

Aberdeen Art Gallery micro-commissions

Open call: Creative brief 2020-2021



Introduction

Aberdeen Art Gallery (Aberdeen City Council) is Winner of the Art Fund **Museum of the Year** for 2020/21. We want to share our award with Aberdeen's creative community.

We are now inviting creative practitioners (artists, makers, musicians, dancers, designers, writers and performers) to submit proposals for a series of micro-commissions. We use the term **micro-commissions** to set the scene for all involved – the finished works might be small scale, and the time spent developing and producing does not have to be long and drawn out – this is a chance for you to respond quickly to this opportunity.

Summary

We are asking for proposals that **respond to the collection through the creation of new work - through explorations of identity, intersectionality and representation.**

There will be two rounds as follows:

Open call from November 2020, deadline for submissions 23:59 Sunday 3 January 2021

Open call from April 2021, deadline for submission 23:59 Sunday 9 May 2021

At each of the rounds we plan to award: 2 commissions @ **£3000** and 4 commissions @ **£850**

To apply, please download the micro-commissions application form at <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/AAGM/opportunities>

For more information about programme deadlines see **Programme calendar** on Page 5.

Depending on the artwork produced the resulting work may be displayed at Aberdeen Art Gallery or shared in a public performance, online or in the public realm beyond the Gallery. There are opportunities for single-artist displays, group shows, interventions and side-by-side comparisons within existing collection galleries, as well as music, spoken word and dance performances. The micro-commissions created will become part of Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums collections. See below: **Ownership of work** on Page 3.

Eligibility criteria

Who can apply?

Applicants must:

- Be aged 18 years or over
- Be living in the AB postcode area
- An artist/creative individual that shows outstanding talent and/or potential in any art form (this includes, but is not limited to, visual, dance, drama, performance, written word, sound or music artists)

- Evidence a desire to develop and an ability to reflect upon their practice and personal development
- Be able to create, develop and/or present a new piece of artistic work to the programme timetable
- Demonstrate an ability to profile their work and communicate their practice to an audience

What the commissions cannot support

- Applications for artwork already started or planned to start before the notification dates. Awards cannot be funded retrospectively.
- Artworks which support or promote religious or political activity. If your work engages in these themes please contact the Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums team to discuss prior to application.
- Artists undertaking full time undergraduate study. Artists must have completed their studies by the application deadline to be eligible to apply for a commission.

Please ensure that you meet these criteria and explain clearly if your contact address does not reference an AB postcode.

Creative brief

Representation, identity and intersectionality – identifying self in the museum collection

We would like the micro-commission programme to stimulate engagement and dialogue about the collections of art and history. Submissions should respond to the collection, creating new works, through explorations of identity, intersectionality and representation.

Successful applicants will have access to the museum's collections, specialised curatorial expertise, as well as opportunities to share their work with audiences through the public programme of talks, events, performances, workshops and displays in our venue(s) and online. This may be possible in person, with appropriate risk assessments and PPE under current Covid guidance, or may need to rely on virtual access using live streaming platforms and file sharing. We expect the final pieces to enter the collection and would be keen to discuss how this might work with non-traditional artforms.

Submission process

All submissions should be sent in electronic format using the supplied downloadable application form available as a **Word doc** and a **PDF** at <https://www.aberdeency.gov.uk/AAGM/opportunities>

These can be emailed to: AAGMcurators@aberdeency.gov.uk. Please use “micro-commission [YOUR SURNAME]” as the subject/title of your email.

For submissions over 5MB, please submit via www.wetransfer.com to the above email address

If you would like further support in completing the application form, there will be virtual information and Q&A session at 17:00 on Thursday 10 December supported by Hysteria Aberdeen and will be recorded if you can't make it. More information will be shared via the Archives, Gallery & Museums social media channels.

No question is silly – if you don't know the answer, we can guarantee someone else doesn't know it either.

You can also contact Helen Fothergill (head of collections) directly by email to hfothergill@aberdeency.gov.uk or by phone at 07920 275 612.

Selection process

A panel comprising Council officers and Council-appointed panel members, including representatives of the creative sector, will assess and select awardees.

All decisions made by the panel will be final and not subject to appeal.

Shortlisting will take place over two weeks, and applicants will be informed of panel decisions on or before 15 January 2021 and 22 May 2021 for each of the 2 rounds.

Applicants who are unsuccessful in Round 1 can further develop their application and re-apply in Round 2.

Fees

The creative practitioners selected to complete their proposed micro-commissions will receive an upfront fee of:

Award level 1 – first payment 90% of £3000 fee = **£2700**

Award level 2 – first payment 90% of £850 fee = **£765**

10% of the full fee will be payable on delivery/performance of the final work at one of our agreed venues.

Award level 1 – final payment 10% of £3000 fee = **£300**

Award level 2 – final payment 10% of £850 fee = **£85**

Any payment will be subject to the terms and conditions of the contract which as standard is 30 days after receipt of an invoice, and will require the commissioned creative practitioner to be registered on the council's payment system.

Please note that final contractual arrangements will be determined through discussion with the commissioned creative practitioner. These discussions will include resolution of long-term usage and display, licencing (if applicable) and copyright agreements.

Remember to value your own time as part of the creative process, budgets are not solely to cover materials!

Ownership of Work

The copyright and all intellectual property rights in the works remain vested in the creative practitioner. Ownership of the finished work will remain with Aberdeen Art Gallery once the project has been completed. The intention of Aberdeen City Council is to accession the final work into Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums' permanent collection. We expect to discuss how best to do this with digital or performance-based works. We would also take the opportunity to discuss further acquisition of preparatory material.

If the contract is not fulfilled Aberdeen City Council reserve the right to reclaim all monies paid to the awardee.

Information about the wider programme

This programme of work aims to deliver four key objectives:

- Support for the local creative sector
- Enhance the permanent collections and improve the representation of locally based practitioners
- Promote and enhance audience engagement with the local creative community
- Develop staff and collaborative relationships with the local creative sector

By creating a series of small-scale commission opportunities (micro-commissions) we aim to provide more opportunities for the local creative sector, increase the diversity of artists represented in the collection, re-interpret existing collections through new comparative works, give staff the opportunity to learn more about the local creative communities: their practice, challenges and barriers, and ultimately enhance our audience experience through new works that better reflect their own experiences.



Programme calendar (as of Nov 2020 - subject to change)

LEGEND	
	Launch & advertise
	Deadline for proposals
	Selection & establish contract
	Development & creation
	Hand over final work
	Display

Nov 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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29	30					

Dec 2020						
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Jan 2021						
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Feb 2021						
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Mar 2021						
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Apr 2021						
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May 2021						
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Jun 2021						
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Jul 2021						
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Aug 2021						
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Sep 2021						
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