



OPEN CALL: Lancashire Textile Gallery - Pilot Commissions

A WORLD OF TEXTILES IN ONE COUNTY...

Modern Lancashire is built on a powerful heritage of textile manufacturing and global trade.

The Lancashire Textile Gallery project aims to build a new digital resource & gallery which highlights and brings together significant local and global textile artefacts from museums, archives, galleries, and manufacturers across the county. Through a series of new digital exhibitions, downloadable resources and community curated responses, this online presence will collectively build an understanding of the significant impact that textiles have played in shaping people's lives, not only in this county, but across the globe.

The Lancashire Textile Gallery is a collaboration between [Gawthorpe Textiles Collection](#), the [University of Central Lancashire](#) and the [British Textile Biennial](#) with contributions from museums and archives across Lancashire. The Lancashire's Textile Treasures project has received DCMS and National Lottery funding, distributed by the Heritage Fund as part of their Digital Skills for Heritage initiative.

Background: <http://www.lancshiretextilegallery.com/>

The Brief:

We are looking for a minimum of 3 artists, craft & design practitioners of all disciplines to explore and respond to items based in some of the county's most important textile collections to create a digital outcome for the new <http://www.lancshiretextilegallery.com/> platform. e.g. detailed photographic images, film, 360 exploration, online exhibition, podcast, sound/audio works, educational resources etc.

These small pilot commissions are aimed at testing the opportunity for artists and designers to work with and respond to our collections and to make manifest the results in digital form that will help drive digital engagement, conversation, community curated responses and other forms of interaction through the <http://www.lancshiretextilegallery.com/> platform.

Applicants are invited to respond to this open call based on their own areas of practice and if successful will be matched with an archive, heritage venue or collection based on the most appropriate connection.

Examples of archives, collections and buildings involved in the project include:

Queen Street Mill Textile Museum, Burnley
Showtown Museum, Blackpool
Touchstones , Rochdale
Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery
Astley Hall , Chorley
Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool
Harris Museum, Art Gallery and Library, Preston
Haworth Art Gallery, Accrington
Lancashire Archives; Preston
Towneley Hall Art Gallery and Museum
Gawthorpe Textiles Collection, Burnley

Selected artists will be supported by the project team and host collection/heritage venue throughout the development of the work.

This brief is deliberately very open, as we are interested in a wide range of responses that can spark imaginations and create a breadth of outcomes to present on the platform to highlight the possibilities of working with Lancashire's textile heritage objects to tell new and previously unheard stories which resonate with audiences and which will inspire responses from others. We are keen to hear your ideas for starting points, areas of particular curiosity and inspiration. But we recognise that the process ultimately will define the outcomes of the work as it develops, so these are not expected to be set in stone from the outset.

Budget:

The budget for this project is in the region of £2,000, per commission which will cover fees, expenses, materials and ensuring the project outcome is available in digital form.

Delivery timescale:

The selected artists / designers will work during September – December 2022 to undertake research visits, shape ideas and create the final outcomes which will go live on the <http://www.lancshiretextilegallery.com/> platform in Jan 2023.

How to apply:

Please send us:

- A short outline of why this commission opportunity interests you, your area of practice/focus and the process you would undertake towards the realisation of the final work. Please mention if there is a particular collection or area of textile heritage that you are particularly keen to explore.
- An outline of your previous work and examples of no more than 3 projects that you feel demonstrate why your practice is relevant for this opportunity (including images or links to video / sound based work).
- A simple budget outlining how you would aim to use the £2k available, including your daily rate, including VAT and expenses.
- Please combine all of this together as a single PDF document.

Deadlines:

Deadline for applications is **15th August 2022**

Shortlisted artist interviews to be held on 22nd Aug 2022

Please email applications to zara@superslowway.org.uk

If you have any questions or want to talk over your application prior to submission, please email jenny@superslowway.org.uk with any questions or to arrange a time to chat.

N.B. The successful artist must be available to deliver the project within the timescales outlined above.

Further supporting information:

<http://www.lancshiretextilegallery.com/>

<https://www.gawthorpetextiles.org.uk/>

<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/fashion-design-ba>