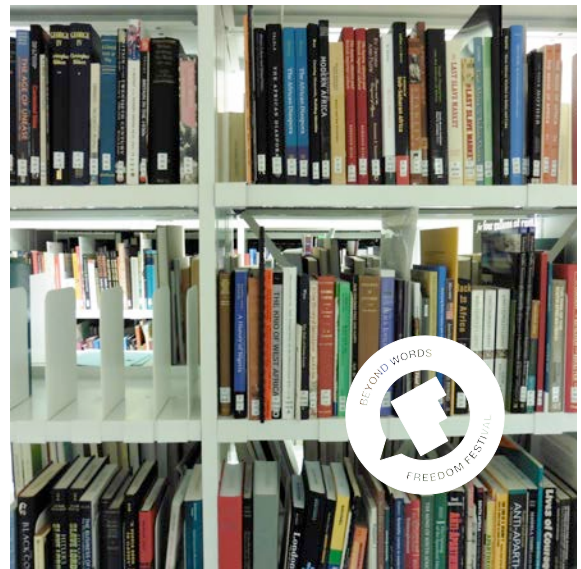


## Beyond Words

**2 x Artists' Library Residencies to create Artists' Books  
Open Call for Proposals**





**Beyond Words – Two Artists’ Library Residencies**

We are inviting proposals for two artists to undertake library residencies based at the Hull History Centre and Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery (WISE) in Hull, with specific reference to the special collections on slavery past and present, pressure groups including Parity, Liberty, and the archives of leading activists and campaigners.

These two artists’ library residencies will be selected and commissioned by the Freedom Festival Arts Trust and Hull Culture and Leisure Library Services, in association with Book Works.

Commissioned artists will undertake a period of research/residencies in August/September 2016, and produce new work including an artist’s book in March 2017.

Funded by the James Reckitt Library Trust.

**Deadline for proposals: 26 April 2016**

**Project theme and brief**

Born out of the turbulence of the transatlantic slave trade, the great acts of emancipation – Haiti in 1804, Britain in 1833–38, the United States in the 1860s, and Cuba and Brazil in the 1880s – were forged by the alliance of slave rebels, metropolitan opinion, and in the case of the British Act, abolitionist politics led by William Wilberforce. The broadest understanding of the legacy of the slave trade is that its abolition occurred as many of the ideals we now live by were formed.

We are looking for artists’ proposals that will use original research using Hull’s libraries and special collections to explore freedoms exercised or yet to be obtained today in relation to historical reverberations. Proposals need not be limited to but may focus on issues of slavery and colonialism, sex and gender, freedom of information, protest and



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copyright, etc. We are seeking to present the idea of freedom as part of a process of public dialogue, ongoing struggle, a rejection of the proprietary understanding of art and language, and a celebration of the challenges that artists can make to the status quo.

The special collections of the Hull History Centre and Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery (see information on special collections below) will provide a starting point for artists to research and produce an artist's book – something political, poetic, unexpected, ephemeral etc. responding to our theme, drawing out the unique qualities of the archives and your own interests. You will have the expert support of the librarian, and be able to develop your ideas with artists' book publisher Book Works.

We are interested in proposals that make connections: between the research material you access in the library collection and the finished work; between yourself and the real or imagined audiences that access the collection; between the present in which you work and the histories of the collection; between the personal and potential communities of the library or collection.

Commissioned work will take the form of printed matter, but might also include performance/live works, installation/exhibition, film, talks/readings or online material etc. or a combination of the above in terms of its outcome.

We are looking for imaginative, persuasive proposals that can be realised within our time frame, and applicants should be able to demonstrate that their project can be achieved successfully.

Residency/research period will be 4 weeks to be negotiated in collaboration with commissioning partners. We understand that once the research period has started plans may develop and/or change so it is important you demonstrate a method for your practice as well as your interests, experience and past projects that might inform our selection.

You will develop the content and format of the artist's book with Book Works, including scope of the book and edition number. The edition size may vary but we will need 20 copies to be donated by each commissioned artist to be housed in Hull City Council

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Libraries, Hull History Centre, WISE, the Freedom Festival and Book Works. However, you may wish to produce more copies as part of your edition that can be distributed as you see fit.

It is envisaged that both residencies will take place during the same time period in August/September in Hull, and artists must agree to attend the final launch event/weekend in March 2017 (dates to be confirmed). Artists will also be expected to talk about their work in progress during this year's Freedom Festival weekend 2-4 September 2016.

## Selected artists will receive

- A fee for the period of the residency, to cover all expenses and to produce new work of £2,000.
- A further budget is available for your accommodation and expenses in Hull (details tbc) whilst the residency is underway.
- An additional budget of up to £5,500 to spend on the production of an artist's book, any other works produced, and towards a launch/presentation event weekend in March 2017 is also available.
- Access to the library facilities and resources for the duration of the project, and dedicated time given by the special collections staff to your research ideas/pursuits.
- Artistic, editorial, technical and practical support from Book Works and the Freedom Festival during the research, production and presentation of new work.
- Opportunity to promote your work during the Hull City of Culture year, and through the Freedom Festival, Hull Culture and Leisure Library Services and Book Works.

## How to Apply

Please send a proposal (1,000 words maximum), together with your name, address, telephone number and email; your CV, and the equality monitoring form.

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Please only include samples/visual material relevant to your work and this proposal. If you want your work back please enclose a SAE for your material otherwise it will not be returned.

Hard copies only please to:

Freedom Library Residencies, Book Works, 19 Holywell Row, London EC2A 4JB.

For further information about the project or how to apply please contact

Jane Rolo, jane@bookworks.org.uk.

The deadline is 26 April 2016

## Eligibility

Proposals are welcome from all UK-based practitioners, including emerging artists and those from culturally diverse backgrounds.

## Selection and shortlist

- The shortlist and selection for these commissions is scheduled for end May/June 2016. We will contact you to let you know if your work has been short-listed or not, and if short-listed we may ask you for further information or ask you to attend a meeting with us before final selection is announced.
- Residencies should be underway by mid-August, and final work ready by 1 March 2017 latest.
- Proposals will be selected by the Freedom Festival and Hull Central Library in association with Book Works.

## Feedback

Due to the volume of applications we anticipate we will not be able to give any specific feedback on proposals unless short-listed.



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## General Information

### Book Works

Book Works, an independent publisher and art-commissioning organisation established in 1984, has been invited by the Freedom Festival to curate this project, and will work with the selected artists to produce artists' books and related events to be launched in March 2017.

See [www.bookworks.org.uk](http://www.bookworks.org.uk) for further information.

### Freedom Festival Arts Trust

Freedom Festival Trust was established in 2013 taking on responsibility for producing Freedom Festival, the region's largest, and most innovative and open access city arts festival.

Taking place annually in the first week of September, Freedom Festival is the lasting legacy of the Wilberforce 2007 campaign that celebrated the pioneering work of Hull-born MP William Wilberforce, and the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire. The festival will always make reference to the concept of 'freedom', pushing boundaries to express the concept in a variety of ways and – together with our advisory partners including Hull Amnesty Group – helping to raise awareness of the challenges to freedom that still exist and are highly relevant today.

Freedom Festival 2016 will take place on 2-4 September throughout the city centre of Hull. Through the Festival's year round projects, they work closely with the local communities and artists in Hull as well as national and international artists to explore at a deeper level the history and relevance today of freedom based issues. Freedom Festival weekend then provides a platform for large audiences to be inspired and learn from the explorations that have been made through these in year projects.

See [www.freedomfestival.co.uk](http://www.freedomfestival.co.uk)



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### **Hull History Centre**

Hull History Centre is home to Hull City Archives, Hull Local Studies Library and Hull University Archives, bringing together extensive collections of local, regional and national importance relating to the city of Hull and the surrounding areas, including Hull's maritime history, World War 2 records, political figures and pressure groups, and prominent figures in literature and drama. Further information about the Centre and its collections can be found on their website and via its online catalogue.

See [www.hullhistorycentre.org.uk](http://www.hullhistorycentre.org.uk)  
<http://catalogue.hullhistorycentre.org.uk>

### **The Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation (WISE)**

WISE is an interdisciplinary academic centre, based in the Museums Quarter of Hull, that has a comprehensive library and archive of books and other materials relating to slavery and human rights abuses past and present.

The Humanitarian Wall at WISE is an inspiring tribute to many of the famous names throughout history that are synonymous with the fight for emancipation and freedom, with a roll call including Hull's most famous freedom fighter William Willberforce, or Olaudah Equiano – one of the earliest self-published black authors in the world – right up to more recent figures such as Nelson Mandela, Sylvia Pankhurst and Aung San Suu Kyi.

See [www.2.hull.ac.uk/fass/wise.aspx](http://www.2.hull.ac.uk/fass/wise.aspx)

### **James Reckitt Library Trust**

The James Reckitt Library Trust was established as an independent charitable trust in 1892 by Sir James Reckitt (1833-1924), the pioneering industrialist and philanthropist. Originally intended to support the James Reckitt Library in east Hull, it now helps to develop public library provision throughout the city. The projects and activities which it funds are designed to stimulate a love of reading and learning, particularly among children and young people, to encourage those who might not normally use the public

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library services to do so, and to raise awareness of what modern public libraries can offer.

### **Beyond Words programme**

- In addition to the two library residencies above, a further six artists have been invited to produce artists' books to be exhibited at this year's Freedom Festival on 2-4 September 2016.
- A further two artists have been invited to make artists' books that will also be launched in conjunction with the outcome of your residencies in March 2017.



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