

# Junction

A Distinctive Public Art Project for Leeds City Centre



**SITUATION  
LEEDS:  
CONTEMPORARY  
ARTISTS AND THE  
PUBLIC REALM**

## What is JUNCTION?

**JUNCTION is a series of temporary commissions for Leeds City centre utilising the ubiquitous `junction box` as its canvas. Everyday we walk by these neglected metal boxes without a second thought, but now JUNCTION offers artists and designers the chance to transform these tired boxes into vibrant, intriguing and humorous interventions in street life.**

## Where?

All the identified boxes lie in the town centre; they form a trail that starts outside Leeds Train Station, go up Park Row, ending at the crossroads of Park Row and the Headrow, adjacent to the Henry Moore Institute and Leeds Art Gallery.

This is the first step in **Situation Leeds'** commitment to raise the public art profile of the city. Over the next few years we hope to widen the JUNCTION project to other sites across the city and identify other exciting opportunities to work creatively with the urban fabric of the city centre. We believe that `the everyday`, could be a lot more intriguing, and we see JUNCTION as a first step to attract interest, support and sponsorship for further creative public realm projects that will make walking round Leeds City Centre more interesting, extraordinary and pleasurable.

JUNCTION will be supported by a publicity and marketing campaign to raise interest in the project from the public and commercial sectors. We will also be encouraging businesses in the city to sponsor a box, not as an advert for their company but as a creative project donated to the city.

## Artists brief:

We are open to what materials are used to transform the junction boxes; vinyl, hand or spray painted, covered in other materials, we don't mind as long as we are convinced of its ability to withstand the robust environment of life on the street. The selectors will be looking for design proposals that work with their street situation to make impactful, witty or intriguing statements.

At some stage in the future we may be obliged to return the junction boxes to their original state, so your proposal should bear this in mind.

The designs must not interfere with either access or the function of what is inside the box. Installation requirements will receive the usual risk assessments, but we do not expect any significant difficulties.

## The Process:

Email expressions of interest to [nicola@theculturecompany.co.uk](mailto:nicola@theculturecompany.co.uk) by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2011. When we receive this from you, we will send out further details on the application process, together with a couple of images of a `typical box`

and ask you to submit your draft proposal or `proof of concept`. Selection of designs to go forward to installation and production will be based on this submitted material.

Selection will be made on 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> April by a panel including:

Moira Innes, Director of Leeds Met Gallery and Studio Theatre and lead partner on Situation Leeds  
Nicola Stephenson, Director of The Culture Company (a partner organisation of Situation Leeds)  
Mags McLeary, Principal Arts Officer, Leeds City Council  
Fiona Byrne, artist / illustrator

Selected artists will be sent a pack with an image and location of each of the available boxes. We will ask you to make a first, second and third choice (as we are approaching several artists at once) and then we will send you full measurement details of the selected junction box.

We will allow 6-8 weeks for design and planning for final installation to be ready for mid-late June.

### **Key dates:**

Expressions of interest by 31<sup>st</sup> March  
Designs received by 26<sup>th</sup> April  
Selection made 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> April  
Selected artists contacted by 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
Minimum 7 weeks for design, production and installation  
`Unveiling` second half of June (date to be confirmed)

### **Budget**

The design and production fee will be up to a maximum of £1250 per box. Production might be realised in a number of ways. For example:

- Carried out directly by the artist in the case of a hand-painted application
- Arranged by us in the case of a vinyl application
- Applied and constructed by another party where a particular design calls for a special construction or use of materials.

### **Who is behind the project?**

Situation Leeds is a key project of Leeds Met Gallery and Studio Theatre ([www.leedsmet.ac.uk/arts](http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/arts)) which is working in partnership with The Culture Company ([www.theculturecompany.co.uk](http://www.theculturecompany.co.uk)) to curate and deliver JUNCTION.

## Guidelines in more detail

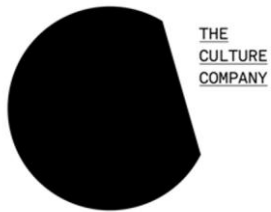
- Artists can choose from a range of boxes on our predetermined list or be allocated a box.
- Design must not contain any commercial images, logos or trademarked names/characters, e.g. Disney, Store names etc.
- Design must not contain any offensive imagery or text.
- `Street art/graffiti` style is acceptable as long as the design is of a high standard.
- Boxes will not carry logos of funders or management organisations or credits to artists (these are artworks, not advertising, think sculpture not billboards), but a corresponding map showing more information and the artists details will be available, either in print, on-line or both.
- A full maintenance programme will be put in place to ensure that the boxes do not fall into disrepair
- The boxes will be returned to their former state at conclusion of the project

Leeds will be the first UK city to commission artists and designers to transform junction boxes on this scale. Similar projects have appeared in Australia and America. Below are some images from the Brisbane Project and also boxes in the US by artist, Joshua Callaghan:





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