climate change ambassador and how it could be used to engage new audiences in North Devon and beyond with environmental issues.

The Commission is funded as part of The Burton's Arts Council England Capital Investment Fund project 'A Sustainable Museum', that has supported the installation of solar panels, double glazed windows, and the refurbishment of our public toilets with accessible and low energy design.

Open to individuals or collectives based in the South West, this commission offers opportunity for a variety of creative approaches to raise awareness of the challenges facing the environment and their impact on local communities.

APPLY

To apply for the Digital Commission please include:

1. A 1-2 page A4 statement or 5 minute audio/video recording to tell us about:

- Your practice and experience to date.
- Your interest in this commission.
- Initial ideas for how you might approach the commission.

2. A pdf or word document of supporting materials to demonstrate the quality of your work. This might include a website link, photographs (5 maximum), video clips, written material.

3. A completed equal opportunities monitoring form [available here](#)

Applications should be emailed to info@theburton.org with the heading 'Commission 2: Digital Commission'. Deadline for applications is **10am, Monday 6 July 2026**.

Selection Process

Applications will be considered using the following criteria:

- The creative strength of your work and ideas.
- Your proposal.
- The feasibility of delivering the commission on the required timescale.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview in the w/c 6 July 2026. The interview panel will include Carole Evans (Learning and Engagement Manager), Nathalie Cameron (FOH and Operations Coordinator) and an external artist advisor.

Key Dates

- Application deadline: 10am, Monday 6 July 2026
- Interviews: w/c Monday 13 July 2026
- Site visit: July 2026