

Job description

Open Call for Artist/Designer/Maker Residency at The Bowes Museum October – December 2023

2023 marks the 250th anniversary of the Silver Swan first being exhibited in James Cox's Museum of Mechanical Marvels in London in 1773. The Silver Swan is The Bowes Museum's most iconic and popular object and with funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund, we're pleased to announce a new residency opportunity supporting an artist, designer, or maker in the North East to undertake a residency engaging with the Silver Swan, its archive and a developing conservation project to restore the automaton.

The Swan has a very special place in public hearts and memories, holding magic and fascination for visitors of all ages. Many people's recollections of TBM have been shaped by the Silver Swan. Visitors who remember putting a sixpence in the slot to watch it play as children, now bring their grandchildren to see it. Audience research demonstrates the Swan's enduring appeal as the object that people most come to see and bring others to experience. Its image features in the brand identity of TBM and the town of Barnard Castle has embraced it as an icon, on everything from pavement grates, Christmas lights, to local beers

The residency is open to artists, designers and makers working across the visual or performing arts who have an interest in exploring heritage, museums and archives collaboratively and would benefit from having the time and space to research and develop their social practice through close engagement with an institutional collection and archive.

This residency opportunity will enable research, making and professional development between October and December, with support from TBM staff. The selected artist, designer or maker is encouraged to respond to the Silver Swan as a dynamic object, inspired by nature but wholly mechanical. At the heart of so many community and socially-connected memories, the selected artist, designer or maker is encouraged to use this as a starting point to surface ideas and creative responses to develop new work through critically engaging with communities and the heritage object and archival material that is present, particularly exploring stories and voices that might be missing.

The residency is supported with a £2500 fee and £1,000 travel and accommodation bursary, with access to a space at TBM across October - December, and the collection and archive onsite (with support). The residency is flexible. We don't expect artists to spend 3 months on-site full time.

During their residency, the artist is encouraged to facilitate creative interventions and opportunities that share their research and practice with the wider public, particularly children, young people and families, through hosting 10 half day opportunities as part of TBM's Public Programme. The form of these events will be agreed with the artist, designer or maker and receive an additional fee of £1300 to support this.

As part of this opportunity, the selected artist is encouraged to produce their own work, collaboratively informed by the project. A production budget of £2000 will support this.

Please submit an expression of interest outlining the research and making proposal you wish to develop during the residency.

Key information

Fee: £3800 to include October – December residency with 10 half day public-facing sessions.

Travel and accommodation bursary: £1,000(TBM does not provide accommodation or travel)

Production budget: £2000

Space at TBM for thinking, researching and making

Dates: Between October– December 2023

Location: The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle and remotely

Deadline for submission: Midnight on 24/09/2023

To apply, please prepare the following:

An expression of interest (500words max.) explaining:

- The research and making proposal you wish to develop during the residency
- How this opportunity will benefit your practice
- What interests you about working with TBM's Silver Swan Project 2023

AND

- A CV or biography
- Up to three images of your work or a video/audio extract (no longer than two minutes)

You can also find out about this residency by watching a VideoAsk with our Director of Programme and Collections, Vicky Sturrs <https://www.videoask.com/fhknfryb3>

Please send your submissions to hr@thebowesmuseum.org.uk

You can also send your application by post, please do not send original artwork, applications will not be returned:

Silver Swan Project Residency 2023

The Bowes Museum

Newgate

Barnard Castle

We are an equal opportunities employer. Diversity within our workforce, programmes and approaches is crucial to our mission of being equitable, sustainable and relevant. We particularly welcome applications from candidates who have been traditionally under-represented within the sector including those who identify as people of colour and/or people with disabilities.

Eligibility:

Artists must be based in the North East of the UK

Artists must have right to work in the UK

Please note those in full-time undergraduate or postgraduate programmes are not eligible to apply. Post-doctoral researchers are eligible.

If you are not registered for tax as being self-employed you will be taxed at source.

Due to the expected high volume of applications, we are unable to give individual feedback.

Successful applicants only will be notified no later than 28/09/2023

Job Type: Freelance

Salary: From £3,800.00 per year

Ability to commute/relocate:

- Barnard Castle: reliably commute or plan to relocate before starting work (required)

Education:

- Bachelor's (preferred)

Experience:

- Graphic design: 1 year (preferred)

Work Location: In person

Application deadline: 24/09/2023