

Next Stop: City Bus

Open Call Artist Brief - Poet

Introduction to K6 Gallery

Founded in 2015, K6 Gallery is an exhibition space in the centre of Southampton that makes use of a pair of iconic grade II listed red phone boxes. Designed by architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1935, the K6 (Kiosk 6) model was the sixth incarnation of the red phone box, a smaller and more streamlined version of the K2 model.

The gallery runs a diverse programme of exhibitions and events in non-traditional art spaces, engaging audiences by showcasing both local and national artists with a focus on contemporary and conceptual art.

Find out more by visiting our website: k6gallery.com

Introduction to Next Stop: City Bus

In 1993, Southampton City Council commissioned poet, Carol Ann Duffy and photographer, Nancy Honey to make new work for a project called CityBus. The artists were asked to write poems and take photographs whilst travelling on Southampton's buses; the resulting work was then exhibited on board, unwittingly involving the public in its content and consumption.

2018 marks 25 years since this relatively unknown project took place; we'd like to celebrate the occasion by exhibiting the work again at K6 Gallery and re-commissioning the project, inviting two new artists to contribute. The aim is to reunite the public with the original works that provide a rare insight into local cultural and social histories, as well as delivering a new, contemporary reinterpretation of the project.

The Brief

The commissioned poet will spend time riding Southampton's Bluestar 17 bus, observing passengers and passers-by and experiencing the city through this popular mode of transport. During this development and production period, the selected poet will write a collection of around 10 poems inspired by the experience.

This brief is open to artistic interpretation. There is no prescribed structure or format for the work. The only requirement is that the outcome is a written response.

Whilst the work might refer to the original City Bus project in form, style, or content, it should also have a distinguishable contemporary twist. Please see Appendix 1 for examples of Carol Ann Duffy's poems, exhibited in the 1993 City Bus project.

The poems will then be exhibited on the Bluestar 17 bus and at bus stops along this selected route. The exhibition will last three months. During that time, the commissioned poet will be expected to deliver an Artist Tour.

The selected poet's work will also be included in an exhibition publication.

Timeline

Friday 24th August - Monday 10th September > Open Call.

Tuesday 11th September > Appoint Poet and Photographer.

Tuesday 11th September - Sunday 30th September > Research and development period.

Monday 1st October - Wednesday 31st October > Production period: artists ride buses and make the work.

Thursday 1st November > Deadline for poems and photographs.

Saturday 1st December > Next Stop: City Bus Lunch.

Sunday 2nd December - Saturday 2nd March > Next Stop: City Bus exhibition and Artist Tour (date tbc).

Fee

There is a fee of £1,800 for the commissioned poet. This fee is based on nine working days at £200 a day.

2 days preparatory period (research and development)

3 days production period (riding the bus routes)

3 days post-production period (refining the work)

1 Artist Tour

Expenses

There is also a budget for any incurred expenses such as travel costs and accommodation.

Submissions Procedure

To submit an application or if you have any questions please email Mia Delve at mia@k6gallery.com by Monday 10th September at 12pm.

Submissions must include:

250 words about why you would like to undertake this commission and how you would approach the project.

A budget breakdown for incurred expenses.

A link to a website or portfolio that includes examples of previous work.

A CV.

1. Press clipping from Southampton Central Library Archives (1993).

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY LIBRARY

CLASSIFICATION	SUBJECT	SOURCE	DATE
HS 2	Art Art in public places	S.E.E.	7.7.1993

A BIZARRE art gallery has been revealed by Southampton City Council — a double-decker bus.

The number 22 bus launched a project which will see the whole Citybus fleet bedecked with photographs and poems.

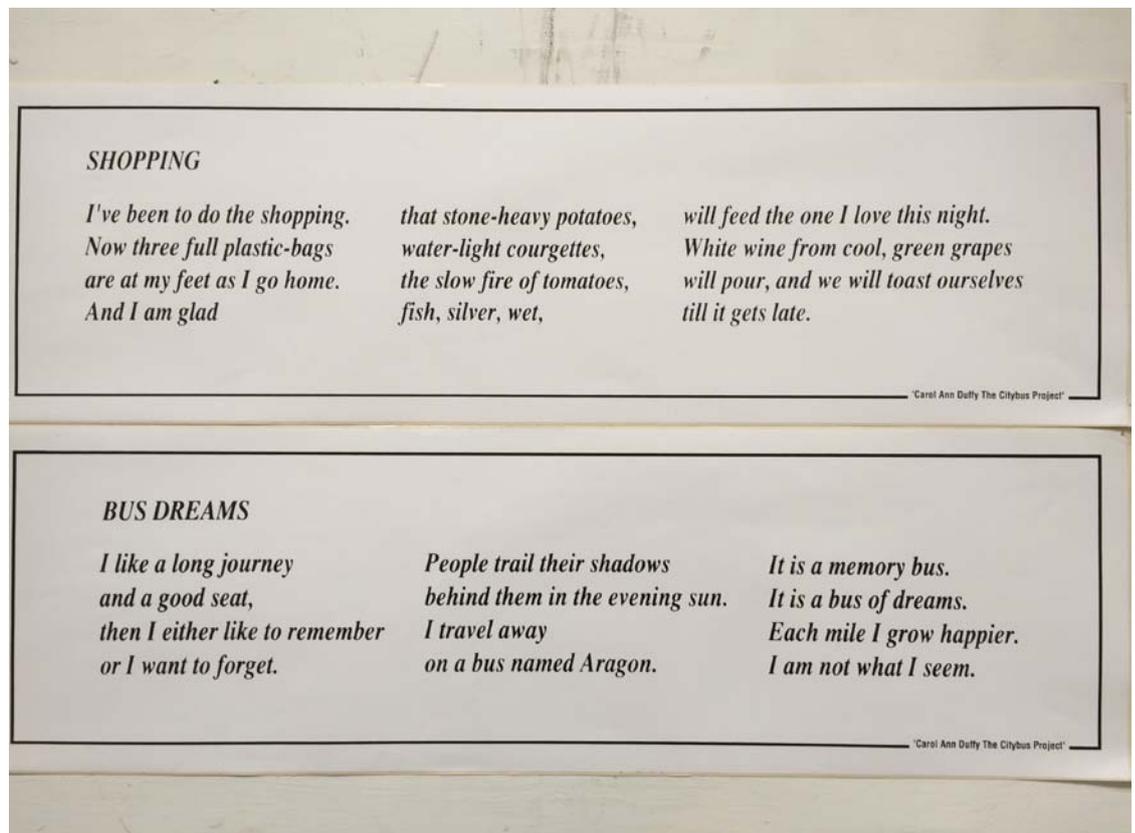
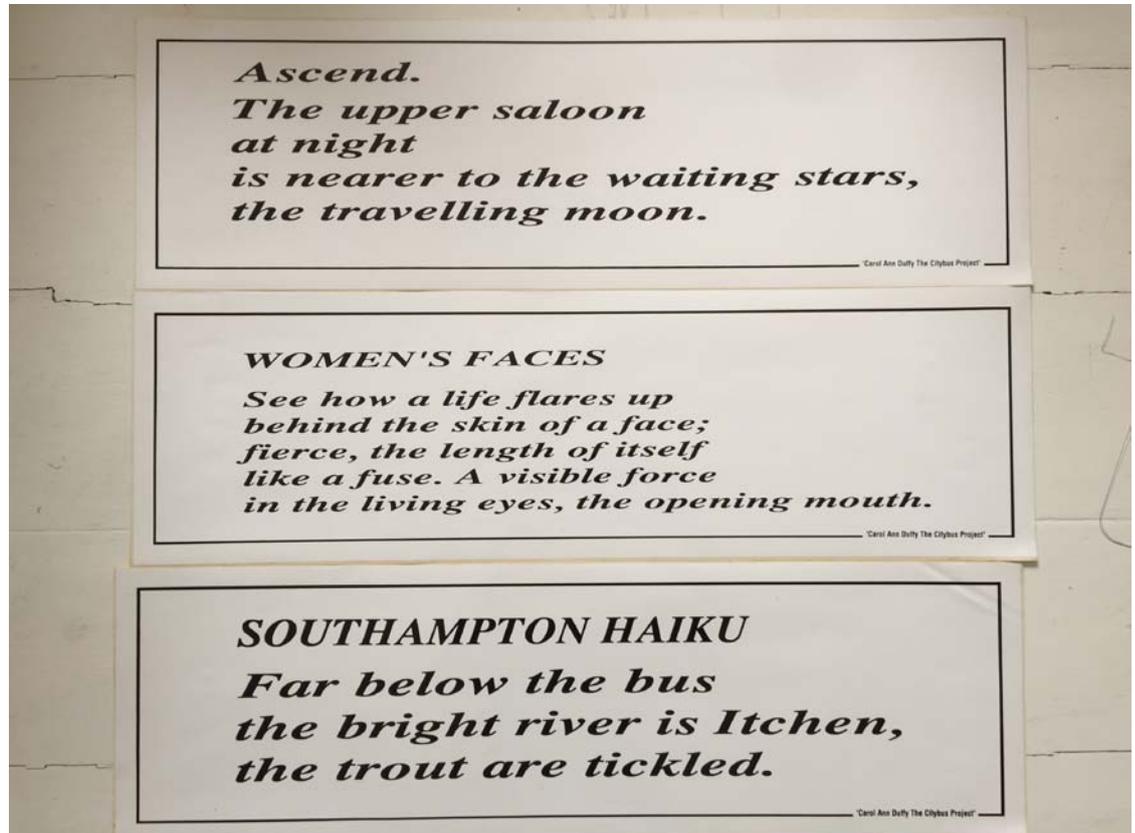
The project by the council's Art in Public Places team has turned the fleet into a mobile gallery.

Artist and photographer Nancy Honey has spent 12 months taking photographs of bus travellers on random trips through Southampton which are used on the fleet.

And writer Carol Ann Duffy has contributed poems reflecting on what it is like to travel by bus in the city.

Public Art officer Rosy Greenlees said: "The largest group of people who travel by bus — generally the very young or older people — are often excluded from the arts.

2. Carol Ann Duffy, The City Bus Project (1993)



GOSSIP

**Psst! Don't say a word-
but have you heard,
the cat that got the cream purred,
the worm went to the early bird,
someone took a spoon and stirred...
but I've told no-one. (You're the third.)**

'Carol Ann Duffy The Citybus Project'

ENVY ON THE ITCHEN BRIDGE

**I do not wish I had a yacht.
I am glad of what I've gacht,
even though it's nacht a lacht.
Jealous? Moi? No, nacht one jacht-
sailing off to somewhere hacht
doesn't cause me envy. Wacht?
No, I do not want a yacht.**

'Carol Ann Duffy The Citybus Project'

**Please Give This Seat To Someone Who Needs It
Please Seat Someone Who Needs To Give It This
Someone Needs To Please Who Give It This Seat
This It Please To Give Seat Who Needs Someone
Please Give To It This Someone Who Seat Needs
Who Needs This Seat Someone To Give It Please
Give Who Someone Seat It To This Needs Please
To Someone Who Needs It Please Give This Seat**

'Carol Ann Duffy The Citybus Project'

GLIMPSE

**I'm sure she was just about
to smile
as the sun
pierced through the usual clouds
lighting her face, warming it;
smile like she
suddenly thought –
and then the bus pulled off.**

'Carol Ann Duffy The Citybus Project'