

Professor Debra Humphris
Vice-Chancellor
Mithras House
Lewes Road
University of Brighton
Brighton BN2 4AT

6th June 2023

Dear Professor Humphris,

I am writing as Chair of CVAN South East to express our sadness at the decision to close CCA Brighton, which has been a partner in our network since 2019.

CVAN South East is a network of almost 30 visual arts organisations working together to create a stronger visual arts ecology for South East England. We are part of the wider Contemporary Visual Arts Network (CVAN) in England.

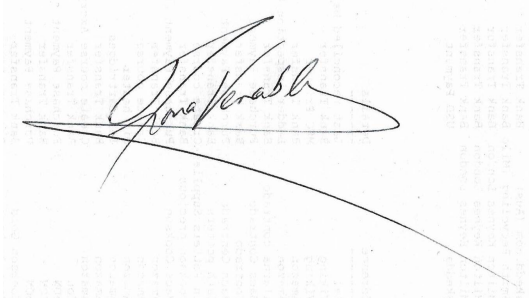
We are proud that the University of Brighton has been an HE partner in the Platform Graduate Award for over ten years. In 2022 thirty-seven exhibiting artists were selected from nineteen universities in the South East and South West, exhibiting with six venue partners.

I appreciate that your decision will not have been taken lightly, and that you are no doubt operating in difficult financial circumstances. Nonetheless I feel I should take this opportunity to express the reaction that we have been receiving from partners in the network and within the visual arts sector in the region.

CCA has been a much valued partner in Brighton's cultural life, and over four years of operation has presented an innovative programme serving students and local residents; attracting cultural tourism; and forefronting the University's commitment to public and community engagement.

If we are to lose CCA, I very much hope that this does not signal the wider withdrawal of the University of Brighton from visual arts engagement in the future. Please do get in touch if our network can be of any support. We very much hope that we can continue our alliance in the years to come.'

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Venables', is written over a background of faint, repeating text. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Fiona Venables

Chair, CVAN South East
Director, Milton Keynes Arts Centre

On behalf of CVAN South East Steering Group:

Sonia Barrett (Artist), Sonia Boué (Artist), Lucy Day (Phoenix Art Space, Brighton), Joe Hill (Towner Eastbourne), Paul Hobson (Modern Art Oxford), Sarah Martin (Turner Contemporary, Margate), Lindsay Seers (Artist), Oliver Sumner (CVAN South East), Fiona Venables (Milton Keynes Arts Centre).