



# Editorial Policy

## **Who can write for Fish?**

The short answer is anyone can contribute an article or equivalent. Our aim is to create a forum for debate and to make connections between artists, writers, academics, organisations and audiences and we want these different voices to be represented in the publication.

Our intention is to work with writers at different stages of their careers, so some writing might be more complex, experienced or polished than others. If your article is selected but not quite ready for publication, one of the editorial team will contact you and suggest some changes.

## **What subjects will be tackled?**

The articles in Fish will tackle a wide range of issues and topics connected to art and visual culture. Some editions may be themed in future. Writers are encouraged to submit works that reflect their own research and interests.

## **What do you mean by art and visual culture?**

Art and visual culture is a broad category that includes art, design, craft, graphics, illustration, photography etc. We are also including experimental sound and performance. Articles will be led by issues and questions and may focus on contextual or theoretical perspectives concerning the production and consumption of art and visual culture. As long as your writing is critical and research led it will be considered for publication.

## What kind of writing will be featured?

Our focus is contemporary (visual) culture, artists/producers, places and venues, and audiences; and all the relationships that exist in-between! As a result writing style and conventions aren't 'owned' by any one group.

We've stipulated critical, research led, creative and experimental writing:

**Critical:** 'Critical' here doesn't derive from the traditional art school crit (although we would love to set up some opportunities for those!); but from an intention to ask questions, to challenge orthodoxy and hegemony and to look beneath the surface. We want to move beyond purely descriptive writing and personal judgement to writing that weighs up different opinions or perspectives, evaluates evidence, challenges arguments and conclusions. Critical in this sense, means analytical.

**Research-led:** by research, we mean the kind of evidence-based exploration that could range from academic enquiry to practice led research.

We envisage that most of the work featured will be in a traditional essay or report format. But we are equally interested in 'other ways of doing it'. As long as your contribution sits within the definitions of critical and research – led, you could submit a piece of experimental typography, a comic strip, creative writing etc.

The way that you write your contribution (combined with our curation of the publication) should be interesting, informative, thought provoking and challenging. Our readers should discover something new or see the familiar in a new light.

We've found the following excerpts from Arlene Raven, who champions 'writing alongside of', helpful:

*'The critical context is part of the concept of community, the community that consists of artist and audience for artworks contains, as well, the commentative structure in which the audience and artist may view the process and product of art works'*

*'Writing arising from my seeing, attempts to be educational and includes information gleaned from interviews, research and a knowledge of art and history'*

*'There is something that can be added to the experience of artworks – data and insights that will place them in literary, geographical, historical, critical, political or thematic contexts'*

**'Word of Honor', by Arlene Raven in *Mapping the Terrain: New Genre Public Art* edited by Suzanne Lacy.**

### What kind of Language should I use?

Hull is known for its friendliness and straight talking, so it makes sense for a publication born in the city to be accessible and inclusive. At Fish, we care a lot about accessibility and we ask that you consider the clarity of your writing in relation to the breadth of our readership. This doesn't mean that you cannot tackle complex ideas, just that you take care to explain specialist terms or concepts – perhaps by using endnotes to provide further references and direction.

### How Hull is it?

The intention is for Hull and the region to be at the centre - but not to be exclusive or inward looking since we are interested in collaboration and connection; We definitely want to nurture and support local talent but we will also invite writers and guest editors from other cities. Your topic might be about something local, national or international. If it's a local issue – how is this experienced or played out in other (Northern?) cities; if you are writing about something happening in say London – how does this affect, influence or contrast with the experience of Hull artists and audiences?

### I have another question - who do I ask?

You can always email us at [hello@thecriticalfish.co.uk](mailto:hello@thecriticalfish.co.uk)

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