

Beyond Words

Artists' Publications Open Call for Proposals





Beyond Words – Artists’ Publications – open call for proposals

An opportunity to produce an artist’s publication on the theme of Freedom, to be commissioned by the Freedom Festival Arts Trust and Hull Culture and Leisure Library Services, in association with Book Works.

Six publications will be commissioned from open call, and launched at this year’s Freedom Festival weekend, 2–4 September 2016 in Hull. The publications will be displayed as part of an exhibition curated by Book Works at Hull Central Library.

Funded by the James Reckitt Library Trust.

Deadline for proposals: 8 April 2016

Theme

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 proposals from artists using publishing 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 censorship, 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. For *The Happy Hypocrite – Freedom, issue 6* (Book Works, 2013), guest editor Lynne Tillman wrote, ‘I think: Protect me from people who want to protect me; but more, save me from people who know what upsets others.’

These small scale, DIY publications – self published artists’ books, chapbooks, zines, pamphlets – may combine text, image, graphics, drawings, creative, fictional or critical works, and use a variety of materials. Each artist will be responsible for the content, design and print of their publication, there is no



specified format for the publications, they might be small pocket sized books or larger newspaper formats; using a combination of printing and binding techniques.

The edition size may vary but we will need 20 copies to be donated by each commissioned artist to form complete sets of publications to be housed in Hull libraries, including Hull Central Library and the Hull History Centre, as well as in the Freedom Festival Arts Trust and Book Works' archives. However, you may wish to produce more copies as part of your edition that can be distributed as you see fit in line with contract conditions.

Selected artists are expected to have finished their books by 1 August 2016, and Book Works will work with the artists on their books, and on the presentation of their work as part of an exhibition, as well as additional promotion and distribution, for example, in the form of posters displayed across the city during the Freedom Festival weekend.

Selected artists must be available to take part in the launch events from 2–4 September 2016.

Fee

There will be an artist's fee of £1,000 for your time and expenses and towards the production costs of the edition, subject to contract. Travel expenses for artists to attend the launch events and exhibition will be covered in addition to the artist's fee.

How to Apply

Please send a proposal for an artist's publication on the theme of freedom (500 words maximum), together with your name, address, telephone number and email, your CV, and the equality monitoring form.

You may also send some recent examples of your work. This could include books/zines you've produced, printed matter, texts, drawings, or a mock-up for this proposal, or print outs of existing works. If you want your work back please enclose a SAE for your material otherwise it will not be returned.

Hard copies only please to: Beyond Words - Artists' Publications,



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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 8 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 early May 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. Commissions should be underway by mid-May, and final publications ready by 1 August 2016 latest.
Proposals will be selected by Book Works in association with Freedom Festival and Hull Central Library.

Feedback

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

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 present an exhibition, artists' book fair and associated events and workshops for the 2016 festival.
See 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, innovative and open access



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city arts festival. Freedom Festival Trust changed its name December 2015 to Freedom Festival Arts Trust.

Taking place annually in the first week of September, Freedom Festival is the lasting legacy of the Wilberforce 2007 campaign which 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 2-4th September throughout the city centre of Hull. Through the festival's year round projects, Freedom Festival Arts Trust works 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

About Hull Culture and Leisure Library Services

Hull Libraries offer an invaluable service to the community, through a network of 13 libraries providing free access to books, newspapers, DVDs and CD's. In addition, the libraries directly fund and deliver a wealth of skills development programmes and direct training, enabling people to build upon existing skills and/or develop new skills which will position them for future success.

The libraries are great supporters and producers of the growing cultural programme taking shape in Hull and are responsible for a number of cultural initiatives which celebrate literature, improve literacy and showcase the value of the library service to local communities.

James Reckitt Library Trust



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

Beyond Words Programme

Further opportunities for artists' commissions, library residencies and a programme of related activities and events in Hull will be announced shortly.



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