

## ARTIST OPPORTUNITIES WITH KINETIKA

(Freelance, short-term fixed contract)

**IF: Milton Keynes International Festival is looking for two Milton Keynes-based artists to work with international company Kinetika on a project that will be delivered as part of the 2021 Festival.**

These paid roles offer a continuing professional development opportunity to work with Kinetika's founder and lead artist, Ali Pretty, to create and produce 30 large-scale hand-painted silk flags that will be presented in open spaces and Festival locations in July 2021.

The Festival has commissioned Kinetika to work with up to 10 Milton Keynes-based community groups to create designs for the flags.



### About the Festival

IF: Milton Keynes International Festival takes place every two years and plays a key role in the cultural development of Milton Keynes. It is recognised nationally as a landmark in the UK's cultural calendar and has established a strong brand and growing attendance drawn from the city and beyond.



Creating unique and memorable experiences, the Festival is designed to encourage people to see a different side to Milton Keynes, presenting a world-class, multi-arts programme which includes new commissions, site-specific and participatory projects, large-scale/outdoor and family events, concerts, theatre, dance, music and visual arts installations.

Engaging over 500,000 people, events take place in unusual locations across Central Milton Keynes, including parks, public squares, and the online and digital realm.



The Festival is produced by The Stables and is core funded by Arts Council England and Milton Keynes Council, with support and partnerships across the corporate, educational, charitable and community sectors of Milton Keynes and beyond.

The Stables has just marked its 50th anniversary. It has a mission to enrich people's lives with opportunities to access, participate in and experience live music and the arts in general.

[stables.org](https://stables.org)

[ifmiltonkeynes.org](https://ifmiltonkeynes.org) IF: 2018 highlights film: <https://bit.ly/2N2wgkD>

## ABOUT THE KINETIKA PROJECT

### Background and Overview

In Spring 2020, the Festival had already started collaborating with Kinetika - an internationally renowned company which specialises in creating large-scale hand-painted silks and flags - on a project working with Milton Keynes community groups to make eye-catching silk flags which were to feature in a parade and choreographed performance to mark the opening of the 2020 Festival. These plans had to be put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Through discussions with the community groups in early 2021, there was still a real appetite to be part of a creative project with Kinetika.

Given the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, new opportunities and ways of working have been explored and a new set of new themes have been identified that resonate with the times we now live in. These new ideas have become a starting point for discussions around ways to create flags though collaborative working at distance and how these can be produced to still be a major part of the Festival's 2021 programme.

## About Kinetika

Kinetika is an internationally renowned company, specialising in creating large-scale hand-painted silks. For over 20 years, the company has been combining world-class design with community projects to produce spectacular outdoor commissions that engage diverse audiences wherever they work.

Founded by artistic director Ali Pretty in 1997, and inspired by her training in carnival arts in Trinidad and India, Kinetika now has an unrivalled reputation for working with local communities on projects that change the way people feel about where they live, from local community walks in Essex to high streets and city squares across the UK, out to the Great Wall of China, Ethiopia and West Bengal.

In 2020 Kinetika responded to the challenge of Covid-19 and through innovative, new ways of working, produced projects with communities in Essex and the Thames Gateway:

- Purfleet Flags: <https://kinetika.co.uk/portfolio/purfleet-flags>
- Land of The Fanns: <https://kinetika.co.uk/portfolio/land-of-the-fanns>



Inspiration sessions were held online, design packs were delivered to people's doors, and one-to-one support sessions happened on the 'phone and via Zoom workshops.

Kinetika also has a group Facebook page *Drawing Communities Together* where participants can share their ideas in development and interact with each other while designing their flags:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/drawingcommunitiestogether>

When it was possible and safe to do so, there were some socially distanced outdoor design workshops, and the projects culminated in exhibitions of the finished flags.

Kinetika's Website: <https://kinetika.co.uk/>

## Kinetika working with Groups in Milton Keynes: Themes and Taking Part

Building on the groundwork undertaken in 2020, community groups in Milton Keynes were still keen to work with Kinetika to create and produce 30 flags that would feature at the next edition of the Festival in July 2021.

Given the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, new opportunities and ways of working have been explored by Kinetika and the community groups, and a new set of new themes have been identified that resonate with the times we now live in.

These themes will give a starting point for design discussions and a range of creative exercises which will enable flags to be created that will now be a major part of the Festival's 2021 programme.

Much of the contact with the communities will be online during April 2021 and will be influenced by the group's own response to the emerging themes identified which include:

- Coming together
- Getting outdoors
- Appreciating nature
- Saying thank you

The two artists will work with community group leaders, the Festival's Kinetika Project Manager and Kinetika's lead artist, to support and advise individual visual contributions and descriptive words from up to 150 community participants.

## Flag Production

The flags will be made by Kinetika and the Milton Keynes artists in the Kinetika Design Studio in May.

## Presentation and Display of Flags

The set of 30 flags will be presented in public open spaces and at the Milton Keynes International Festival's locations in July 2021.

All of the people involved will have times set aside when they are encouraged to come and view their design in-situ and amongst the sea of designs in Milton Keynes.

After the event, flags will be either retained for Festival use, displayed at other events or returned to community groups.

To accompany this, an on-line gallery featuring all the designs and descriptive words collected from the participants will also be launched in July.



## ARTIST OPPORTUNITIES WITH KINETIKA

**(Freelance, short-term fixed contract)**

The Festival is inviting two professional Milton Keynes-based artists with an interest in visual arts, textiles and craft practices to apply for two paid placements.

These roles offer a continuing professional development opportunity to build skills in:

- Online community engagement and communications
- Drawing, upscaling designs and laying out designs
- Managing and handing hand-made silk

- Hot waxing
- Colour mixing and the use of cold-water dyes
- Artistic decision-making with regard to painting the silks
- The process of double waxing
- Community engagement and communications

The successful artists will visit Kinetika's studios in Purfleet in Thurrock (Essex), and work with the team and the company's industry-leading processes in the creation of high-quality silk batik work.

The artists will need to be flexible and available during the following dates:

- **March 2021:** Zoom introduction sessions with Artistic director and Kinetika's lead artist
- **March/April:** Delivery of workpacks to groups and doorstep briefings
- **April:** Online Zoom sessions and ad-hoc support participants with their design
- **Start of May:** Collection of finished designs from participants
- **10 to 28 May:** Travel and stay in Covid-secure accommodation for up to 9 days in Thurrock, Essex where the flags will be produced
- **July:** Be present at selected exhibition days, particularly if participants are attending

Previous experience of working in a community setting with people of all ages and abilities would be an advantage.

## TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

**The contract for the artist placement roles will be issued by The Stables, the producer of IF: Milton Keynes International Festival.**

**Locations:** Milton Keynes and Kinetika's studios in Purfleet in Thurrock (Essex)

Remote/home working will be required

**Travel:** This requires the post-holder to have access to suitable transport to attend Kinetika's studio in Essex, and Festival and/or locations in Milton Keynes.

**Reporting:** This role will report to Rachel Wright, the Festival's Kinetika Project Manager.

**Dates:** This contract will run from March 2021 to the end of July 2021.

The contract is to include all research, preparation, planning, meetings (online and in-person) and delivery. Working hours are flexible to suit the needs of the role.

**Contract:** This role is offered as a freelance or short fixed-term contract.

**Fees:** A £2,200 +VAT project fee is available, payable in instalments.

Expenses and accommodation (when necessary - to be agreed and booked by the Festival) will be paid when traveling to/from Essex and/or staying in Essex to work in Kinetika's studio.

Travel and any expenses within Milton Keynes are included in the project fee.

Travel to/from Essex will be reimbursed at the standard class rail fare, petrol receipts or mileage at an agreed rate. These out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed on submission of relevant VAT receipts.

**Contract:** This role is offered as a freelance or short fixed-term contract.

**Submission:** To apply, please submit:

- Your CV (maximum 2 pages)
- A cover note that outlines how you/your practice would benefit from this opportunity
- Up to three examples of recent work or projects that show your suitability for the role

**Please ensure that your application is submitted by 10am on Monday 1 March 2021 to Rachel Wright, Kinetika Project Manager by email: [therachelwright@hotmail.com](mailto:therachelwright@hotmail.com)**

Alternative formats to written applications are accepted as a reasonable adjustment.

If you would like to discuss the placement further, please contact Rachel Wright 07814532472 prior to the deadline.

**Interviews:** Shortlisted artists will be advised if they have been selected for interview by Wednesday 3 March 2021.

**Interviews will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 4 March 2021 on Zoom.**

The Interview Panel will include the Festival's Creative Director, Bill Gee; Kinetika's Ali Pretty and Rachel Wright, the Festival's Kinetika Project Manager.



**IF** Milton Keynes  
International  
Festival

Produced by **the  
stables**

**IF: Milton Keynes International Festival 2020**

**Produced by The Stables, Stockwell Lane, Wavendon, Milton Keynes MK17 8LU**

The Stables is committed to equality of opportunity in recruitment. We value a diverse team and welcome applications from all sectors of the community.

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