



**Northumbria
University**
NEWCASTLE

A collaboration between Northumbria University and the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art has been serving the region and beyond since 2002. Ten years on, they have launched BxNU, a scheme that is transforming higher education in contemporary visual art and creating unique learning opportunities for students worldwide.

The BxNU Institute of Contemporary Art – close to the heart of Newcastle-upon-Tyne at BALTIC 39 in Gateshead – is a cultural hub, uniting academic research and cutting-edge contemporary art.

Enriching Northumbria’s appeal as the university of choice in the field of art and design is among the partnership’s key aims; another is to encourage participation in visual art from nursery to PhD level.

At BALTIC 39, the universities fine-art students enjoy an exciting, flexible art space in which they can collaborate with a thriving research community and converse with internationally renowned artists and leading academics.

BxNU also works with Newcastle City Council to support regional development by helping to create a thriving arts quarter. The success of BxNU will be celebrated at an annual summer art festival in High Bridge, aiming to boost businesses and cultural regeneration in the area.

Shearer West, head of the university of Oxford’s Humanities Division and one of the judges, said: “This is a rare international example of academics and top practitioners coming together in a visionary partnership.”