

THE LIVING MEMORIAL

OPEN CALL FOR IDEAS

Deadline: 30th June 2005

**remember
saro-wiwa**

remembering the past, shaping the future

10th November 2005 is the 10th anniversary of the death of writer and campaigner Ken Saro-Wiwa. Ken and eight of his colleagues were executed by the Nigerian Government, following their campaign against the devastating environmental impacts of oil companies in their lands in the Niger Delta. Now environmental, cultural and human rights groups have come together with writers, artists and the Saro-Wiwa family to create a major piece of public art in London: the Living Memorial.

On 22nd March 2005 at City Hall, London, the Remember Saro-Wiwa coalition launches the Open Call for Ideas, the deadline for which is 30th June. The selection panel will announce 5 finalists in the first week of August. Each finalist will receive a fee of £1000 to work up their ideas, which will be exhibited from late October to late November. The winning idea will be announced as the centrepiece of the 10th anniversary events on 10th November 2005, and the applicant will be awarded a commission fee of £10,000. The production budget is up to £35,000, and the first siting of the piece is planned for early summer 2006. This process is being led by curator David A Bailey with PLATFORM.

The Brief: What we are looking for

This is a unique commission: not only is its subject topical and activist, but it is also Britain's first deliberately *mobile* memorial. It will have the ability to be toured to up to six locations in London during 2006/7, while at the same time planning and securing its permanent home for installation in 2007/8.

Why "Living"?

In most people's minds a memorial summons up a conventional image of a statue, monument or plaque to those commemorated. These works can seem historical, looking back in time rather than putting across urgency and a sense of the future. The issues that Ken Saro-Wiwa fought and died for are as pressing today as they were then. The Niger Delta remains impoverished and polluted. The idea of a Living Memorial is to say that these issues are alive, that Ken and his colleagues did not die in vain, that their deaths mean something to us today and beyond. This "living" quality will be embodied in the winning proposal, and the whole project will be further animated by the 2-year programme of education work and publishing.

Why mobile?

We want the Living Memorial to be seen, felt, and discussed by as many people as possible in London and beyond. To this end, it will move between temporary sites across London, supported by an education programme. In this way the memorial engages with different communities and groups of passers-by, and builds an ever wider audience for the issues. A permanent site is sought however, so the piece needs to be conceived for the long-term. Your ideas on all possible sites are welcomed.

Issues the Living Memorial addresses

The winning piece will:

- summon up the spirit of Ken Saro-Wiwa's work, as writer and activist
- focus attention on the ongoing reality of the struggle for social and environmental justice in lands upon which Britain depends, specifically the Niger Delta
- reflect the cultural diversity of 21st Century London, and the interculturalism of global society
- include elements of interactivity, challenging the viewer to be active and engaged
- be flexible, ingenious and durable enough to be mobile *and* to be permanently located.
- not only remember the past, but help shape the future

Media

Taking into consideration the question of flexibility, mobility, and durability, applicants should think broadly. We do not wish to limit media in the Open Call stage: it could be sculpture, light, sound, installation, text, multi-media and more.

Who can apply

The competition is open to everyone, people from the arts, design, and architecture, as well as those from non-arts backgrounds. The creativity of activists and others are welcomed in this project, to honour the years of imaginative campaigning that has gone on around this issue. We are also interested in proposals from groups or people working collaboratively. It is an international competition, and will be networked via journals, www.remembersarowiwa.com, and internet lists. The briefing will be available in French and Spanish.

Living Memorial Timescales

22nd March : Launch of Remember Saro-Wiwa and the Open Call for Ideas

10th & 24th May : “Open Call” Meetings, venue and times to be announced.

This is an opportunity for those submitting ideas to learn more about the project from curator David A Bailey and PLATFORM. Material from these sessions will be published online.

30th June : Open Call for Ideas DEADLINE, 17.00 UK time.

July : Long-list of 20 selected

End July : Selection Panel judge 20, and decide shortlist of 5.

Beginning August : 5 finalists announced

Late October : Exhibition opens

Early November : Selection Panel interview shortlist

10th November : Winner announced as part of 10th Anniversary events

End November : Exhibition ends; Commissioning process begins

Early summer '06 : Piece installed in first temporary site; first education project

The Submission Process

Submission for the Open Call stage is by **e-mail only**. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY ATTACHMENTS OF IMAGES/ARTWORK AT THIS STAGE.**

Your 3-page proposal should include the following:

1 page of a brief outline of your idea and why this project interests you, written in English.

1 page on the materials/media, and an outline budget of costs

1 page synopsis of your CV **or** a statement about yourself.

The submissions are to be received by **17.00 (UK time), Thursday 30th June** to: **submissions@remembersarowiwa.com**

Remember Saro-Wiwa is coordinated by:

David A Bailey – curator

Dan Gretton – strategic relations

Lorne Stockman –environmental and human rights

Jane Trowell – art and education

Funders to date: Ken Saro-Wiwa Foundation, Greenpeace, PLATFORM, The Roddick Foundation

Remember Saro-Wiwa is a coalition of organizations and individuals initiated and coordinated by PLATFORM, including: African Writers Abroad, Amnesty International, Christian Aid, Diversity Art Forum, English PEN, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Human Rights Watch, Mayor of London, Minorities of Europe, Anita & Gordon Roddick, South Bank Centre, Spinwatch.

www.remembersarowiwa.com

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