

# BRAID Artist Commissions Call Documents

## Available support

Please email [braid@ed.ac.uk](mailto:braid@ed.ac.uk) if you have any queries about the application process.



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# Bridging Responsible AI Divides Artist Commissions

Closing date for applications  
10.00 GMT, Monday, 2 December 2024

## The BRAID Artist Commissions Open call

We are excited to commission **five UK-based artists or artist groups** to create artworks that explore new ways to think about today's AI and the futures we want work in responsible AI to help us build.

All that is needed is a clear engagement with responsible AI; it is not required that AI technology be used in the artmaking process.

The aim of these commissions is to:

- A. encourage artists to enrich and expand the responsible AI ecosystem by making artworks that help us more wisely respond to present realities and near future horizons of AI
- B. demonstrate how art can critique and improve responsible AI tools, methods and approaches in creative and engaging ways
- C. inspire and empower members of the public to better understand, engage with and inform responsible AI development.

### KEY DATES

2 December 2024	Applications close at 10.00 GMT
16 December 2025	Selected artists notified
January 2025	Projects start
March 2025	Progress check-in
June 2025	Works in progress showcased Technical rider submitted to Inspace Gallery
August 2025	Inspace Gallery exhibition

### About BRAID

The Bridging Responsible AI Divides (**BRAID**) programme works to enable the arts and humanities to enhance the development and uptake of responsible AI in the UK. We want to empower the responsible AI community in the UK to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks that AI poses to our society and the environment. At a time when the use of AI is spreading at scale and at speed, this requires:

- the building of public awareness, capability and confidence to engage and inform responsible AI, giving voice to individuals and groups that are currently underrepresented and disempowered
- identifying and breaking down the structural barriers and divides that currently stand in the way of a healthy, connected and flourishing responsible AI ecosystem
- improving or reimagining the ways we deliver responsible AI, centring notions of accountability, sustainability, answerability, resistance and public recourse

Artists can provide necessary, vibrant, imaginative and creative visions for responsible AI that can help us to meet the above challenges.

### What types of artworks are we looking for

We are looking for artworks **in any media** from digital technologies to drawing, sculpture to installation, photography to film and performance.

We do not want artists to feel pressured to be up to date with the latest in AI developments. The focus of these commissions is very much not on the technology itself but on art and the ability of artists to communicate through their practice something important about responsible AI. It's the message not the medium that we care about; we are looking for creative rather than technological feats.

Potential themes might include:

- Imagining more responsible current and near future uses of AI
- Inspiring new forms of collective action and activism within the responsible AI ecosystem
- Exploring the incentives that exist within the AI ecosystem and possible alternatives
- Celebrating what the arts and humanities can offer the responsible AI ecosystem

We want to bring to life your ideas for creative projects that take a variety of imaginative approaches to responsible AI futures – from playful, to optimistic and purposefully critical. We are after proposals that are ambitious in their intentions and realisable within the scope of the funding and timescales outlined below.

Commissioned artworks will be exhibited at [Inspace Gallery](#) during the [Edinburgh Art Festival](#) in August 2025, with further display opportunities at other BRAID related exhibitions and events through to 2028.

### Scope of the funding

Selected artists will receive:

- **A budget of £10,000** that includes **all** items of expenditure (e.g. all artists fees, collaborator fees, materials, equipment and fabrication costs, transportation costs, taxes etc). Your artist fee should include time for your participation in one talk or panel discussion as part of the public programming for the exhibition.
- Curatorial and practical support (e.g. venue related technical support).
- Opportunities to engage with the BRAID team and network to develop your ideas and foster knowledge exchange and co-learning.

- Opportunities to promote the commission in our newsletter and seminar series and across our online communication channels.
- Space to exhibit a work-in-progress or prototype for the commission at a major BRAID community building event to be held in Manchester in June 2025.
- Selected artists may also be invited to submit images of the commission under **Creative Commons 4.0 licence** to the **Better Images of AI library**.
- A bursary to cover limited travel and accommodation to support the artist when it comes to installing the artwork and attending the exhibition opening.
- Funding from our additional needs budget (see below).

## Who can apply

We are looking for **UK-based artists at all stages of their career**. For early career or re-emerging artists, you must be able to demonstrate a minimum of 3 years of sustained artistic practice outside of formal education (in total).

Artists must not be enrolled in *fulltime* formal undergraduate or taught postgraduate studies. Those on PhD programmes are eligible to apply if they are also registered as freelance practitioners and can demonstrate their capacity to undertake the commission alongside study commitments.

For artist groups, a lead artist will be required to submit the application form on behalf of the group and take on responsibility for the commission and budgetary matters.

All artists must be either registered as freelance sole traders or limited companies and be responsible for their own taxes. Only artists with proof of right to work in the UK are eligible.

## Equality, diversity and inclusion

BRAID is committed to equality of opportunity. We seek to locate and amplify under-represented voices and perspectives on responsible AI and work to promote a positive culture, one that celebrates difference, challenges prejudice and ensures fairness and respect.

We have a dedicated fund designed to support access needs relating to personal circumstances, such as caring responsibilities and/or health-related conditions. This funding is separate from the £10,000 art commission budget, and requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

If you have access needs and wish to discuss how the programme can support, please contact our Head of Operations and Engagement, Tina Donnelly ([tina.donnelly@ed.ac.uk](mailto:tina.donnelly@ed.ac.uk)).

To ensure we are aware of and responsive to the access needs of selected artists, all applicants are also invited to submit an access rider when applying. See **Access Docs for Artists** for more details.

## Submission process

Applicants must submit their **application** along with supporting material (**portfolio, CV and budget**) on or before Monday 2 December 2024 at 10.00 GMT.

### Application

Applications can be submitted either in writing or by a video recording.

If applying in writing, submissions must be made through the **online application form**. We recommend first drafting your application offline using the Word version [here](#). When finalised, simply enter the information into the online form. Please contact [braid@ed.ac.uk](mailto:braid@ed.ac.uk) if you require the offline form in another format.

If applying by video, submissions must be made using the **online application form (video)**. You will be asked to provide a URL to a short video uploaded onto either **YouTube** or **Vimeo** (7 minutes max.) that:

- (a) introduces your work and practice to us
- (b) describes your idea for the commission and how it responds to the open call
- (c) shares with us the relevant experience, skills and resources you have in place to deliver the proposed artwork on time and within budget
- (d) outlines how you would like to engage with the BRAID team, researchers and community during the commissioning process

### Supporting material

In addition to the application, applicants must also email to us the following documents as a single PDF attachment:

1. **Portfolio** (10MB max.) that includes details of 3 previous artworks with text descriptions for each (100 words max.) along with either images (6 max. overall) or for moving-image and sound works links to **YouTube, Vimeo** or **Soundcloud** files (10 minutes max. overall).
2. **CV** (2-sided A4 page max.)
3. **Budget** - You can access a budget template in Word [here](#). Please contact [braid@ed.ac.uk](mailto:braid@ed.ac.uk) if you require the budget form in another format.

### Additional material

1. **Access rider (optional)** – If there are certain access needs that you would like BRAID to be aware of when connecting and working with you, please feel free to submit an Access Rider using the **online access rider**. You can find a template in Word [here](#) to be used for offline working. Please contact [braid@ed.ac.uk](mailto:braid@ed.ac.uk) if you require this document in another format. See [Access Docs for Artists](#) for more details.
2. **Equality monitoring form (optional)** – We also invite *all* applicants to complete an **online equality monitoring form**, which helps BRAID to understand the people, regions and communities that are connecting with us and the places and people that are currently missing from our network.

All supporting material must be emailed to [braid.submissions@ed.ac.uk](mailto:braid.submissions@ed.ac.uk) and received by 10.00 GMT on Monday, 2 December 2024. We are unable to accept late submissions on this occasion.

## Selection process

Your submission will be considered by a panel of arts professionals and members of the BRAID team, including:

- Beverley Hood - Inspired Innovation Lead, BRAID
- Ewa Luger - Co-director, BRAID
- Kim McAleese - Director, Edinburgh Art Festival
- Maitreyi Maheshwari - Head of Programme, FACT, Liverpool
- Abie Soroño - Independent Curator, Glasgow

When selecting artists, the panel will check eligibility and consider the quality of your proposal in terms of:

- the **strength of vision** behind the artwork and how it engages with responsible AI
- the strength of the **creative and imaginative dimensions** of the proposed artwork
- your **capacity to deliver** the proposed artwork on time and within budget and your demonstration of the skills and resources required
- how the artwork connects with other submissions to form a cohesive group exhibition that ideally will include artists at different stages of their career.

The panel will base their decision on submitted material only. It is important that the material submitted is of a quality that best demonstrates your vision.

### Working definitions

**AI (artificial intelligence)** describes computer systems that perform tasks typically thought to require a level of intelligence. For example, prediction and decision-making, speech recognition and translation, and the generation of content like text, images, music and videos. Most systems on the market today use a form of machine learning. This is a technique that enables algorithms – human-designed software instructions – to systematically model and use patterns found in data that has been provided by humans. It is these mathematical patterns and relationships within datasets that enable machine learning models to perform many tasks that previously required human intelligence.

**Responsible AI** describes an ambition, amongst the interconnected communities and stakeholders making up the AI ecosystem – to ensure that AI systems are designed and deployed in ways that minimise potential risks and harms while maximising opportunities for human flourishing. It describes:

1. An interdisciplinary field of academic/industry research
2. A stated corporate governance agenda
3. A desired type of AI product
4. A broad community or ecosystem of stakeholders
5. A complex ecology with ongoing conceptual negotiation

The **AI ecosystem** is broadly construed to include all the places, groups and communities involved in, or substantially impacted by, the development, use and governance of AI technologies.

## FAQs

### **Is BRAID looking for existing works or proposals for new ones?**

We are looking for new artworks that directly respond to the open call.

### **Is there a limit of one application per person?**

We expect to receive just one application per person. However, if you are a solo artist as well as part of an artist group or if you are part of more than one artist group, we will consider applications from you as a solo artist as well as applications that include you as a collaborating artist.

### **Is a research-based practice required?**

While the commission is open to all artists and is not research-led, the opportunity would suit artists that are willing to:

- (a) actively interact with our community of researchers and stakeholders; and
- (b) broaden their creative practice by engaging both critically and curiously with the field of responsible AI.

Artists will be invited to meet with members of our team and researchers throughout the commissioning process. You can see a list of currently funded projects [here](#).

### **Do I need to be an expert in using AI tools?**

We encourage artists working in any medium to apply and are interested in a diversity of approaches. All that is needed is a clear interest in artistically engaging with responsible AI. There is no expectation that AI technology will be used to create the artwork, nor will preference be given to submissions proposing to employ AI technology.

Having engaged with artists across the UK, we are aware of both a desire among some creatives to employ AI technologies in their practice, and for others, a wish to push back against this trend.

When selecting works, we will be assessing applications in terms of what the artwork is able to communicate when it comes to matters of responsible AI, rather than the technology that is used along the way. While artworks driven by new AI technologies are welcome, we also wish to invite artists to think more broadly about the ways that digital and analogue media might interact in insightful ways.

### **Are there any restrictions on the mediums for submissions?**

We are open to all artistic media. If performance, please ensure that the performance piece is clearly described and budgetary matters well thought-through. The only restrictions would be on materials that posed health and safety risks or presented harmful or illegal content.

### **Is this opportunity available for students?**

The opportunity is not available for students enrolled in *fulltime* formal undergraduate or taught postgraduate studies. Those on PhD programmes are eligible to apply so long as they



are also registered as a self-employed freelancer and can demonstrate their capacity to undertake the commission alongside study commitments.

### **Who owns the IP in the artwork?**

Artists will retain their IP in the artwork. As a publicly funded project, the University of Edinburgh will need to document the commission and make use of material for programme related activities. These arrangements will be detailed in an agreement entered between the University and selected artists prior to the project commencing. If the programme wishes to re-exhibit the artwork at BRAID related events through to 2028, we will enter into further arrangements with artists as those opportunities arise.

*The BRAID artist commissions are funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and delivered by BRAID in partnership with Inspace at the Institute for Design Informatics, with support from Edinburgh Art Festival and Better Images of AI.*

# Application Form

## Applicant Details

Name of artist or artist group	
Name of lead artist (if artist group)	
Work address	
Contact number	
Work email	
Link to website / social media profiles	
Name(s) of individual collaborators (if applicable)	

## Eligibility

Is the applicant based in and does the applicant have a right to work in the UK?

Yes     No

## Statement of practice

Please introduce your work and practice to us (300 words/2000 characters max.)

## Commission proposal

Working title for the commission	
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### Idea for the commission

Please describe your idea for the commission and how it responds to the open call (300 words/2000 characters max.)

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### Experience, skills and resources

Please share with us the relevant experience, skills and resources you have in place to deliver the proposed artwork on time and within budget (300 words/2000 characters max.)

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### Engaging with Bridging Responsible AI Divides

Please outline how you hope to engage with the programme team and our researchers and community during the commissioning process (300 words/2000 characters max.)

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When you are ready, please enter the above information into the online application form by 10.00 GMT on Monday, 2 December 2024.

In addition to submitting the above application online, a PDF attachment for your supporting material must be emailed to [braid.submissions@ed.ac.uk](mailto:braid.submissions@ed.ac.uk) by 10.00 GMT on Monday, 2 December 2024.

Supporting material checklist

- Portfolio
- CV
- Budget
- Access rider (optional)

**Applications close 10.00 GMT on Monday, 2 December 2024.**

If you need help accessing or completing this form or need an alternative format, please email [braid@ed.ac.uk](mailto:braid@ed.ac.uk)

### **Data protection**

In submitting this form you are giving explicit consent for us to use the data contained in it in our programme application, monitoring and reporting processes. The data is managed confidentially in accordance with our Privacy Policy. Your data will be held by the programme team based at the University of Edinburgh, with some data shared with our funders at the the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and evaluation partners for the purpose of evaluating the programme's activities. Your data will only be reported in anonymous aggregated forms and will always be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Act 2018 and therefore also in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Applicants can withdraw or modify their consent to collection and processing of personal information at any time by writing to [braid@ed.ac.uk](mailto:braid@ed.ac.uk)

\* Updated on 13 Nov 2024 to remove a reference to narrative CV.

## Application Video (alternative)

### Applicant Details

Name of artist or artist group	
Name of lead artist (if artist group)	
Work address	
Contact number	
Work email	
Link to website / social media profiles	
Name(s) of individual collaborators (if applicable)	

### Eligibility

Is the applicant based in and does the applicant have a right to work in the UK?

Yes     No

### Commission proposal

Working title for the commission	
URL to short video*	

\* Please send us a link to a short video uploaded onto either YouTube or Vimeo (7 minutes max.) that:

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- (b) describes your idea for the commission and how it responds to the open call
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# Budget Template

## Project details

<b>Name of artist or artist group</b>	
<b>Working title for the commission</b>	

<b>Category</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Details (e.g. breakdown of costs/rates)</b>
Artist Fees	£	
Materials and Supplies	£	
Production Costs	£	
Travel & Transport	£	
Subcontractor Fees	£	
Other Costs	£	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>£</b>	

<b>Additional comments</b>	
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This template is flexible and can be adjusted depending on the specific needs of your art commission project. When listing expenses please be as detailed as possible to ensure the selection panel is as informed as possible about your plans.

Please save this budget as a PDF and include it as part of your supporting material to be emailed to [braid.submissions@ed.ac.uk](mailto:braid.submissions@ed.ac.uk) by 10.00 GMT on Monday, 2 December 2024.

## Access rider (optional)

The BRAID programme strives to make the artists commissions accessible to all and recognises that disabilities and barriers to access take many forms and are not always visible.

We invite you to highlight any needs - whether physical, mental, personal or social - that you would like to make the BRAID programme aware of when engaging with you. **Please Note: This template is provided as a guide, please answer as needed.**

If you need help accessing or completing this form or need an alternative format, please email [braid@ed.ac.uk](mailto:braid@ed.ac.uk)

### Introduction

Please tell us about your access needs and how they impact upon your practice. You may wish to disclose your disability here if you want to (1000 characters max.)

### Your needs

In this section you can highlight any access needs you'd like us to be aware of relating to the commissioning process (1000 characters max.) These may relate to communication methods, travel and accommodation, or attendance at meetings and events.

This template has been developed using advice from [Access Docs for Artists](#) website. The website includes [examples](#) of how artists use access documents when working with organisations.

Please note: this document will be treated with the upmost confidentiality and will only be shared with relevant members of the BRAID team and the selection panel. Data collected through the Access Rider will be securely stored along with your submission material on the University's servers for the duration of the Programme and subsequent analysis and archiving period. Data will be retained for up to 5 years following the end of the commission.

**When you are ready, please enter the above information into [our online form](#) by 10.00 GMT on Monday, 2 December 2024.**