

Artist Brief: Constable 250 Project

Project Dates: February 2026 – May 2026

Exhibition: Autumn 2026, Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich

Locations: Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich and Lowestoft.

Organisation: Suffolk Artlink

Application Deadline: Monday 15th December

Payment

£240 per day for 12 delivery days plus 6 days of research, development and curation.

Total fee £4,320.

An additional budget is available to support travel expenses and workshop materials.

Overview

Suffolk Artlink is seeking a skilled and inclusive artist to join Brave Art, our creative programme for adults with learning disabilities. In spring 2026, Brave Art will be a partner in Constable 250, marking 250 years since the birth of artist John Constable.

The selected artist will support three groups of learning disabled and neurodivergent artists to research, explore and create new work inspired by Constable's life, paintings and creative processes. The project will culminate in a public exhibition in Christchurch Mansion in autumn 2026.

Project Structure

The artist will lead 12 creative sessions, 4 in each of 3 locations.

- Bury St Edmunds Library, Tuesdays, 10am – 3pm
- Ipswich Library, Wednesdays, 10am – 3pm
- Lowestoft Library, Thursdays, 10am – 3pm.

Sessions run weekly from February 24th – March 19th.

In addition there are a total of 6 days for planning, research, development, evaluation and to attend the exhibition launch event in Autumn 2026. 3 of these will take place before the creative sessions begin, and 3 afterwards.

Each group will explore aspects of John Constable's work through hands-on experimentation, research and supported studio practice.

Role Expectations

The artist will:

- Develop and deliver an engaging creative programme inspired by John Constable's themes, techniques, landscapes and portraits.
- Facilitate inclusive, accessible workshops for adults with learning disabilities, supporting individual expression and collaborative learning.
- Plan and prepare sessions, materials and research content.
- Work alongside Suffolk Artlink staff and support workers to ensure safe, welcoming, person-centred sessions.
- Support participants to develop finished artwork for exhibition.
- Contribute to exhibition preparation in collaboration with the Brave Art team and partners at Christchurch Mansion.
- Document and reflect on sessions as required.
- Attend launch event at Christchurch Mansion in Autumn 2026.

Artists Brief from Brave Art Champions

We are looking for an artist who:

- Knows about lots of different types of art
- Is positive, helpful and inspiring
- Knows about Constable
- Will let us use our own minds
- Is good at working with groups
- Sensitive to different needs and understands different abilities
- Is good at planning and running sessions
- Patient and encouraging
- Good at listening and explaining
- Recognises what we do and how we like to work at Brave Art

Skills and Experience

- Experience facilitating creative workshops for adults with learning disabilities.
- Skills in a range of art making techniques (e.g. drawing, painting, textiles, printmaking, mixed media, sculpture).
- Ability to plan accessible and engaging creative sessions.
- Experience of researching and translating art historical material into inclusive workshop activities.
- Excellent communication and collaborative working skills.

- Professional practice as an artist with a portfolio demonstrating relevant experience working in community settings, i.e. libraries or cultural venues.
- Interest in landscape art, British art history or site-specific approaches.
- Experience preparing work for exhibition.

How to apply

- A short statement outlining why you are interested in this role and your approach to inclusive facilitation. Please also explain how you will connect your practice with the project's theme
- A CV or summary of relevant experience
- 5 images or links to examples of your artwork and / or workshop outputs
- Please send the above to charlie@suffolkartlink.org.uk by 10am on Monday 15th December. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview, which will take place on the week beginning 12th January 2026.
- We gather information from our artists to assess and develop our services, ensuring that we provide accessible opportunities for everyone in the community. If you are happy to participate in our diversity monitoring please use the link below <https://forms.gle/7e1pe5pbU7ij4x8H8>

We believe diversity strengthens our organisation and drives innovation. We specifically encourage individuals from under-represented communities including global majority, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showmen and Boater (GRTSB), d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent (DDN), LGBTQIA+ or who are from less affluent socio-economic backgrounds to apply.



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