

About Occasional Groundwork

Occasional Groundwork is an alliance of three European biennials EVA (Ireland's Biennial of Contemporary Art), GIBCA (Göteborg International Biennial for Contemporary Art, Sweden), and LIAF (Lofoten International Art Festival, Norway) that are each concerned with re-proposing the model of the international art biennial. Seeking a rooted infrastructure for the production and dissemination of contemporary art, Occasional Groundwork serves as a peer group for thinking-through the existing and speculative frameworks of organisational practice.

Groundings

Groundings is the first public initiative of Occasional Groundwork. Groundings is a series of co-commissioned texts by writers, artists, curators, and academics, exploring themes of internationalism, sustainability, and infrastructure within the context of the contemporary art biennial and the shift in conditions imposed by the ongoing pandemic. The first texts published in the **Groundings** series are Taru Elfving's *Time to take time to get grounded* (online [here](#)) and Grégory Castéra's *Composing the near and far* (online [here](#)). A third text in the series, by Omar Kholeif, will follow in the summer of 2021.

Call for Submissions

As a continuation of the series, **Occasional Groundwork** openly invites proposals for texts, by writers, artists, curators, administrators, and others. We are particularly interested in proposals to address themes of internationalism from operational or infrastructural perspectives, a selection of which will be commissioned as longer-form texts (2000 – 3000 words), published both online and in a print publication due for release in spring 2022.

Internationalism has been a defining characteristic of the contemporary arts infrastructure and discursive circuitry that we inherit in 2021. Over recent decades, it has been partly built through solidarity and connective diversity; partly built through cynicism and neoliberal opportunity. In descriptive usage, the "international" is often a benign aspiration and positive value, without specific metrics, qualification or accountability. Most recently, internationalism has been squeezed and demonized on both sides of the political spectrum; undermining local and national priorities, while also threatening to reproduce the economic and environmental precarities that have been accelerated by globalist agendas. In the past year, as a result of the global pandemic and the limits of air travel, internationalism has been reshaped again. New lines of access have been created on Zoom and other web platforms, while receding the essentialism of cultural encounter through travel and embodied experience. As an alliance of smaller-scale regional biennials that have been historically modelled on tenets of cultural "destination" within our respective national contexts, we feel the urgency to collectively rethink and reoperate the terms of internationalism with sustainable and co-developmental values.

Submission Process

- Submissions are invited via email to occasionalgroundwork@eva.ie;
- Deadline for Submissions: Sunday, July 25 at 5pm GMT;
- Please send a single page PDF document, to include an abstract or text proposal (max. 350 words) together with a short biography (max 250 words) plus estimations of the word count and completion date of the final text (if selected);
- Submission proposals must be new or previously unpublished;
- Submissions must be in English;
- For technical assistance or general queries relating to submissions, please email occasionalgroundwork@eva.ie.

Selection Process

- Selections will be made by representatives of the **Occasional Groundwork** network, with external assessment by artist [Dennis McNulty](#);
- A maximum of 6 texts will be selected and subsequently published online (Winter 2021) and in a forthcoming print publication (Spring 2022);
- Selected texts will be offered a fee of € 900 (50% upon selection; 50% upon receipt of the final text), with a further fee of € 500 available for the delivery of a peer group workshop to coincide with the launch / release of text;
- All applicants notified will be during the week of Monday 9nd August 2021, using the same email address supplied for submission;
- Due to the anticipated high number of submissions and the limited capacities of the **Occasional Groundwork** panel, we regret that we will not be able to offer feedback for unselected proposals.

Further Notes

- The specific schedule for the delivery and publication of the selected texts is relatively flexible and can be negotiated between the **Occasional Groundwork** panel and the appointed writer. However, we are working to the assumption of having all texts scheduled for release before end of 2021;
- **Occasional Groundwork** will provide minor copyediting and proofing support on final texts.