

**POETRY, DRAMA AND ART EXCHANGE DURING CHINESE NEW YEAR**  
REAL CONTENTMENT - INTERNATIONAL ARTIST EXCHANGE PROGRAMME  
- MANCHESTER & NANJING

Manchester and Nanjing, both UNESCO Cities of Literature and UNESCO Cities of Lifelong Learning, has launched Real Contentment, an artist exchange programme. This 9-month project aims to create a lasting partnership between the UK and Chinese cities – their artists, schools and creative communities. Activities will culminate in the Festival of Libraries, an annual celebration in June of Greater Manchester’s 133 libraries.

As part of this international exchange programme, we are keen to facilitate exchange between different age groups in our communities. We are inviting pupils aged 7-11 (Years 3-6) to create poetry, dramatic work or artwork related to the ecological theme of Real Contentment or cultural exchange.

We have timed this part of the project with Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, China's most important festival. It is also the liveliest celebration for Chinese families around the world, as we experience every year in Manchester’s Chinatown.

All pupils who submit work will receive a certificate of participation from the Manchester City of Literature. Manchester and Nanjing artists in this International Exchange Programme will also select works to be exhibited in June 2025 during the Manchester Festival of Libraries. Interested schools may also be invited to a potential special class visit to the Manchester Poetry Library during the spring term.

We look forward to your pupils’ creations!

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*Creative Producer, International Artist Exchange Programme - Manchester & Nanjing  
Manchester City of Literature*

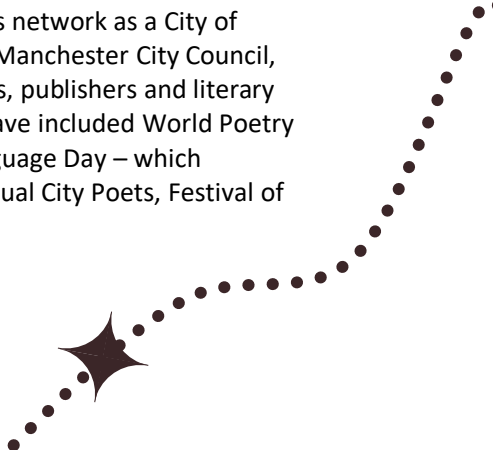
**About Real Contentment - International Artist Exchange Programme  
- Manchester & Nanjing**

Supported by the British Council through its International Collaboration Grants, the Real Contentment – International Artist Exchange Programmes’ partners include Creative Manchester/University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University (Manchester Poetry Library & School of Art), Confucius Institute Manchester, Nanjing University and Nanjing University of the Arts.

**About Manchester City of Literature**

Manchester was successful in its bid to join UNESCO’s worldwide Creative Cities network as a City of Literature in 2017. Joining 52 other Cities of Literature, a consortium including Manchester City Council, the Universities, Manchester Literature Festival plus a range of the city’s writers, publishers and literary organisations formed to enable this to happen. Network-wide collaborations have included World Poetry Day, International Literacy Day, Translation Day, and International Mother Language Day – which Manchester leads on. Manchester projects have included Manchester Multilingual City Poets, Festival of Libraries, Schools Writing Trail and Re:Sound.

(Dec 2024 ver.)



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**Eligibility:**

- Age 7-11 (Years 3-6)
- Pupil in Greater Manchester

**What to submit:**

Works originally created by a pupil in the form of...

- Writing: Poetry or dramatic dialogue or plays  
OR
- Visual art (e.g. illustrations, drawings, photography, craft, collages)  
OR
- A combination of the above

...In response to the themes of

- Ecological theme of Real Contentment – From the poetry of Han Dong, an award-winning poet, novelist and essayist, published both in China and the UK, specifically his poem 'Let Me Describe The Rainstorm' (1986):  
...real contentment...[of] a ray of sunlight  
Shining in a woodland glade  
OR
- Chinese New Year – in general or Year of Snake in 2025  
OR
- Cultural exchange – Nanjing, Manchester, Chinese or British culture – Pupils are encouraged to share what they know or want to introduce to their peers in Nanjing

**How to submit:**


**ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE DONE ON GOOGLE FORMS:**

<https://forms.gle/pQPxPMFef7jDoSda7>

(This form requires a Google-based email account. If you cannot access one, please email [anita.ngai@manchestercityofliterature.com](mailto:anita.ngai@manchestercityofliterature.com).)

Within the form, there will be 2 options for submitting pupils' work:

1. Upload file – only 1 file, maximum 100 MB in size, can be uploaded
2. Share link to file – share a link to your file on common file transfer sites such as Dropbox or WeTransfer

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- The file to be uploaded/shared should be a compressed file (zip or rar) of all the pupils' work you are submitting
    - The format of the individual files can be:
      - The original work (doc, docx, ppt, pptx, pdf, jpg): for works that can be digitised (directly typed out, scanned, a work of digital photography)

OR

    - Photographs of the work (jpg): for non-digital works. Please do not photograph the pupil, only the work, and make sure everything can be read.
    - Individual files must be named in this format:
      - [School name]\_[Pupil name]\_[Pupil Year]\_[Title of work]Example: If you are a teacher at ABC Primary School and are submitting a poem typed in Word titled 'Apple' by pupil Susie Smith in Year 4, the file name would be ABC\_Susie Smith\_4\_Apple.docx  - A pupil's work can also be submitted individually in these file formats (doc, docx, ppt, pptx, pdf, jpg), but teachers or parents should guide the pupil through the form and uploading process.

Manchester and Nanjing artists in this International Exchange Programme will select works to be exhibited in June 2025 during the Manchester Festival of Libraries based on these **three criteria:**

- Originality and quality of work
- Relevance to above themes
- The work's ability to communicate with the pupil's peers in Nanjing

All pupils who submit work will receive a certificate of participation from the Manchester City of Literature. Interested schools may also be invited to a special class visit to the Manchester Poetry Library during the spring term.

**LAST DAY TO SUBMIT: THURSDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2025**

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## SCHEDULE FOR PROJECT PARTICIPATION

	<b>Actions from schools</b>	<b>Additional notes</b>
Now to 6 Feb 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teachers lead pupils to create work</li><li>• Parents also encouraged to help pupils with creating or finishing work at home</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Week of 6 January 2025 – Teachers will receive resource pack to help with lesson planning</li><li>• Schools interested in special Manchester Poetry Library visit to indicate on submission form and/or email <a href="#">Anita Ngai</a></li></ul>
6 Feb 2025	Last day to submit pupil work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact <a href="#">Anita Ngai</a> in case of technical issues</li></ul>
Week of 10 Feb 2025 (time TBC)	Virtual meeting with other schools in Manchester and Nanjing <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each attending school can nominate pupils to perform/read/present; we will contact teachers beforehand to confirm their allocated amount of time</li></ul>	Schools need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Steady internet access &amp; connection to Zoom</li><li>• Mic &amp; camera that capture all pupils</li><li>• Speaker &amp; screen (projector or large TV) to see other schools</li></ul>
Mar to Apr 2025	Manchester & Nanjing artists will select pupil works to be exhibited during Festival of Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Selected pupils and their teachers should be available to adjust their work if needed for exhibition purposes</li></ul>
5-8 Jun 2025	Manchester Festival of Libraries – selected pupil works exhibited (location & format TBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pupils, teachers, families attend exhibition</li></ul>