



# SeaScapes

Tyne to Tees, shores and seas

## **SeaScapes Co/Lab: Coastal Cuisine Commission Opportunity for North East based Glass/Ceramic Artists/Creative**

Information and Q&A online session, Tuesday 21 June 2022: [Link to event  
HERE](#)

**Deadline Friday 12.00 midday, 1 July 2022**

### Brief

*SeaScapes Co/Lab: Coastal Cuisine* will support a socially engaged glass/ceramic artist/maker based in the North East, to explore links between the seascape we see and the foods that we eat with communities living in the coastal city of Sunderland. We would particularly like to connect with artists who have a strong relationship with the marine and maritime heritage of the coastline that runs between the River Tyne to the River Tees.

Food is a great connector and we would like to engage an artist or a maker to collaborate within and across different communities in Sunderland, and explore the positive influence diverse and migrant cultures have had on our local food traditions. We want to bring people together to explore our food based traditions through the co-creation of a range of vessels and tableware for a community meal. We are particularly interested in exploring the role that food (with a specific focus on our local coastal foodscapes) has within the many cultures of residents living in Sunderland. We would like to explore the history and heritage of our local foodscape and present and



explore ways to achieve a sustainable future for our food practices in a changing climate. Through making these connections we also hope to increase community appreciation of our local coastline and its influence on our food cultures.

*SeaScapes Co/Lab: Coastal Cuisine* is a partnership between University of Sunderland, Newcastle University, National Trust and the National Glass Centre.

### Budget and Timeframes:

SeaScapes Co/Lab: Coastal Cuisine open to artists at all stages in their career, and we will consider all creative practices that are inspired by marine and marine heritage and are participatory/community engaged.

There is one artist commission opportunity available for a total fee of £6000 including all costs (Travel, equipment, materials etc). We expect the number of days spent on the commission would not exceed 20-25 days. This work can take place between July 2022 and November 2022. A final sharing/celebration event will happen in November 2022.

### Project Proposals:

Your project proposal will clearly outline how you will explore the positive influence which diverse cultures and communities living in Sunderland have had on our local coastal food traditions through the co-creation of a range of vessels and tableware for a community meal. We are particularly interested in exploring the role that food (with a specific focus on coastal foodscapes) has within the diverse cultures of residents living in Sunderland.

For this brief, we are interested in engaging communities through glass or ceramic based practice.

You will work with a group of interested Sunderland residents and explore our region's food heritage during a number of artist-led workshops that explore the role of food within our diverse cultures, food in the home, and coastal food industries.

We will support a range of visits to various coastal locations and venues including:

- the Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens to view how food stories have been shared via designed tableware such as 'lusterware' found in the museums collections;



- Souter Lighthouse where we can consider foods that were grown in the on-site allotments by the Lighthouse Keeper, and also have an opportunity to work with traditional coastal ingredients in the Souter Lighthouse kitchens.

The aim is that these explorations will culminate in a collective meal with a suite of celebratory tableware (vessels, plates etc) whose design has been informed by the collaborative journey exploring our Sunderland coastal foodscape.

Please outline your approach to delivery and how these participatory workshops will inform your final outcome within your proposal outline.

Criteria for success:

For this opportunity, we ask that work submitted for consideration fulfils the following criteria:

1. Is created/presented by glass/ceramic artists/creatives
2. Collaboratively explores the links between migration, our Tyne/Tees coastal foodscape heritage and the diverse communities currently living in the coastal city of Sunderland.
3. Is presented in a digital format (audio/video/image/text files)
4. Engages with communities within Sunderland through the delivery of artist-led workshops.

How to apply:

We welcome proposals (max. of 2 sides of A4 or a 4-minute video/audio file) from artists/creatives that detail:

1. Your work/experience to date with links to previous work.
2. Your response to how you will explore our diverse food based traditions through the co-creation of a range of vessels and tableware for a community meal (maximum 500 words). A summary of the idea you want to develop and share through your commission (max 250 words)
4. The format your final output will take.



5. Your approach to building partnerships and developing meaningful engagement with local SeaScapes communities in Sunderland

6. A basic budget and an outline timetable for your project assuming commencement in July 2022

### Commission Support:

The successful artist will be selected by representatives from SeaScapes Co/Lab, Newcastle University, National Trust, National Glass Centre and representatives from our Community Advisory Panel. The winning proposal will have:

- Curatorial and production support from SeaScapes Co/Lab Curator and Research Lead, Suzy O'Hara.
- Specialist Foodscapes support from the Foodscape research project in the Tyne to Tees Seascape, Maggie Roe & Suzanne Hocknall, Newcastle University.
- Ceramic/glass mentorship and support from Senior Lecturer in Architectural Glass, Cate Watkinson, National Glass Centre.
- Community guidance and feedback from our Community Advisory Group, made up of representatives from FODI (Friends of the Drop In for Asylum Seekers and Refugees), ICOS (International Community Organisation in Sunderland), African and Caribbean Association and Young Asian Voices.

SeaScapes Co/Lab curator will meet with the commissioned artist at the start of the project and at regular intervals throughout to support the creation process.

The successful applicant is invited to meet the SeaScapes Co/Lab curator and project partners on a regular basis throughout the commission period to update them on progress. The amount of sessions will be negotiated at the interview stage depending on the amount of support required.

### Project Assessment:

Applications will be short-listed against the following criteria:

- Creativity of the response: How creative and interesting is the artistic concept?
- Resources: How well does the proposal utilise and further develop the resources we have outlined?
- Depth of community engagement: Will the project facilitate meaningful community engagement with the coastal foodscape of Sunderland? How



integrated is community participation within the project plan? What will the legacy of this project be for the people the group works with?

- Logistics: Will the project plan ensure the final outcome is produced on time and within budget?

## IMPORTANT DATES - may be subject to change

w/c 13 June 2022:	Applications open
21 June 2022:	Information and Q&A session
Midday, 1 July 2022:	Applications Close
5 July 2022	Shortlisting
7 July 2022:	Interviews
11 July - 30 November 2022:	Commission period
November 2022:	Final Sharing/Celebration event

## CONTACT

For further information please contact: Suzy O'Hara: [suzy.o'hara@sunderland.ac.uk](mailto:suzy.o'hara@sunderland.ac.uk)

## Background Information

### SeaScapes Co/Lab:

SeaScapes Co/Lab is a two year creative engagement project for SeaScapes: Tyne to Tees shores and seas. The aim of Sea Change is to connect communities with artists, researchers and the wider SeaScapes partnership to explore novel ways to deepen understanding of their relationship to their natural, cultural and industrial marine heritage through diverse artistic and creative practices.

### SeaScapes: Tyne to Tees shores and seas

SeaScapes is a partnership of organisations across the natural, cultural and heritage sectors that have come together to better protect and celebrate the unique coastline and marine environment to six nautical miles out, between the rivers Tyne and Tees. It's also the UK's first marine Landscape Partnership scheme and is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

SeaScapes focuses on the often-overlooked Magnesian Limestone coast between the Rivers Tyne and Tees in North East England. Whilst perceptions of this coastline are blighted by its industrial past, this seascape is bound in character by unique geology, the natural environment and a shared cultural heritage. Once smothered in colliery



spoil, this coastline has seen major regeneration over the last few decades. This has reinvigorated its seascape into life.

There is much to be celebrated across this seascape, although much of this heritage is out of sight, held only in memory or beneath the waves, just waiting to be discovered. The project will reveal this hidden history of the SeaScapes area and help to write the next exciting chapter of this unique coast and marine environment.

More information about SeaScapes programme of 23 projects can be found here:  
<https://exploreseascapes.co.uk/>

### SeaScapes Foodscapes, Newcastle University

This project examines sea food traditions, folklore and food heritage in the Tyne to Tees coastal area. We are engaging with local communities, stakeholders and creative practitioners through various research methods and activities. We are collecting data through review of academic and archival material, conversations and interviews, observation, mapping of features and activities and collaboration with partners to examine past present and potential futures of the marine and coastal foodscape.

### University of Sunderland Glass and Ceramics, National Glass Centre

The University of Sunderland's Glass and Ceramics area is based at the National Glass Centre which provides the infrastructure, creative environment and support for independent creativity in these areas.

Situated in a unique, contemporary glass and steel building, the National Glass Centre houses exhibition galleries, artists' studios and production facilities, a craft & design shop.

### Souter Lighthouse, National Trust

Opened in 1871 Souter remains an iconic beacon. Hooped in red and white and standing proud on the coastline midway between the Tyne and the Wear. Souter is a special place all year round and was the first lighthouse in the world designed and built to be powered by electricity.

To the north The Leas is a two and a half mile stretch of magnesian limestone cliffs, wave-cut foreshore and coastal grassland. The cliffs and rock stacks of Marsden Bay are home to nesting Kittiwakes, Fulmar, Cormorants, Shags and Guillemots. South of the lighthouse is Whitburn Coastal Park and Nature Reserve – reclaimed colliery land, now a haven for wildlife.



