

A Harris Christmas – Open Call

Commission Opportunity:

Design decorative Christmas artworks to display in the Harris.

We are looking for expressions of interest from artists, designers or arts organisations to create decorative Christmas art works for the Harris. These will be displayed during Winter 2020/21. We'd like to hear from artists who will devise exciting, striking, playful new pieces for the Harris.

Subject to public health requirements, the commissioned pieces will be unveiled at a Christmas event with seasonal craft activities, music and special viewings of festive objects from the Harris collections.

We will appoint 5 artists to develop their ideas into Christmas decorations/artworks.

Commission value £750

Themes

There are no specific themes or design criteria for this commission, however we encourage artists to create a piece that is eye catching, festive and appeals to a broad range of people. We want the work to capture the public's curiosity, imagination and help to create a sense of magic as they explore the Harris.

Potential display areas (indoors only)

- Foyer/entrance
- Café (rotunda)
- Lending Library
- 1st floor balcony
- Heritage Reading Room
- 2nd floor balcony

Display Options

Please consider how the piece will be displayed.

- Hanging - very lightweight works such as paper or textile pieces that can be displayed
 - In the café (from wires between the columns)in the rotunda
 - From the 2nd floor balcony
 - From the Egyptian Balcony (highest balcony - not accessible to the public)
- Standing - Base must be no bigger than 2m²
- Size: Please include an estimated size (including minimum and maximum possible).



Selection Process

Our priorities for selection are:

- Proposals from artists living and working in the North West region producing work of high quality. We will consider and work with artists from further afield, if they put forward interesting ideas and can demonstrate that their work appeals to a wide audience and is of high quality.
- You can address all the practical issues such as budget, public liability insurance and that you have identified any potential risks and have thought about strategies to reduce or remove them.
- You must have a bank account:
 - You need to be registered as self-employed and be able to provide a UTR (Unique Tax Reference) number, OR
 - Be a registered company or charity.

Recording the process

We want to create a blog or social media record to be created to show the development and progress of the work and to use as an engagement tool. This will be managed by the Harris, but input from artists will be required.

Resources Available to commissioned artists

- Access to the display spaces in the building: In light of the current coronavirus situation, please see our [virtual tours](#), we can also send photographs of specific items/areas on request.
- Access to images of the history, art and costume collections.
- Support from Harris staff: Advice

Timescales

Deadline for applications	5pm Wednesday 12 August
Successful applicants notified	5pm Wednesday 26 August
Research and development	Thursday 27 August - Friday 30 October
Work delivered by	Friday 30 October 2020
Installation	Monday 2 November - Friday 20 November
Festive Launch event	Week commencing Monday 23 November

Budget and Payment Schedule

There is a fee of £750 per artist attached to this project which will cover your time for all activity, development work, production and other expenses. Artists will work with us to install the piece and may be needed for any touch-up/repair work during the display period.

The fee will be paid in two installments:

- 80% – August 2020
- 20% – On receipt of work (October 2020)

In your proposal we ask that you work out an estimated budget to include materials you will require and your artist fee.

Application

Please include the following when sending us your expression of interest proposal:

- An outline of your ideas
- A budget outline of costs: manufacture, materials, artist fee etc.
- Details of materials/resources you will be using
- Details of any specific technical requirements/specifications
- Links to websites containing examples of your previous work
- Your CV
- A completed [Preston City Council Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form](#).
These will be kept anonymous and separately from the applications.

If you would find it helpful, applicants are welcome to visit the Harris.
If you would have any queries on accessing the building or the collections, please contact us on:

T: 01772 905414

E: theharris@preston.gov.uk

Please send your expression of interest, by no later than 5pm on **Wednesday 12**

August to:

theharris@preston.gov.uk

We particularly encourage applications from Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and LGBTQ artists as these groups are currently underrepresented in our commissions. We also encourage applications from disabled artists and will make reasonable adjustments as required.

This commission is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England and managed by The Harris.



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**