

Joseph Conran

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Statement

I am an artist and environment sector strategist. My practice inhabits the space between people and nature, often referencing natural processes as a lens through which to interrogate humanity. In both my artistic and strategy practices, I want to make spaces where creativity can inspire people to think more about their connection to nature, and their role in safeguarding its future.

Education

- 2017-2018 - **University of the Arts London, Central Saint Martins.**
Arts and Cultural Enterprise, Masters of the Arts (distinction)
- 2012-2013 - **Bangor University**
Countryside and Landscape Management, Master of Science (distinction)
- 2003-2004 - **Bangor University**
Countryside Management, PDip (distinction)
- 1998-2001 - **Plymouth College of Art and Design, Plymouth**
BA (hons) in Applied Arts

Employment

2010-ongoing: Artist and Metalworker, Self Employed

Sculpture and other applied arts for commission, exhibition and private sale.

2019-ongoing: Lead Specialist Advisor, NRW

Leading NRW's portfolio for recreation, culture and tourism. Creating high profile engagement programmes and developing [recreation strategy](#) within NRW and a [cultural strategy](#) in partnership with the Arts Council of Wales.

2004-2016: Specialist Advisor, NRW

Providing advice to Welsh Government and key partners in relation to species and habitat vulnerability, managing recreational impacts, influencing positive behaviour change and resolving conflict in the countryside.

1999-2004: Warden, Eryri National Park Authority

Providing guidance and advice to the public on matters concerning conservation, recreation and mountain safety.

Professional Qualifications

I am one of only 500 certified [Clore Fellows](#) in the world, having completed this prestigious cultural leadership program in 2020. I also have practical outdoor leadership qualifications in the form of a [Mountain Leader Award](#) and a [Leave No Trace Instructor Award](#).

Languages: Fluent Welsh and English

Driving: Full Driving License

Professional Experience

I have worked as a strategist and policy maker in the environment sector and a freelance artist for over 20 years, developing a range of skills that include:

- **Project Management:** Delivering projects and programmes over multiple years, with multiple outputs with significant budgets (e.g. [The Creative Nature Programme](#))
- **Evidence and strategy:** Commissioning evidence and analysing data to produce reports and build strategy (e.g. [conversations with the cultural sector](#))
- **Procurement and commissioning:** Writing specification, gathering and assessing tenders / writing artists briefs and assessing submissions. (e.g. [Egin](#), [Hen Wlad Ein Plant](#), [Future Wales Fellowship](#), [Natur am Byth](#))
- **Chairing and facilitation:** Chairing meetings and facilitating community and stakeholder engagement events (e.g. [Access Reform Programme](#))
- **Public speaking and comms:** Speaking at national and international conferences and events (e.g. Senedd, Eisteddfod, Burning Man Festival, MMV Vienna) delivering bilingual project comms (e.g. S4C, ITV, BBC and written media)
- **Computer Skills:** Photoshop, CAD, GIS, PowerPoint, Word, Excel
- **Artistic Skills:** Forging, welding, casting, drawing, design, film

Exhibition Experience

My artwork has been exhibited internationally (e.g. Super Gallery, Vienna, 2024 / Burning man festival, USA, 2007) and in the UK (e.g. Pontio, Bangor, 2023 / Ty Pawb, Wrexham 2019 / *Castell 03*, Caernarfon 2018 / Storiell, Bangor, 2017 / Galeri, Caernarfon, 2011)

Commission Experience

I make gates and public art for commission and private sale and have sold internationally (e.g. Lord and Lady Davies of Abersoch, France, 2013) and in the UK (e.g. Gwynedd Council, 2024 & 2013 / Anglesey County Council, 2023 & 2012 / Eryri National Park Authority 2016 & 2014 / Literature Wales 2017 & 2016 / The National Trust 2004)

Residencies

I have been artist in resident on international project (e.g. Burning Man Festival, USA 2008 / Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve, Chile 2006) and projects in the UK (e.g. Scottish Sculpture Workshop, Lumsden, 2017 / Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog, 2009 / National Museums of Wales, Llanberis, 2002)

Professional and voluntary positions

I am the Chairman of the artist network 'CARN' (2025-ongoing) and have sat on the boards of various trusts and organisations e.g. Wales Arts, Health and Wellbeing Network (2025-ongoing), Outdoor Recreation Network (2016-ongoing), Mountain Training Cymru (2006-2019), The Outdoor Partnership (2007-2019), Wales Adventure Tourism Organisation (2010-2018).