

Public Art Commission Brief

An opportunity for an artist or collective to create a public work of art inspired by the Museum's collections and Worcester's porcelain heritage within a lively courtyard area.

Commission Fee: £3,500, submit proposals by 9am Monday 20th September 2021

The Museum of Royal Worcester (MoRW) is an independent museum and charitable trust, looking after and celebrating the largest collection of Worcester porcelain in the world and its unique archive in the place where it was made. We work to inspire, surprise and delight people across the world with Worcester's porcelain heritage, sharing this with future generations from its home in the heart of Worcester. The Museum is located in historic premises adjacent to the regenerated Royal Porcelain Works complex and minutes from the centre of Worcester and the River Severn (see images in Appendix A).

In 2021 the Museum has successfully achieved funding from the Kildare Trust to commission an artist or artists to create a bespoke new public art installation within the lively outdoor courtyard area shared between the Museum and Royal Porcelain Works complex. The artwork should act as a signpost for potential visitors to the Museum, and embed the site's porcelain heritage in this public space.

We are offering:

- **An artist commission opportunity** to create a site-specific public artwork using creative approaches, to celebrate and explore Worcester porcelain, its history and impact, encouraging broad audiences beyond the venue to engage with us in surprising and meaningful ways
- **Time to engage with our collections and archives** to inspire and inform your ideas and the resulting installation
- **Engagement with our staff, volunteers, ex-factory workers and other networks** to develop and inform the project
- **Liaison with site partners, funders and stakeholders, and project management/marketing support**

This is an exciting opportunity to work with a unique and important heritage venue and collection on a local placemaking project that will connect audiences to their local history.

Museum of Royal Worcester Severn Street Worcester WR1 2ND
T: 01905 21247 F: 01905 617 807 info@museumofroyalworchester.org www.museumofroyalworchester.org

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Dyson Perrins Museum Trust Registered Charity No. 223753 VAT No. 275 4603 49

The MoRW has a small passionate team and suits individuals with energy, enthusiasm and a collaborative approach.

What:

We want you to create an artistic installation that will surprise, delight and engage broad audiences with Worcester porcelain – ideally suitable for children and adults, including older people. The Museum's current in-person audiences are heavily over-55s and we want to continue to support rich cultural experiences for seniors while also reaching a family and younger adult audience.

The concept should draw on the rich heritage of the Museum's collection and porcelain in Worcester, using artistic practice to intrigue and offer people deeper/sensory/playful and new ways of understanding Worcester's porcelain heritage. We are interested in proposals that could engage people through interactive or sensory experiences.

The artwork could be installed on the Museum building itself, the ground on the Museum's land (see areas highlighted in brown on Appendix B) or possibly within the courtyard flowerbeds.

The artwork should be resilient and of a suitable quality to last for around a decade or longer. Its installation should be secure but not irreversible; it should not cause any damage to the building or Museum grounds that cannot be made good without huge expense. Any maintenance required should be straightforward to undertake with clear written and illustrated instructions where possible, and any materials required to undertake maintenance should be relatively easy to source and affordable.

Who:

We have no preconception around artform or process, and we do not expect you to be an expert in ceramics or Royal Worcester Porcelain. You could be a surface-pattern designer, artist, metalworker, sculptor, glass artist – or something else entirely!

We are looking for a strong artistic practice and demonstrable experience/understanding of public art works/community arts practice. Experience of working with communities and or volunteers and creating site-specific works will be valued.

Whilst you do not need to be local to Worcester, we do expect you to visit the Museum to explore the collections and location, and to install or oversee the installation of the work at the Museum.

We will work with you to determine the exact delivery details if you are successful.

When:

We propose two possible timelines for completion:

- i) created and installed by December 2 2021, so that the project can be celebrated along with Christmas festivities and correlating outreach activities.
- ii) created and installed by 7 February 2022 where it can be celebrated as part of the February half term programme.

We expect to be flexible around our commitments and yours – aligning activity with our programme of events and outreach.

Fee:

The commission is £3,500 inclusive of any VAT. We expect this to cover:

- Your time and expenses to visit us as required and carry out research including public consultation
- Time and materials to create your artwork design and test any methods or samples.
- Time, materials and equipment hire or purchase required for fabrication of the artwork and installation on site
- A risk assessment and method statement for the installation of and positioning of the artwork
- Attendance at a launch event for the artwork, and participation in relevant promotional activity for the Museum and our funding partner The Kildare Trust.
- Reflections from you after delivery for reporting back to our funders

These are freelance commissions, and you must be registered as self-employed, and will be responsible for your own tax and National Insurance.

The commission fee will be paid in two instalments; the first upon signing the commission contract and the second upon fulfilment of the contract.

How to apply:

Your application should include:

- A brief summary of no more than 500 words describing your creative practice, with links to previous projects that support your proposal
- A proposal of no more than 500 words outlining your response to the brief – what approaches you might take, and what you find inspiring about Worcester porcelain/the Severn Street site. Please indicate an outline breakdown of commission costs to time/materials/installation *Please note – we are not expecting a detailed budget at this stage, but an indication that the scope of your proposal fits the brief.*
- Your CV and contact details

If you have any particular access requirements in order for you to submit an application, please contact us and we will endeavour to meet them.

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Selection Process:

Submissions will be viewed by a panel of site partners including staff from the Museum of Royal Worcester and Royal Porcelain Works, and will be scored against the following criteria:

- Quality of ideas, inventiveness and track record
- Context and connection to the collections, porcelain heritage and site.
- Demonstrable skills and experience in creating robust work for public art with public engagement potential and accessibility for broad audiences

If you have any questions about the commission please contact carrie@museumofroyalworchester.org An informal chat can be arranged.

Please email your proposal to carrie@museumofroyalworchester.org by 9am on Monday 20th September 2021

Interviews, if required, will take place on weekdays between 30th September and 5th October 2021.

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Appendix A – Images of the Museum and Courtyard Area



1. View from the coach parking bays towards the Museum's Main entrance



2. View from Good Roots café towards the Museum's staff entrance.

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3. View across the courtyard from the entrance to Henry Sandon Hall.



4. View across the courtyard from the Museum staff entrance to Good Roots café

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5. View of the Museum entrance, courtyard and plant bed



6. View of the Museum from Severn Street and courtyard entrance

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7. View of the Museum from Severn Street



8. View of the Museum from Severn Street looking south towards the River Severn

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9. View of the Museum from Severn Street looking North towards King Street

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