

God's House Tower

Artists Commission



2018 Brief and Guidance

Introduction

God's House Tower (GHT), the cornerstone of Southampton's medieval defensive walls, is currently undergoing a major refurbishment, transforming the iconic building into a new and distinctive arts and heritage venue. The public reopening, scheduled for Spring 2019, will incorporate interpretive exhibitions that will reanimate and retell the lost historical stories of this 700-year-old scheduled ancient monument.

As an arts and heritage venue, GHT will present to the public a programme of exhibitions, events and activities within a historical context. The Collections Gallery will be dedicated to exhibiting selected works on loan from significant regional collections; depicting GHT within Southampton Old Town.

The Contemporary Gallery will play host to a vibrant visual arts programme. Local and regional artists will be commissioned to make new work in response to exhibitions in the Collections Gallery, and inspired by the building's history and heritage.

Context

To coincide with the reopening of GHT, our first exhibition titled **GHT: Beside The Sea**, presents a collection of works by the Pethers; a family of painters and engravers who lived and worked in Southampton. The Pethers are acclaimed for their romantic landscape paintings that depict Southampton's shoreline and its close proximity to prominent historic buildings, such as GHT. See images below:



Left:
Southampton
Town Quay at
Sunset, Henry
Pether (1800–
1880).

The Pethers painted Southampton's iconic Quayside and GHT as it was before the City's coastal land was extended to incorporate industry and trade. This exhibition will be the first time that this group of paintings have been collectively displayed.

Right:
Moonlight
Scene,
Southampton
Sebastian
Pether (1790–
1844)

Commission Invitation

Artists are invited to apply for an opportunity to undertake a commission of new work for our first year exhibitions programme, to be presented in the Contemporary Gallery of GHT.

The title of the exhibition **GHT: Beside The Sea**, relates to the theme and content of our exhibition in the Collections Gallery, and GHT's lost connection to the sea.

There are four commissioning opportunities available through this application process. The opportunity is aimed at emerging artists, located within the SO, PO and BH postcode. Groups can apply, but the application needs to be in the name of one artist.

Our Approach

For the first year programme (spring 2019 - spring 2020), we will bring together a group of eight artists, encouraging a collective environment where artists can share new ideas and create surprising, provocative and inspiring work within a micro-community.

Throughout the twelve months each artist will be allocated twelve weeks to exhibit their work, with two artists sharing the Contemporary Gallery space during each exhibition. Artists would therefore manage the production time according to when they are exhibiting.

'a space' arts are committed to supporting graduate and emerging to mid-career artists from different disciplines to work within the city's arts ecology and support the cultural development of Southampton.

For the commission we are offering the following:

- An artist fee for the commission
- A production and materials fee
- A fee for leading a group development session
- A fee for delivering a public facing event
- A platform for artists to share their ideas within the collective group
- Presentations by arts and heritage experts including the Exhibitions Programme Manager
- Marketing and publicity support throughout the twelve-month duration
- Curatorial and technical support from 'a space' arts Exhibitions Programme Manager

Our Expectations

Artists are expected to develop and present a proposal for their commission, to produce the work, and to deliver an exhibition in the Contemporary Gallery at GHT.

We also feel it is important for the group of selected artists to communicate and share ideas, both with each other and the public, throughout the development of the project. We therefore require each artist to lead a group discussion about their commission, attend group meetings and to deliver a public facing activity of their choice.

Stages

1. Autumn 2018 - group meeting and introduction to GHT
2. Two artist-led development meetings, activities and experimentation
3. Commission/exhibition
4. One public facing event, whilst your work is exhibited
5. Post exhibition evaluation; feedback

General Terms & Conditions

- Open to artists located within the SO, PO and BH postcode
- A £1,500 fee will be awarded to selected artists
- Up to £500 will be available for purchase of materials and transporting work for install and after de-install
- A £100 daily fee for attending meetings including travel expenses
- Exhibited works will be covered by insurance
- The artist will retain ownership of the work
- Deadline for submissions: Monday 13th August 2018.
- The successful artists will be notified by Friday 24th August 2018.

Selectors: Tony Spencer, Exhibitions Programme Manager
Daniel Crow, Director
External Selector, will be announced in due course

Submissions Procedure

Please read the following information carefully and ensure that you complete the application procedure in full, enclosing the following material:

- Artist's written proposal stating why you are interested in this opportunity, how it would inform the development of your practice, and what you feel you would bring to the group. (maximum 250 words)
- An up-to-date CV
- Up to three images of current work (jpeg)
- Link to current work on artist's website or a social media platform

Please email proposals to: exhibitions@aspacearts.org.uk

Title the email: GHT Artist's Commission

There will be an Artist Open Day at Gods House Tower from 5 – 8pm on Monday 16th July, where you can find out more about the commission and take a tour around the building, commencing at 6pm and 7pm.

For further information contact:

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