

Brief – Freelance Resident Artists, Drawing and Engagement



Context

From 1 Feb – 6 May 2019, Bristol Museum & Art Gallery will be one of 12 venues across the UK each exhibiting 12 drawings by Leonardo da Vinci. This is part of 'Leonardo da Vinci: A Life in Drawing', a project led by the Royal Collection Trust, to mark 500 years since the death of the globally renowned artist and polymath. For more information see <https://www.rct.uk/about/news-and-features/leonardo-da-vinci-a-life-in-drawing#/>

The Royal Collection Trust has secured funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to support an accompanying learning programme. Bristol Culture team is seeking two freelance artists to help meet outcomes for engaging schools and other groups with the exhibition, focusing on audiences who are less engaged with the museums and with culture in the city generally. Our targets for the project are to work with 2,000 children and young people, and 200 teachers.

We expect the exhibition as a whole to attract around 20,000 visitors. As well as the drawings themselves, the gallery will house a second display co-curated with three young producers inspired by Leonardo's themes and featuring objects selected from our collections, and a reading and activity space.

Overall aims of the brief:

- Engage diverse audiences, including schools and other formal and informal learning settings, with the Leonardo exhibition and its central themes
- Contribute to achieving the quantitative targets attached to the funding
- Bring the idea of drawing to life through hands-on workshops / activities and your own practice
- Communicate the ongoing value and relevance of drawing. Beyond being a means of creative expression and exploration, it can hone observational skills and support creative thinking, learning, problem solving, memory, concentration, spatial awareness and more
- Promote the idea that anyone can draw and enjoy drawing – it doesn't require specific knowledge or skills, and can be about the process and not an end product

Role description

The role will largely consist of face-to-face delivery of drawing related workshops and activities at the museum with a wide range of people, including school groups (Key Stages 2 and 3), further education students, young adults, adults with mental health issues, older people with dementia and people from community learning groups around the city, museum staff and volunteers. Both Freelance Artists will be expected to devise and deliver sessions with a range of groups. The division of work is open for discussion.

In addition, we would like the Freelance Resident Artists to contribute to prompt cards for drawing packs that visitors can borrow from the box office, and on occasion to spend time on their own work in the exhibition or the permanent galleries of the museum.

The definition of drawing can be fairly broad and we welcome different approaches, but for activities in the galleries we are restricted to the use of materials approved by conservation staff. The activities will also need to be portable and possible to arrange without causing too much obstruction to other museum visitors. We would like the work undertaken to expand on themes or subjects from the exhibition and/or to take inspiration from the museum building and collections.

Person specification

Essential qualities and experience:

- Demonstrable experience of working with a diverse range of participants including children and/or young people as well as with adults from under-represented groups
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- The ability to adapt approaches to meet the needs and interests of diverse groups
- Proven ability to plan and lead art workshops
- An accomplished and active current artistic practice which is strong on drawing
- A good general knowledge of visual art, in particular graphic arts and techniques
- A good understanding of safeguarding issues relating to children and vulnerable adults
- Available on Tuesdays, Thursdays and some Mondays (possibly other days too) between February and May and flexible to work half-days and short sessions if needed

Desirable qualities and experience:

- Experience of working in schools and community learning settings and/or museums or other cultural settings
- A degree or equivalent level of experience in fine art, design or a related subject
- Awareness of the curricula for Key Stages 2 and 3
- Knowledge of and interest in the work of Leonardo da Vinci
- A current DBS check

We welcome applications from artists of all cultures and backgrounds.

Schedule

Midnight on 2/1/19	Deadline for receipt of applications
14/1/19 and 16/1/19	Interviews
Week commencing 11/2/19	Induction and start of work
11/2/19 – 6/5/19	Duration of contract (days and hours tba)

Fee

Up to £4,500 per Freelance Resident Artist. This is based on an estimate of 18 days or equivalent hours at £250 per 6-hour day.

How to apply

Please send the following to Jane Hack, Senior Officer, Formal Learning at jane.hack@bristol.gov.uk by **midnight on 2 January 2019**. Late applications will not be considered.

- Current CV including a statement about your artistic practice
- Up to 5 images of art work (Jpegs, max 1MB each or links to images online)
- A covering letter outlining your interest in the role and how you meet the person specification (maximum 500 words)
- If you have one, an example of a session plan for an art workshop you have devised and led
- Notification of any dates you are **not** available for interview between 14 and 18 January 2019
- Details of any access requirements to enable you to attend interview

If you require this information in another format, or to submit your application in another format contact jane.hack@bristol.gov.uk / 0117 922 3619