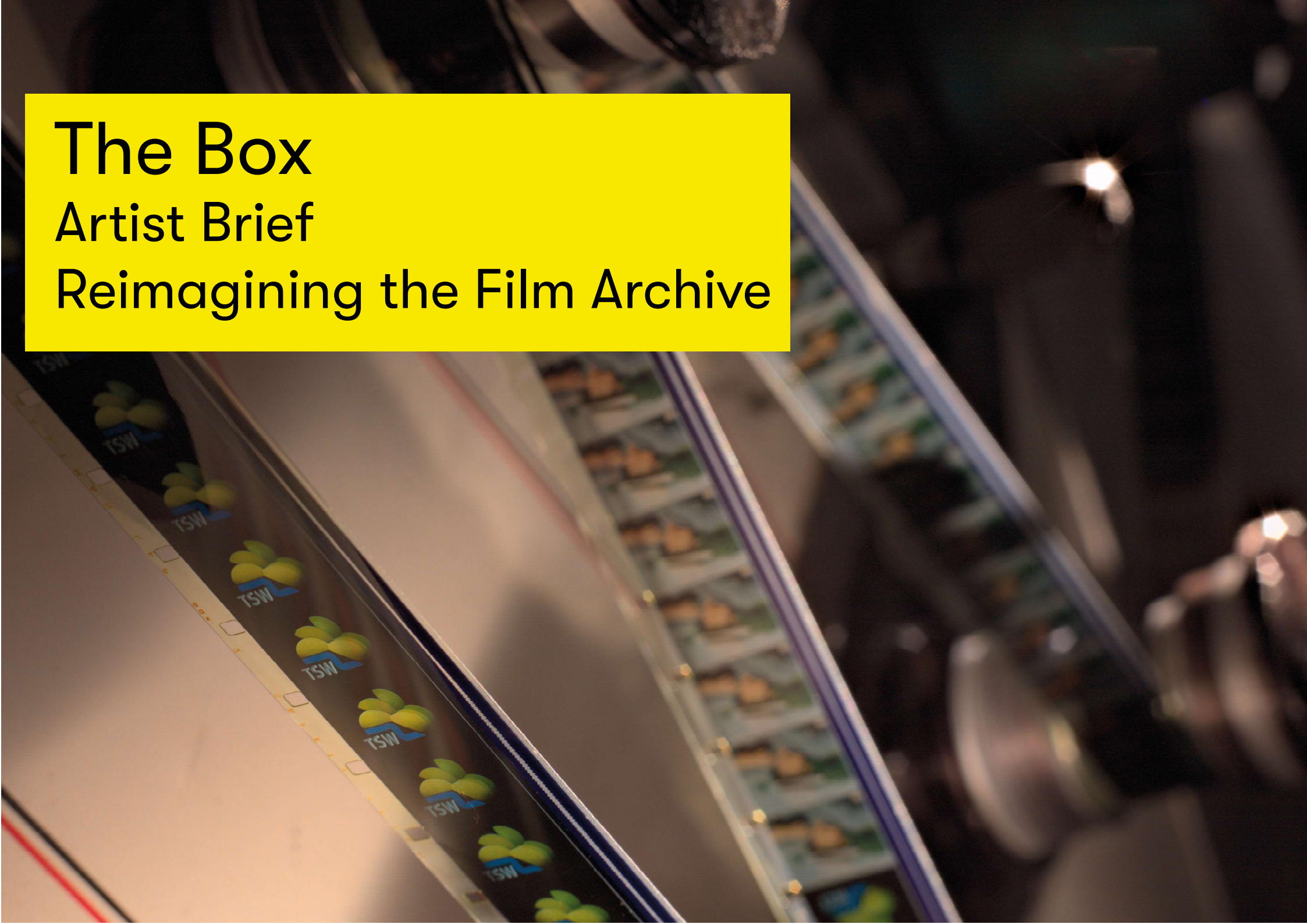


# The Box

Artist Brief

Reimagining the Film Archive



The Box is pleased to announce a new series of digital commissions for 2024. The two commissions have been supported by the British Film Institute (BFI) and Arts Council England funding, with additional support from Plymouth City Council.

We are inviting artists / filmmakers to make a contemporary response to one of the two separate themes that will be reflected in our forthcoming exhibition programme - 'Surrealism' and 'Folklore and Mythology'.

The two commissions will enable us to help shape the narrative around our collections, stories and objects, through digital outputs, that will be displayed in The Box in 2025.



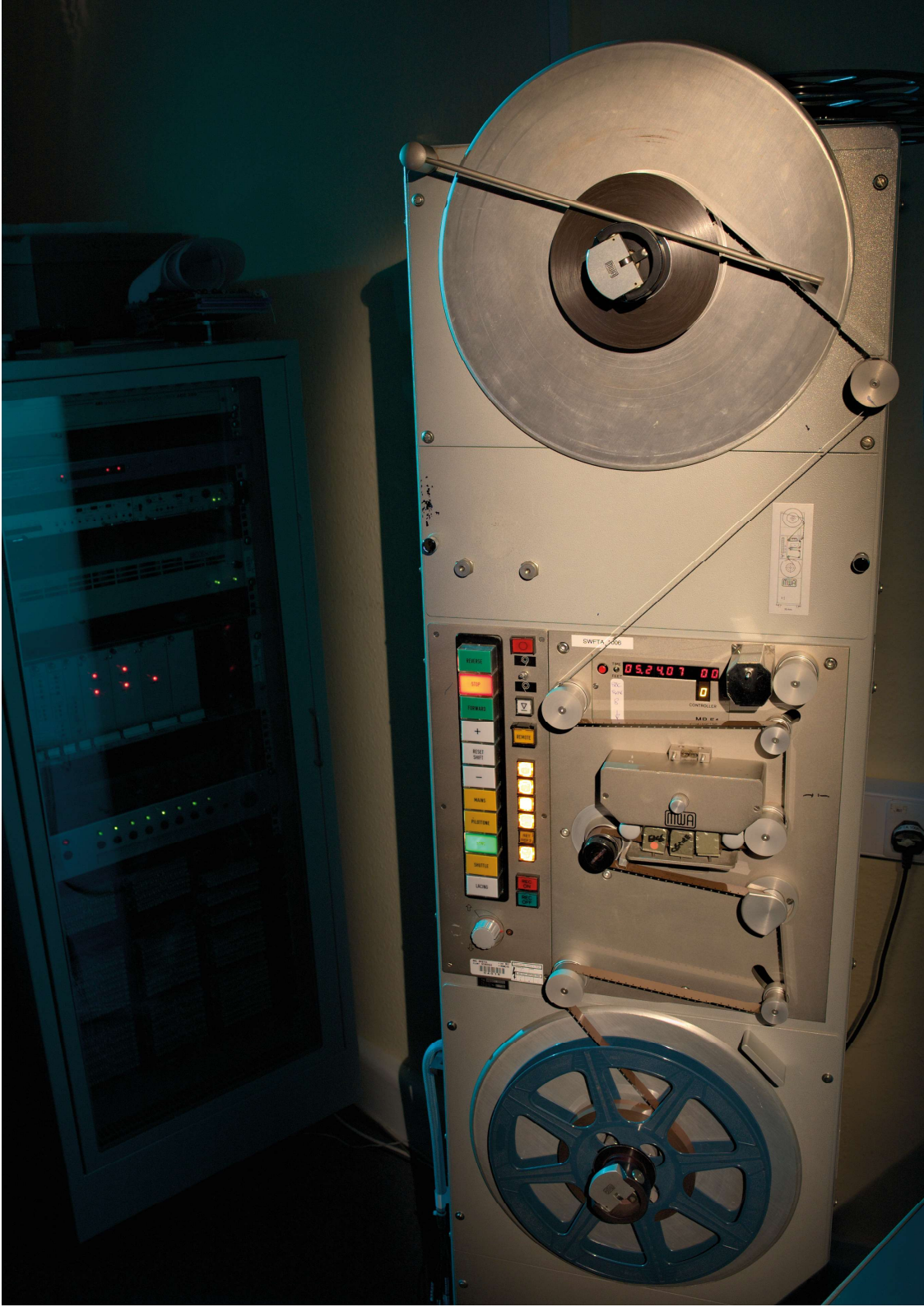
## BACKGROUND

The Box is an ambitious new cultural organisation in Plymouth. It is part museum, gallery and archive, a social space for art, people and objects. The Box has recently undergone a significant transformation bringing collections from across the city into one new purpose-built venue, which is free to access.

Plymouth is a city built on a strong heritage, with a population of over 262,000. It is an increasingly diverse city with a large student population attending its three universities.

There is a strong sense of identity and community amongst the people of Plymouth, which is reflected across its many areas and districts.





## COMMISSION - SURREALISM

The word ‘Surrealist’ (suggesting ‘beyond reality’) was coined by the French avant-garde poet Guillaume Apollinaire in the preface to a play performed in 1917. But it was André Breton, leader of a new grouping of poets and artists in Paris, who in 1924 presented the seminal *Surrealist Manifesto*, which has gone on to shape and influence art and culture for the past century, with the first exhibition of Surrealist Art held in 1925

To mark this centenary, 2025 will see The Box host a major exhibition, *Forbidden Territories: 100 Years of Surreal Landscapes* organised by Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield.

## COMMISSION - FOLKLORE & MYTHOLOGY

The South West has a strong tradition and rich history of folklore and mythology. They show how those who came before us sought to explain the world, communicate their cultures, and teach important lessons about how to live. These traditions are shared across many cultures, and will be explored in the Spring Season at The Box, including a new major exhibition of the work of artist *John Lyons: Carnavalesque* organised by Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester.

We would like to invite artists/filmmakers to respond to either of these themes taking inspiration from and utilising our incredible film and television archive collection.

We are particularly keen to hear from artists/filmmakers from the global majority or with protected characteristics that are underrepresented in museums, galleries and archives.



## TIMESCALE

Deadline for applications: 30 September 2024

Shortlisting: October 2024

Interviews: October 2024

Final artwork to be produced, ready for public presentation by Mar 2025

## FEES

The total value of each commission is £6,000 to cover production of the work and the artist's fee.

A payment schedule will be agreed with the successful artist.

## SELECTION PROCESS

Applications to be made in writing outlining initial idea and which theme you are responding to, include examples of previous work, relevant web links and a recent CV.

Applications should be sent to [theboxenquiries@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:theboxenquiries@plymouth.gov.uk) marked F.A.O Tony Davey, by 30 September 2024.

Shortlisting will be completed by The Box team and an external guest. Shortlisted artists will be invited for interview by the end of October 2024.





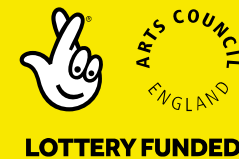
## OWNERSHIP OF WORK

Copyright and ownership of the completed work will remain with the artist, however a condition of the commission will include exclusive right to reveal and exhibit the work prior to any other public display and that any future exhibition or public display of the work acknowledges that it was commissioned by The Box, Plymouth.

## CONTACT

For further information or an informal discussion about the commission, please email [tony.davey@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:tony.davey@plymouth.gov.uk) or [Zahra.Khanum@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Zahra.Khanum@plymouth.gov.uk)

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