

About Us

Siamsa Tíre is a vibrant and inclusive arts centre in Tralee, County Kerry. With a rich programme of theatre, music, comedy, dance, visual arts, and community events, we celebrate Ireland's cultural heritage while embracing new, diverse voices and creative expression.

Our roots go back to 1957, when Fr. Pat Ahern established a choir in Tralee that laid the foundation for what would become a national folk theatre movement. In 1968, the first summer season of performances was staged, and in 1974, Fr. Ahern was appointed Artistic Director. In 1991, Siamsa Tíre moved into its purpose-built theatre and arts centre on the edge of Tralee Town Park, a landmark venue designed to bring professional and community-based arts together under one roof.

We bring people together to share stories, skills, and moments of joy, whether through live performances, exhibitions, or participatory workshops for all ages.

As Ireland's first Green Certified Theatre, we are committed to sustainability in all its forms: cultural, environmental, and community-based. Our work honours the past, engages the present, and inspires the future, locally and globally.

At Siamsa Tíre, culture lives and evolves with every connection made.

You can learn more about our building and tech spec here Siamsa Tíre Theatre - Technical Specifications & Venue Details

VISUAL ARTS CURATOR

Contract: Contract for Services – 12 months
Contract Period: November 2026 – November 2027
Maximum Contract Value: €12,000 inclusive of VAT and all applicable taxes, charges and ordinary expenses
Location: Hybrid, with attendance at Siamsa Tíre, Tralee for agreed key programme activity

The Opportunity

Siamsa Tíre is seeking an experienced Visual Arts Curator to shape and lead the development of our 2027 Visual Arts Programme.

This appointment comes at an important point in the development of visual arts at Siamsa Tíre. Alongside shaping a strong and distinctive programme for 2027, the curator will help us develop a clear curatorial framework for the years ahead, one that is artist-led, responsive to place and audience, and reflects Siamsa Tíre's role as a multidisciplinary arts centre in Kerry.

We are looking for someone with a strong curatorial eye, a good knowledge of contemporary visual arts practice and the ability to build trusted relationships with artists. They will bring coherence, ambition and professional expertise to the programme, while understanding the particular opportunities that come with developing visual arts within a busy multidisciplinary venue.

Working closely with the CEO and the Siamsa Tíre team, the curator will review existing proposals and opportunities, identify and develop new possibilities, engage artists and partners and shape a balanced programme within the available Visual Arts budget.

This is a freelance curatorial engagement rather than a full-time operational role. Much of the work can be undertaken remotely, but regular engagement with Siamsa Tíre and the visual arts community in Kerry will be important. The curator will be expected to be present in Tralee for agreed key stages of programme development, installations, openings and other activity where their professional presence is required.

Scope of Services

1. **Curate the 2027 Visual Arts Programme**

Develop and oversee the curatorial direction of Siamsa Tíre's 2027 Visual Arts Programme, including:

- reviewing existing submissions, proposals and programme commitments;
- identifying and researching artists, exhibitions and potential projects;
- developing a coherent and balanced programme across 2027;
- engaging directly with artists regarding potential exhibitions and projects;
- developing opportunities for emerging and established artists where appropriate;
- considering opportunities for community, education and collaborative visual arts activity within the wider programme;
- exploring the potential use of the gallery and other appropriate spaces within Siamsa Tíre;
- working with the CEO and relevant team members to agree programme scheduling and priorities.

2. **Curatorial Framework & Development**

Support Siamsa Tíre in strengthening its longer-term approach to visual arts by:

- reviewing the existing Visual Arts Programming Policy and making recommendations for its development;
- reviewing the current submissions and selection process;
- considering the balance between professional exhibitions, artist development, community and group exhibitions, education partnerships and other forms of visual arts engagement;
- advising on appropriate professional standards and good practice in relation to artists, exhibitions and curatorial processes;
- considering opportunities to strengthen Siamsa Tíre's relationships with artists, visual arts organisations, networks and partners locally, regionally and nationally; and

- contributing to a clear curatorial framework that can inform future visual arts programming beyond 2027.

3. Artists & Programme Development

Act as the principal curatorial contact for artists participating in the 2027 programme, including:

- developing and maintaining positive professional relationships with artists;
- providing appropriate curatorial guidance through the development of exhibitions and projects;
- agreeing exhibition concepts and approaches with participating artists;
- advising on selection, presentation, interpretation and installation of work;
- developing or commissioning appropriate curatorial and interpretive text;
- identifying relevant opportunities for partnership, collaboration or artist development; and
- supporting a professional and positive experience for artists working with Siamsa Tíre.

4. Programme Budget

Work collaboratively with the CEO and Siamsa Tíre team to manage the agreed Visual Arts Programme budget.

This will include:

- developing indicative budgets for exhibitions and projects;
- allocating available resources across the programme in consultation with Siamsa Tíre;
- ensuring appropriate provision for artist fees and other programme costs;
- monitoring programme expenditure against agreed budgets;

- supporting the development of funding proposals or partnership opportunities where these could add value to the programme.

The Visual Arts Programme budget is separate from the professional fee payable under this contract. All expenditure and financial commitments will remain subject to Siamsa Tíre's normal approval and financial procedures.

5. Curatorial Leadership & Programme Presence

Act as Siamsa Tíre's principal professional curatorial point of contact for the Visual Arts Programme.

The curator will:

- provide ongoing curatorial advice to the CEO and relevant members of the Siamsa Tíre team;
- attend agreed installations, exhibition openings and other key programme activity;
- advise the Marketing team on appropriate programme context, artist information and interpretive content and collaborate on agreed timelines for content;
- contribute to evaluation and reflection on the programme during the year;
- where agreed, represent Siamsa Tíre at relevant regional and national visual arts meetings, events and professional networks.

Routine administration, financial processing, marketing delivery, building operations and technical/facilities functions will remain with the relevant Siamsa Tíre team members. The curator will work collaboratively with these colleagues to support effective delivery of the programme.

Key Deliverables

Over the contract period, the curator will be expected to deliver:

- a coherent and professionally curated 2027 Visual Arts Programme within the agreed programme budget;
- recommendations and an agreed framework for the future development of Siamsa Tíre's Visual Arts Programming Policy and submissions process;

- effective professional relationships with participating artists and relevant visual arts partners;
- appropriate curatorial and interpretive input across exhibitions and projects;
- regular updates to the CEO on programme development, budgets, opportunities and emerging issues;
- a short end-of-contract review outlining programme activity, learning and recommendations for future development.

Specific programme priorities, timelines and deliverables will be agreed at the commencement of the contract and reviewed periodically throughout the engagement.

Experience & Expertise

We are interested in hearing from curators and visual arts professionals who can demonstrate:

- relevant experience in curating exhibitions, visual arts programmes or artist-led projects;
- a strong knowledge of contemporary visual arts practice and the Irish visual arts landscape;
- experience working directly with professional artists at different stages of their careers;
- strong curatorial judgement and the ability to develop a coherent programme from a range of opportunities and proposals;
- experience managing or working within programme budgets;
- strong communication, relationship-building and organisational skills;
- an understanding of professional practice in relation to artist fees, exhibition development and artist engagement;
- the ability to work independently, exercise judgement and manage their own time and workload;

- an interest in developing visual arts within a multidisciplinary arts centre and in the particular cultural context of Kerry.

Knowledge of the visual arts ecology in Kerry and the wider region would be particularly welcome, as would existing relationships within the Irish visual arts sector.

We recognise that curatorial careers and practices develop through many different routes. A particular academic qualification is not required where applicants can demonstrate the experience, knowledge and professional practice necessary to deliver the contract.

Contract Arrangements

This opportunity will be offered as a Contract for Services for an initial period of 12 months.

The maximum value of the contract is **€12,000 inclusive of VAT and all other applicable taxes, charges and ordinary expenses associated with delivery of the services.**

A separate Visual Arts Programme budget will be made available by Siamsa Tíre for agreed exhibitions, artist fees and programme activity. This programme budget does not form part of the curator's professional fee.

The curator will be responsible for all ordinary costs associated with providing the contracted services, including normal travel to and from Siamsa Tíre. No additional professional fees, VAT, travel, subsistence or other ordinary expenses will be payable unless expressly agreed in writing in advance.

Where Siamsa Tíre specifically requires the curator to travel outside County Kerry to represent the organisation at an agreed national event, meeting, exhibition, research visit or other professional activity, reasonable travel and, where necessary, accommodation costs may be arranged or paid directly by Siamsa Tíre where agreed in advance. Such arrangements will not increase the professional fee payable under the contract.

The curator will be responsible for managing their own time and resources in delivering the agreed services and outputs. Much of the work may be undertaken remotely; however, the nature of the engagement will require attendance at Siamsa Tíre for agreed meetings, installations, exhibition openings and other key programme activity.

Some programme activity will take place outside normal office hours, particularly exhibition openings and events. This should be managed by the curator within the overall delivery of the contract.

The successful curator will be responsible for their own tax affairs and other obligations arising from their status as an independent contractor.

Any extension or further contract beyond the initial 12-month period will be subject to organisational requirements, available resources and a separate agreement.

Working Relationship

The CEO will act as the principal Siamsa Tíre contact for the contract.

The curator will work closely with relevant members of the Siamsa Tíre team across programme planning, artist liaison, marketing, technical delivery and financial management.

Priorities, programme milestones and key dates will be agreed at the commencement of the contract. Regular review meetings will provide an opportunity to monitor programme development, budgets and upcoming priorities while allowing the curator appropriate independence in delivering the agreed curatorial services.

How to Apply

Applicants should submit via this link: https://forms.gle/2am94rVLXt6oQJzg9

- a **current CV or professional profile**, maximum two pages;
- a **short proposal**, maximum two pages, outlining:
    - their interest in the opportunity;
    - their approach to curating and developing Siamsa Tíre's 2027 Visual Arts Programme;
    - how their experience and practice would inform the development of the programme and wider curatorial framework; and
    - their proposed approach to managing the engagement across the 12-month period;
- **up to three examples of previous curatorial work or relevant projects**, provided as links or within a single supporting document;

- contact details for **two professional referees**; and
- confirmation of their availability to undertake the contract.

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Applications should be submitted through the Siamsa Tíre online application form.

For queries relating to the opportunity or application process, please contact **ceo@siamsatire.com**, quoting **Visual Arts Curator 2027** in the subject line.

Timeline

Closing date: Wednesday 11th November 2026, 5.00pm
Interviews: Shortlisted candidates will be contacted to arrange a time/date.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a conversation with Siamsa Tíre to discuss their curatorial practice, relevant experience and approach to the opportunity.

Equal Opportunities

Siamsa Tíre is committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive and welcoming environment. We welcome applications from suitably experienced visual arts professionals from a diversity of backgrounds, identities and experiences and are committed to ensuring an equitable selection process.

Reasonable accommodations can be provided to support applicants in participating in the selection process. Applicants who require an adjustment are welcome to contact us in confidence.