

MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release,
Friday 13 November 2020



Cove Park's Artists Centre (photography, Alan Dimmick)

Francesca Bertolotti-Bailey Appointed CEO of Cove Park

Cove Park is pleased to announce the appointment of Francesca Bertolotti-Bailey as Chief Executive Officer of Cove Park, effective from 1 January 2021. She replaces Julian Forrester, Cove Park's Director since 2009, who retires in December.

Cove Park is an international artists' residency located on an outstanding rural site on Scotland's west coast. Established in 2000, Cove Park hosts national and international artists working in all art forms and at every career stage. It is committed to supporting artists by offering the time, space and freedom required for research, peer-to-peer exchange and the development of new work. It fosters a supportive and stimulating context in which new ideas can be developed, tested and shared.

Francesca Bertolotti-Bailey is a producer, curator and editor with a background in economics, management and cultural policy. She recently worked as Acting Head of Programme at Kettle's Yard, the modern and contemporary art gallery of the University of Cambridge. Between 2014–18 she was Head of Production and International Projects at the Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art, where she co-curated the 2016 and 2018 editions. Between 2010–13 she was responsible for multi-disciplinary curatorial programmes at Artissima, the international contemporary art fair in Turin, Italy. Previously, she worked at Fondazione Pirelli Hangar Bicocca in Milan and in various art galleries and not-for-profits in Italy, France and the US. Between 2016–18 she was Associate at Large of Council, a Paris-based organisation focused on societal issues, and the integration of artistic, scientific and civic forms of action and expertise. Since 2016 she has been co-directing The Serving Library, a nomadic institution that variously serves as a publishing platform, a seminar room, a collection of framed objects and an event space.

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As CEO, Francesca Bertolotti-Bailey will lead Cove Park into the next stage of its development, resetting and reorienting the organisation's strengths and resources. She will expand existing networks and build new partnerships to connect Cove Park locally, nationally and internationally, reflecting the diversity of current artistic research and engaging with the most pressing issues of our time.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, **Lauren Dyer Amazeen**, Chair, said:

'Francesca Bertolotti-Bailey brings a combination of vision, commitment, and international perspective to Cove Park at this key moment in our history, when we must address the challenges affecting the role of residencies within the cultural landscape. Her sensitivity to the urgent issues of our time, her understanding of artists' and creative thinkers' needs and aspirations today, and her determined leadership will focus our energies and resources on building a sustainable platform for creative reflection and exchange of ideas, contributing to the larger cultural impact and value of fostering contemporary artistic practice.'

Eileen and Peter Jacobs, Cove Park's Founders and Trustees, said:

'We are very excited that Francesca Bertolotti-Bailey will be leading Cove Park into its next stage of development, and look forward with optimism to the evolution of the organisation over the next 20 years'.

Francesca Bertolotti-Bailey said:

'I am truly honoured to join Cove Park, an artists' residency that I have long admired for the integrity of its vision and the impact of its activities. Its increasingly crucial role within the international cultural ecosystem is clear in the words of the many artists I know who have spent time in residence. Working with the extraordinary Board and Team, I look forward to expanding Cove Park's commitment to individual and collective artistic practice, and to asserting the organisation as a progressive public asset. Here I would also like to acknowledge colleagues and friends past and present for all that I have learnt from them, and for their constant support and advice.'

For images, further information and details of Cove Park's current programme, please contact:

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Notes to Editors follow

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1. Cove Park

Founded in 1999 by Eileen and Peter Jacobs, Cove Park marks the 20th anniversary of its residency programme this year and has now welcomed over 1,900 national and international artists, researchers, curators and producers to its outstanding 50-acre rural site in Argyll & Bute, on Scotland's west coast. Its internationally renowned programme is multidisciplinary and supports both individuals and collaborative groups, working in all art forms and at every career stage. Cove Park's creative and professional development residencies promote research, experimentation, collaboration, cultural exchange and the production of new work. Up to 12 artists can take part at any one time, creating opportunities for peer-to-peer exchange, the discovery of alternative approaches and the acquisition of new skills. Funded and independently-funded residencies run throughout the year in parallel with the creative learning programme Hands-On Cove Park, devised in collaboration with former residents and offered free of charge for people of all ages within our local community.

Cove Park's former residents now include: Booker Prize winner Margaret Atwood; Griffin Poetry Prize winner Ann Carson; recipient of Tate Turbine Hall Commission Abraham Cruzvillegas; Whitbread First Novel Award winner Rachel Cusk; Director of London's Royal Court Theatre Vicky Featherstone; BBC Samuel Johnson Prize winner Philip Hoare; Editor-at-large of frieze magazine Jennifer Higgie; Jerwood Visual Artist Bursary Recipient Jasleen Kaur; Jarman Award nominee Hardeep Pandhal; Turner Prize winners Elizabeth Price, Charlotte Prodger, and Simon Starling; Director of Hampstead Theatre Roxana Silbert; poet Lemn Sissay; Director of Bristol Old Vic Tom Morris; Commonwealth Writers' Prize winner Christos Tsiolkas; and BBC Woman's Hour Craft Prize finalist Andrea Walsh.

Cove Park works in partnership with many other national and international arts organisations to extend the reach of its programme and create new opportunities for artists, participants and audiences. Recent and ongoing partnerships include: Alliance Française de Glasgow, Arts Initiative Tokyo, BBC Radio Scotland, CCA Glasgow, Cité internationale des arts Paris, Dance Ireland, Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, Fuel Theatre London, Glasgow International, Goethe Institut Glasgow, Helsinki International Artist Programme, Hospitalfield, King's College London, The Lighthouse, Literarisches Colloquium Berlin, LUX Scotland, Publishing Scotland, Royal Scottish Academy, Talbot Rice Gallery, The Swedish Film Institute, The Taipei Cultural Institute, Varuna – The Writers' House Australia, Tashkeel Dubai, TENT Rotterdam, Birkbeck University of London, and Writers' Centre Norwich.

Cove Park is one of Creative Scotland's Regularly Funded Organisations. A wide range of UK-based public funding agencies, trusts and foundations also support its programme, including our 2020 funders: Andor Charitable Trust, British Council Scotland, Craginsh Trust, Freelands Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The Bridge Awards, The Monument Trust and The Rix-Thompson-Rothenberg Trust.

2. Julian Forrester

An acclaimed theatre producer and director, Julian Forrester worked initially in the United States, returning to the UK in 1984 to run Anthony Quayle's touring theatre company, Compass. As a freelance producer he worked with Prudential Awards for the Arts, the Royal Opera House, Dean Clough, Northern Ballet Theatre and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. He has been involved with Cove Park since 2000, working initially as a consultant and supporting Eileen and Peter Jacobs in the development of the residency programme. Julian has produced numerous flagship residency programmes for Cove Park, including those that supported national and international choreographers, musicians, performing artists, poets and writers. He was instrumental in establishing Cove Park's international residency exchange programme for poets and writers based throughout the UK and in China, Israel and Palestine. Julian led the organisation through a major capital redevelopment programme and the launch in 2016 of The Jacobs Building, an award-winning Artists Centre designed by CameronWebster Architects, providing additional workspace, meeting and event spaces, new accommodation and studios.

3. Cove Park's Board of Trustees

Bringing together expertise in accountancy, architecture and design, arts administration, business, capital development, film and television, fundraising, literature, marketing and communications and charity and third sector governance, Cove Park's Board of Trustees is chaired by **Lauren Dyer Amazeen** and is composed of: **Hugh Anderson, Aly Barr, Eileen and Peter Jacobs, Karen McMillan, Carol Sinclair and Nadia Sirc.**

4. Cove Park's Team

Francesca Bertolotti-Bailey joins a highly experienced and dedicated team: **Dr. Rebecca DeWald** (Literature Programme Producer), **Emma Henderson** (Hands-On Programme Producer), **Dr. Alexia Holt** (Associate Director & Visual Arts Programme Producer), **Catrin Kemp** (Partnerships Manager), **Kerrie MacQueen** (Administrator & Bookkeeper), **Vanessa Paynton** (Director of Public Programme & Facilities) and **Maeve Redmond** (Craft & Design Programme Producer).

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