



Application to become a trustee of the Sidney Nolan Trust

Voluntary unremunerated position, with reasonable expenses paid.

The Sidney Nolan Trust

Sir Sidney Nolan was one of the 20th century's most ground-breaking modern artists. His originality arose from his unconventional approach to art especially the materials he used. He was, in his own terms, an 'explorer' who loved to travel for new experiences. He was a polymath deeply influenced by poetry, literature, music, theatre, and history throughout his career. These influences informed his diverse oeuvre. His work was sublime, startling, thought provoking and often challenging.

In the last decade of his life, he established himself at The Rodd, a 500-year-old farm on the English-Welsh border. It was here that he set up the charity bearing his name, The Sidney Nolan Trust. Inspired by what his friend Benjamin Britten had created in Aldeburgh, Nolan's vision was to create a place where contemporary art could flourish alongside music, poetry, and drama. In support of this ideal, Nolan granted to the Trust an extensive body of his work, a personal archive, his collection of books, his studio and his home, Rodd Farm.

Mission

The Trust's mission is to build on Nolan's extraordinary legacy, to maintain a vibrant and thriving centre for the arts, in a rural setting. The Rodd gives others the space and freedom to expand their boundaries through art, music, poetry, and drama, in order to produce ground-breaking contemporary work.

The Trust's aims are to:

1. Use the Trust's collection of art and archive material to promote an ongoing appreciation of Nolan by showing his work at The Rodd, and beyond, to challenge people's thinking about modern art and the messages it can convey.
2. Use Nolan's ethos to inform the exploration of new creative practice by connecting people with differing views and from varied disciplines through a broad range of activities and programmes.
3. Enable active and creative engagement by a broad range of local, national, and international audiences with diverse creative and learning programmes.
4. Preserve, enhance, and give access to the natural environment, historic buildings, collections, and archives at the Rodd.
5. Secure a sustainable future for the Trust and to contribute to the wider cultural and economic prosperity of the Marches region.

Vision for 2030

Ground-breaking arts for everyone to enjoy.

In 2030 the Trust will have achieved its mission by:

- Maintaining in the minds of the public, in the UK and overseas, Nolan's reputation as an important modern artist of the 20th century whose work continues to inspire and influence other artists.
- Rescuing, restoring and giving a clear and sustainable purpose to Rodd Court and all the farm buildings in the context of a site-wide masterplan.
- Establishing a diverse annual rolling programme of exhibitions, events and residencies that supports innovative arts practice, which is recognised nationally and internationally for its excellence.
- Having an appropriately credited annual learning programme in place that is recognised for the memorable experiences it creates and the personal growth of those who engage with it.
- The Trust being embedded in the local (30-mile radius) community as a critically important 'community asset' that is worth supporting and engaging with.
- Promoting and furthering the environmental sustainability of the land, buildings and organisation so that it becomes recognised as a best practice model which others can follow.
- Achieving a financially sustainable annual business model that enables it to prosper.
- Having built reserves to a level that gives security to the Trust's long-term future in line with Charity Commission recommendations.
- The staff and volunteer team being suitably sized, trained and motivated to accommodate the scale of the Trust's operation and future growth.

A masterplan for the future

With the acquisition of Nolan's former home in 2018, we are now able to bring together all our assets, cultural and architectural, and deliver a new masterplan for our future.

This will be achieved by:

- The repurposing of Rodd Court, a Grade II* 17th century manor house, and the protection and repurposing of a range of listed farm buildings.
- New spaces to present a much broader range of Nolan's remarkable oeuvre as well as works by modern contemporary artists, which share Nolan's love of originality, boldness and confrontation.
- The preservation, recording and dissemination of Nolan's previously unseen personal archive.
- The creation of new gardens and other public facilities to enhance the time visitors spend with us.

Thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Architectural Heritage Fund, and the input of award-winning architects, Brownhill Hayward Brown LLP, we are at the early stages of developing this plan that will help deliver and sustain our ambition.

We are now looking for potential Trustees who share our passion and commitment, can support our mission and vision, and have the knowledge and experience to further the work of the Trust.

Further information about the Trust is available through our website [Sidney Nolan Trust](https://www.sidneynolantrust.org). The role is unpaid but immensely rewarding. As a Trustee, you will play an important part in developing a rural arts centre with a unique legacy. In a time of economic and social stress, our work provides opportunities and experiences that change lives for the better.

We value diversity of perspective and lived experience, and although we welcome applications from all backgrounds and fields, we are particularly keen to encourage younger people to apply. At this time, we have also undertaken a skills audit of the current board and would welcome trustees with the following attributes:

- **Creative flair**

An individual with creative flair who has significant experience of establishing multi-disciplinary creative and learning programmes.

- **Financial expertise**

An individual who has significant experience of establishing and maintaining robust income streams from a range of commercial activities, ideally within the charitable sector.

- **Leadership experience**

A high calibre individual who has significant experience of managing complex arts, heritage, charity or commercial organisations.

- **Legal expertise, especially property law**

An individual who has legal experience either in property or charity law, particularly in relation to the governance and legal duties of Charitable Incorporated Organisations.

Role of the Trustee

The role of the Trustee for the Sidney Nolan Trust is varied, exciting and hugely rewarding.

Key responsibilities are:

- Work with the Board and the Trust Director to deliver the vision of the Trust and enhance its profile in the United Kingdom and overseas.
- Provide and pursue strategic direction, encouraging new partnerships, opportunities, and ways of working.
- Preserve the Nolan collection and the Rodd estate.
- Set overall policy, defining goals, and evaluating performance against agreed targets.
- Exercise expert judgement and scrutiny for the Trust, contributing fully to Board meetings and sub-committees to ensure excellent governance.
- Support the Trust Director and wider staff team, where appropriate.
- Promote the credibility, ethos, and values of the Trust.

Trustee meetings are held three times a year. Trustees also participate in one or more of the Trust's sub-committees, depending on their interests and experience, which usually meet bi-monthly.

Recruitment Process

Notifications of interest consisting of a C.V. (maximum 2 sides of A4) together with a supporting statement (maximum 2 sides of A4) and names of two referees whom we may approach should be sent by email to lucy@sidneynolantrust.org

The closing date for notifications is Friday, 26th March 2021. Short-listed candidates will be invited to visit The Rodd (subject to Covid-19 government guidelines). Interviews will take place in April via Zoom or at The Rodd. If you have any queries, please contact the chair, Lucy Trench, on lucy@sidneynolantrust.org.