



Orkney 2025 International Island Games

Public Art Commission

Artist Brief: Sculptor

1. Introduction

An experienced artist is sought to design and produce a sculpture for use during the Water Ceremony – a key part of the Opening Ceremony of the Orkney International Island Games, which will be held from 12th to 18th July 2025. The Sculpture will then be relocated to a permanent site at the Pickaquooy Centre.

The Project will be jointly managed by Orkney 2025 and the Pickaquooy Trust.

2. Background

The Island Games began in 1985 when the Isle of Man set in motion an exciting and ambitious plan to bring together athletes from small islands across the world to take part in a new sporting festival — the 'Inter-Island Games'. In that first games 700 sportsmen and women came to compete in eight different sports. The event was such a success it was agreed to hold an Island Games every second year.

In 2025 the Orkney International Island Games will bring together athletes from 24 islands around the world to compete in 12 sporting disciplines, including Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Bowls, Cycling, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Sailing, Squash, Swimming and Triathlon.

Orkney's Games will be the largest multi-sports event anywhere in the world in 2025, and will provide an incredible platform upon which to promote Orkney in all its aspects, from its natural landscapes to its welcoming people to its amazing products. Orkney continually

demonstrates its ability to punch above its weight and has a proven track record in successfully delivering high class international events.

Orkney 2025 has developed a number of important values that provide a focus for all its activities as it works towards delivering an incredible Island Games. These are:

- Provide a competitive sporting programme in excellent facilities
- Create a meaningful legacy for local sports development
- Involve our local communities and businesses as much as possible
- Celebrate the best of Orkney: place, produce and people
- Make the 2025 Games as environmentally friendly as possible
- Bring island communities together

The Games aims to promote sportsmanship, camaraderie, and healthy competition among participants, while showcasing the natural beauty and cultural heritage of its Island Hosts. All those who take part can see what a positive impact this international sports competition has had in their small, often remote communities; promoting a healthy lifestyle, providing a focus for young people, but also allowing thousands of people from island communities across the world to explore new places and cultures, share unforgettable experiences and form lasting friendships.

3. The Water Ceremony

A key part of the Orkney Island Games is the Opening Ceremony scheduled to take place at the Bignold Park in Kirkwall, on the afternoon of 12th July 2025. And an incredibly important part of the Opening Ceremony is the Water Ceremony — the Island Games' equivalent of the lighting of the Olympic flame.

An athlete, often the youngest, from each of the 24 participating islands brings water from their home to mix with the waters from all the other islands. A sculpture is made by the Host Island, to act as a receptacle for these waters. This symbolic act recognises the uniqueness of each of the 24 participating islands, but also the shared community that islanders experience by coming together for this major sporting festival; it recognises the cultural similarity between our communities but also celebrates our differences.

Once the Opening Ceremony is complete the sculpture will be relocated to a prominent site at the Pickaquoy Centre, for display as a permanent piece of Public Art – a reminder of the Orkney 2025 Island Games.

4. Project Concept and Outcomes

This project is to commission an artist, or artists, to produce a piece of public art to be displayed initially at the location of the Opening Ceremony for the Orkney International Island Games 2025, then to be sited in a public space at the Pickaquoy Centre, Orkney's premier sports, arts and leisure facility.

The concept, and the materials for the finished piece, will be according to the artist's vision, with the approval and input from a steering group consisting of representatives of Orkney2025 and the Pickaquoy Centre (the steering group).

5. The Finished Piece

The finished piece **does** need to:

- be able to contain the volume of water brought by the 24 Islands that participate in the Island Games – potentially up to 24 litres;
- have a strong and recognisable link to the identity and culture of islands in general and Orkney in particular;
- reflect the idea of the intermingling of the island communities at the Island Games;
- have permanency – be able to survive in an outdoors environment for at least 15 years, with minimal maintenance requirements.

The finished piece **does not** need to:

- reference "Sport" but can if the artist/s so wishes;
- have a permanent external water supply, but may do so if the concept requires it;
- have a permanent electrical supply, but may do so if the concept requires it.

The target audience for the finished work will be attendees from the participating Islands, Pickaquoy Centre users and the wider community for whom it will act as both a reminder of the Island Games and also as a symbol of our Islandness.

6. Project Arrangements

The artist/s will be responsible for the overall running of the project, but will be supported by the steering group. This will require updates on progress along the below timeline.

Artist(s) will be expected to contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the project and will need to demonstrate that appropriate public liability insurance and PVG clearance (if required) is in place by the start of the project.

7. Project Timeline

It is planned that the Sculptural piece should be completed by the end of May 2025.

Stage	Activity	Deadline
1	Selection of successful artist	Mid September 2024
2	Development of Project Plan with stakeholder input	Mid October 2024
3	Planning, development and making	Oct 2024 – April 2025
4	Final testing phase and snagging	April – May 2025
5	Completion of the Water Sculpture	End May 2025
6	Installation at the site of the Opening Ceremony	July 10 th 2025
7	Relocation to permanent site at the Pickaquoy Centre	July 13 th 2025
8	Post-event Evaluation with Artist and Stakeholders	End July 2025

7. Fees and Costs

1. The project will be developed and delivered within the constraints of the overall budget of £12,000.
2. The project budget breaks down as artist/s fees of approximately £8000, based on an anticipated total number of hours of 235, at Scottish Artist Union sessional rate of £34 per hour and total production and fabrication costs of £4000. These proportional allocations can vary as required in consultation with the steering group.
3. Rates and prices specified shall be deemed inclusive of all/any additional expenses howsoever incurred. No further claims for costs shall be considered.
4. Whilst costs for installation at both locations are the responsibility of Orkney 2025 and the Pickaquoy Trust, the input of the artist/s is essential to ensure these are undertaken successfully.
5. The responsibility for publicising the project, including all marketing costs, will lie with Orkney 2025 and the Pickaquoy Trust.

8. Professional Conduct and Liabilities

Applicants must provide details of their Public Liability Insurance up to £5M and will maintain these for the period of the commission.

9. Intellectual Property Rights

The Artist/s will be required to adhere to the Intellectual Property Rights as outlined in the Artist Commissioning Agreement.

Commissioning Process

We are inviting responses to this brief from individuals or groups of artists, who will be professional, practising artists who can demonstrate a body of work in the field of Sculpture/3-dimensional construction.

Whilst applications will be considered from artists who are not resident in Orkney, there is a strong desire for the production of the piece to take place in Orkney, for ease of access and consultation with the steering group. The funding of the project does not include provision of accommodation or living expenses for the artist/s or cover any transport costs for the artist/s or movement of the sculpture from outwith the county for siting at the opening ceremony.

Artists are asked to respond in writing by:

- Completing the attached Application form,
- Outlining an initial proposed concept for the finished Artwork, and project plan, including a method statement and a budget breakdown,
- Providing a CV, highlighting their experience in the field of Sculpture, and
- Providing a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 12 images of previous relevant works.

The Steering Group will review the submissions and invite those artists who meet the evaluation criteria to discuss their concept in more detail.

The evaluation criteria that will be used are:

- The overall concept and whether it meets the criteria set out in section 4.
- The artist/s' approach to delivering the requirements outlined in their project plan.
- Availability to work on the project between Autumn 2024 and early summer 2025, with a proposed completion date of the end of May 2025.
- Previous experience of commissioned art projects is desirable but not essential.

The closing date for responses to this brief is 5pm on Thursday, 22nd August 2024.

Responses should be emailed to vice-chair@orkney2025.com or submitted to the Orkney2025 Games Office, West Tankerness Lane, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1AL.

If you would like to find out more about this project or have any questions relating to this brief please contact Beccy May at the above email address in the first instance.



Application Form – Sculptural Art Commission

Orkney 2025 Opening Ceremony – Water Ceremony Sculpture

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Phone.....Email.....

Website.....

Social Media 1.....

Social Media 2.....

Please enclose the following with your application.

- An outline of the initial proposed concept for the finished Artwork, and project plan, including a method statement and a budget breakdown,
- A CV, highlighting your experience in the field of Sculpture, and
- A minimum of 6 and a maximum of 12 images of previous relevant work.
- The names and contact details of two referees.

Applicant Signature(s).....Date.....

The closing date for responses to this brief is 5pm on Thursday, 22nd August 2024.

Responses should be emailed to vice-chair@orkney2025.com or submitted to the Orkney2025 Games Office, West Tankerness Lane, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1AL.