



Thursday 25 January 2018

**SOMERSET ART WORKS TO TAKE PART IN NATIONWIDE ART PROJECT TO CELEBRATE THE CENTENARY OF THE WOMEN'S VOTE**

Somerset Art Works is delighted to announce involvement in *PROCESSIONS*, a mass participation artwork to mark the centenary of the Representation of the People Act, which gave the first British women the right to vote.

*PROCESSIONS* will invite women\* and girls across the UK to come together on the streets of Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh and London on Sunday 10 June 2018 to mark this historic moment in a living, moving portrait of women in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Somerset Art Works is one of 100 commissioned organisations, working with women artists in the lead-up to the event, as part of an extensive public programme of creative workshops to create 100 centenary banners which will form part of this vast artwork.

The banner-making workshops will focus on text and textiles, echoing the practices of the women's suffrage campaign and will be places to consider the power of the vote today and our shared future. The banners made will represent and celebrate the diverse voices of women and girls from different backgrounds.

Bristol based artist Dorcas Casey has been commissioned by Somerset Art Works to lead creative workshops with students from Strode College in Street and Richard Huish College in Taunton.

"I'm really excited about the Processions project and being part of a vast community of people all working towards such an important and ambitious event. I'm looking forward to working collaboratively with students, I love the idea of using fabrics and bringing people together through the process of making. "

*PROCESSIONS* is produced by Artichoke, the UK's largest producer of art in the public realm, as part of 14-18 NOW, the UK's official arts programme for the First World War centenary.

**Helen Marriage, CEO Artichoke said:**

“The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of legislation which made universal suffrage unstoppable is a moment both for celebration and reflection. Individuals and groups up and down the country, including Somerset Art Works, will be at the heart of this UK-wide artwork. What they make and bring to their chosen procession on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> of June will form part of a unique living portrait of women today.”

**Ends**

**Notes to Editors**

*\*those who identify as women or non-binary*

For more information and images contact **Beccy Swaine**  
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**Processions Website**

<https://www.processions.co.uk/>

**About Somerset Art Works (SAW)**

**Somerset Art Works is shortly to become part of the Arts Council England's National Portfolio of funded organisations for 2018-2022.**

As Somerset's only countywide agency dedicated to developing the visual arts. We initiate a wide range of projects in a variety of settings, working in partnership with other arts and non-arts organisations. We work to increase public engagement, weaving together communities and raising the profile of the vibrant contemporary visual, digital and applied arts in Somerset.  
[www.somersetartworks.org.uk](http://www.somersetartworks.org.uk)

### **Dorcas Casey – Lead Artist**

Dorcas Casey has exhibited her fabric sculptures at Banksy's Dismaland in Weston-Super-Mare and performed with her costumes at Glastonbury Festival. She is a resident artist-educator at Hauser and Wirth Somerset, was awarded a bursary from the Royal Society of Sculptors and won the Public Speaks Award in the Broomhill National Sculpture Prize.

<https://dorcascasey.com/>



### **Image**

Dorcas Casey in her studio at Jamaica Street, Bristol – see attachment.

### **PROCESSIONS**

*PROCESSIONS* is commissioned by 14-18 NOW and produced by Artichoke. With support from the National Lottery through Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund, and from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

*PROCESSIONS* Cardiff is produced by Artichoke in partnership with Festival of Voice and Wales Millennium Centre.

### **About Artichoke**

Producers of extraordinary live events, Artichoke is one of the country's leading creative companies and is a registered charity, funded by Arts Council England.

At Artichoke, we use art to undermine the mundane and disrupt the everyday, and create a new kind of world that we'd all like to live in.

Our previous projects include Royal de Luxe's *The Sultan's Elephant*, which brought an estimated one million people onto the streets of London in 2006; *La Machine's* 50-foot high mechanical spider for Liverpool's Capital of Culture celebrations in 2008; Antony Gormley's *One & Other* 100-day-long invasion of the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square in London in 2009; and Deborah Warner's commission for the London 2012 Festival with Fiona Shaw, *Peace Camp*, a nationwide celebration of landscape and poetry, which took place across eight

separate sites around the UK; *Temple* by David Best in Derry~Londonderry, attended by more than 75,000 people; and *London's Burning*, a festival to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London in September 2016. Artichoke creates and produces *Lumiere*, the UK's largest light festival, which has been staged in Durham every two years since 2009; in Derry~Londonderry in Northern Ireland as part of the celebrations for City of Culture 2013, and in London for the first time in January 2016.

[www.artichoke.uk.com](http://www.artichoke.uk.com)

### **About 14-18 NOW**

14-18 NOW is a programme of extraordinary arts experiences connecting people with the First World War, as part of the UK's official centenary commemorations. It commissions new work by leading contemporary artists from all art forms. The commemorative period is marked by three key seasons - Anniversary of the Declaration of War in 2014, the anniversary of the Battle of Jutland and the Battle of the Somme in 2016, and the centenary of Armistice Day in 2018. 14-18 NOW is responsible for the UK tour of the iconic poppy sculptures by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper, and 'We're here because we're here' by Jeremy Deller in collaboration with Rufus Norris.

14 -18 NOW is supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England, by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and by additional fundraising. 14-18 NOW has commissioned over 140 artworks to date that have been seen by more than 30 million people.