

GAIA CREATES - THE GAIA PAPERS BRIEF, FEBRUARY 2023

About Gaia Creates

To celebrate Exeter Cathedral hosting Luke Jerram's *Gaia* in February 2023, *Gaia Creates* is a month-long series of collaborative events & initiatives developed and facilitated by members of the [Exeter UNESCO City of Literature Partnership Network](#).

[Luke Jerram's Gaia](#) installation aims to create a sense of the Overview Effect, first described by author Frank White in 1987. Common features of the experience for astronauts are a feeling of **awe** for the planet, a profound understanding of the **interconnection** of all life, and a renewed sense of **responsibility** for taking care of the environment.

To reflect this, *Gaia Creates* is themed around the **environment & climate action, encompassing care for, connection with, and the celebration of our planet.**

Programming will include a range of events and activities across Exeter, such as the live performance of a commissioned poetry soundscape, a youth engagement day with Four of Swords, the production of a zine (*The Gaia Papers*) of original writing and creative responses from writers in Exeter and other UNESCO Cities of Literature, exhibitions, author events and writing workshops, and more!

THE GAIA PAPERS COMMISSION BRIEF

As part of the *Gaia Creates* programme, Exeter UNESCO City of Literature will be working with members of the Partnership Network to produce a paper zine and digital anthology of original writing and creative responses - *The Gaia Papers*.

The Gaia Papers will include paid commissions by local writers, photographs of public responses to the Gaia installation, and creative work from local young people, as well as original work by writers from other UNESCO Cities of Literature (Melbourne, Nottingham, Edinburgh, Leeuwarden, and Heidelberg). It will be produced by Exeter City of Literature in collaboration with local experts, sold at local bookshops, and a free digital version will be made available online.

We are pleased to **commission 5 writers from Exeter (or Devon) to contribute one short piece of original previously unpublished writing** (either poetry or fiction, maximum length 500 words/55 lines of poetry) for inclusion in *The Gaia Papers*.

The commissioned piece should reflect the themes of the *Gaia Creates* programme and a focus on the **environment & climate action, encompassing care for, connection with, and the celebration of our planet.** We are looking for contributors who are passionate about the environment and climate action, and we welcome submissions from writers and poets of all backgrounds and experiences.

To apply for this commission you must be **living in Devon**, and will need to submit the following information by **midnight Friday 3rd February**:

- Your name and a brief introduction/biography - maximum 75 words.
- One original piece of writing, not previously published - maximum 500 words or 55 lines of poetry.

Send your submissions to Liv Hooper using the email address hello@exetercityofliterature.com, with the subject line The Gaia Papers Submission.

Selected contributors will be contacted by Friday 10th February.

Selected contributors will be given free entry to the Gaia installation on a day of their choosing during February¹, and may also be invited to read/perform your work at an evening of live performance, for which you will be paid a fee. Please see the Live Performance Brief below for more information on this part of the *Gaia Creates* programme.

Fees:

- £100 commission fee for the creation of an original previously unpublished written work
 - Either poetry or fiction.
 - Maximum length 500 words (or 55 lines if submitting poetry).
- £50 performance fee²

Key dates:

- Deadline for application/submission: **midnight Friday 3rd February**
- Chosen contributors contacted: **EOD Friday 10th February**
- Contributors complimentary tickets to view Gaia installation: **Monday 13 - Wednesday 15 February**
- Live performance: **Monday 27th February 7-8pm²**

¹ *Subject to availability*

² *Subject to change*

LIVE PERFORMANCE BRIEF

Selected writers will be invited to read their work (either in full or an excerpt) at a live event at Exeter Cathedral to launch *The Gaia Papers* and celebrate the *Gaia Creates* programme, alongside a live performance of an original commissioned poetic soundscape.

This will take place **during a slot of public visiting hours to Gaia**, as an additional aspect of the installation, and tickets for the chosen time slot (date and time TBC) will be promoted as including this event.