

ArtVaults: Live 2018

Artists Commission: Installation

Open Call



2018 Brief and Guidance

Introduction

ArtVaults was launched in 2004 by 'a space' arts, with an exciting mix of contemporary art over four successful summer seasons. It grew to become one of the largest and most popular arts and heritage events in the South of England, attracting over 20,000 visitors annually. Each season presented a rich and exciting programme of contemporary art exhibitions and events in Southampton's medieval vaults and related Old Town structures.

Artists were commissioned to respond to these unique locations with site-specific artworks. Exhibitions were free and informed by the rich history and architecture of Southampton's Old Town. ArtVaults left an enduring legacy, defined as a project that embraced the local arts ecology whilst reanimating the city's out-of-ordinary and curious heritage spaces.

Context

This year, 'a space' arts will revive ArtVaults, with the launch of ArtVaults: Live.

Throughout September 2018, ArtVaults: Live will provide a unique opportunity to experience a spectacular art installation and a program of live art within one of Southampton's hidden medieval structures, known as Canute's Palace.

ArtVaults: Live will reanimate this ancient historical building, which will be transformed by a temporary public art installation for spectators to walk through and engage with. The installation will also provide a setting, or stage, for a series of free live performances, activities and events for audiences in Southampton and beyond.

The name of Canute's Palace was given to the building by Henry Englefield in 1805 who suggested that due to Canute being crowned King of Saxon England in Southampton in 1016, it may have once been the Palace of the legendary King.

Although this cannot be proven, there is evidence that it is the ruins of a Norman merchant's long house, which dates from the late twelfth century.



Claire Barber,
stepping lightly
on 88 pillows.
ArtVaults
Season 4



Canute's Palace

2018 Theme: Rara Avis

The 2018 ArtVaults: Live theme is 'Rara Avis', which the Collins online dictionary describes as 'an unusual, or exceptional person or thing'. This theme relates to the mythical tale of King Canute and his attempt to hold back the tides of the sea. Though some versions of this story celebrate Canute's wisdom and Christian piety, others condemn the king for his omnipotent belief in his own supernatural power to manipulate water.

Whether depicted as superhero or villain, what is interesting about the tale of King Canute is this notion of 'superhuman power'. Visual narratives featuring characters endowed with moral and physical powers provide inspiration for artists to embrace empowerment. They often have to undertake superhuman sensibility to conceive their ideas and share them within a public realm.

The aim of the project is to support emerging, visionary artists, who create extraordinary installations or live experiences, which reflect on the ever-changing, diversifying society in which we live.

Installation Commission

Artists are invited to submit a proposal for a commission, which will be sited in Canute's Palace. The work should be a structural installation, which will provide a setting, or stage, for a series of performances, activities and events, taking place throughout September 2018 as part of the ArtVaults: Live programme.

Artists should take into consideration the ArtVaults: Live theme, the buildings architecture, history and heritage.

The following factors should be taken into consideration when applying for this commission:

- The work should reference the theme of 2018: Rara Avis.
- We would be particularly interested in a proposal which encourages interaction and exploration.
- Canute's Palace is exposed to the elements.
- The main floor space inside measures 19.7m x 5.8m
- As the building is grade two listed it would not be possible to screw into the walls, however the floor would be fine to affix to.
- The work would have to be of sufficient scale and impact.
- Work will be on display for the full duration of ArtVaults: Live and accessible to the public throughout this time.

Timeline

- Monday 11th June > Deadline to receive proposals.
- Friday 15th June > Appointed artist selected and contracted.
- Friday 15th June – Monday 16th July (approx. 1 month) > Selected proposal undergoes further development, feasibility and cost comparison.
- Monday 16th July – Monday 20th August > Artistic production period with agreed milestones, site and studio visits with Exhibition Programme Manager.
- Monday 20th August - Monday 28th August (approx. 1 week) > On site installation of artwork.
- September – Public Exhibition.

Budget

The selected artist will receive:

- A £2,000 production fee (inclusive of artist's fees and expenses)
- Up to £1,000 will be available for materials and transporting the work on and off site.

General Terms & Conditions

- The deadline for receiving submissions is Monday 11th June 2018.
- The successful artists will be notified by Friday 15th June 2018.
- Due to public access to the site, works exhibited will not be covered by insurance.
- Public liability will be covered by 'a space' arts.
- The artist will retain ownership of the work.

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 (maximum 100 words)
- Preliminary sketch of proposed work
- An up-to-date CV
- Link to current work on artist website or a social media platform

Please email proposals to: tony@spacearts.org.uk

Please title the email: **ArtVaults: Live Installation**

Link to location of Canute's Palace: <https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Canute's+Palace>

For further information, an informal chat to discuss your proposal or to arrange a site visit, contact:

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