

Artist's brief: Hall of Remembrance

NEW ART COMMISSION FOR ABERDEEN ART GALLERY *Inspiring Art and Music*

Introduction

Aberdeen City Council, supported by The Heritage Lottery Fund, is seeking to appoint an artist / craftsperson / creative practitioner to develop a design for a new art work that will act as a point of reflection and remembrance, which upon its scheduled completion in 2017 will be sited inside the Hall of Remembrance, part of the Aberdeen Art Gallery Complex.

One of just a few specially commissioned works of art; it will bring to completion the redevelopment and expansion of Aberdeen Art Gallery Complex, which is taking place 2014-2017.

Background and details of site

The Memorial Court and Hall of Remembrance was created in 1925 in response to the Great War. It was part of an expansion of the Art Gallery on this site (designed by A Marshall Mackenzie, originally built in 1885, extended in 1905). The Memorial Court, Hall of Remembrance and Cowdray Hall were opened by King George V and Queen Mary in 1925. The cost of the Memorial Court and Hall of Remembrance was met by public contributions. The Hall of Remembrance works in conjunction with the external Memorial Court (the city's cenotaph) facing on to Schoolhill and Blackfriars Street.

Some images of the Memorial Court and Hall of Remembrance can be found at:
www.aberdeenquest.com/Discover/AberdeenArtGallery/aag_MemorialCourt_discover.asp
www.aagm.co.uk/Venues/CowdrayHall/ch-about.aspx

Further images are appended (including annotations).

The Hall of Remembrance will be a pivotal space within the re-configured gallery, acting as a fixed point in the narrative of the permanent collection displays, a quiet refuge for reflection and an accessible route connecting the Art Gallery to the Cowdray Hall. Currently the Hall of Remembrance has one opening on each floor, with the balcony only accessible via steps. The expectation is that the balcony will be raised and extended allowing access around the perimeter for all visitors and 4 points of entry and exit will be fully opened on both floors with access to galleries and the new ground floor café.

Any commission has the potential to be seen from both levels.

Aberdeen Art Gallery has a history of collecting and commissioning contemporary art and craft. The support and development of artists and crafts people is fundamental to this core principle of collecting to represent the best of contemporary practice.

Brief

The Hall of Remembrance is regularly used and visited for acts of remembrance, therefore the commission should be appropriate to the architecture, emotion, meaning and purpose of the space and deal sensitively with the context of the setting.

The materials used in the final piece will be the choice of the artist / crafts person, however the design must take into account the need for the work to be durable and conform to health and safety regulations and in particular take account of the extremely sensitive nature of the location and the existing architecture and finishes within the space.

Restrictions and limitations within the space:

- The wall surface is rusticated, painted plaster skim over a wooden construction with lath and plaster in places. This can be fixed to.
- The floor and high skirting is marble. This can NOT be fixed to.
- Power & data connection can be provided if required.
- Suspension from the underside of the original balcony may be possible.

The artist/craftsperson will be required to liaise with colleagues within Aberdeen City Council to assist in determining the method of installation, and to take this into consideration when formulating the design.

We see the development and installation of the work as catalyst for future engagement with you, the artist/craftsperson, and with our diverse audience.

The artist must:

- ✓ Have a strong track record in art/craft or sculpture.
- ✓ Have experience of working in the public realm.
- ✓ Have experience of working with multi-disciplinary teams.
- ✓ Be able to work and deliver to timetables.
- ✓ Be willing to have the process recorded in a format to be agreed by mutual consent
- ✓ Be willing to engage with stakeholders during concept development, final artwork development, installation and once work is in situ.

Selection Procedure

A maximum of three artists/craftspeople will be shortlisted to present their proposals for this commission. Those shortlisted will be asked to provide visualisations, a budget and timetable for completing the work.

A panel comprising Council officers and Council-appointed project committee members, including representatives of the veterans groups and armed forces personnel, will shortlist applicants before selecting a maximum of 3 to develop their design to working drawings/scale designs/maquette. The short-listed artists will be given the opportunity to visit the site before the deadline for the Stage 2 submission.

From the short-listed artists, one will be selected to produce, install and complete the commission.

The development presentation will include:

- ✓ A design with proposed materials, scale etc.
- ✓ A model/design of the proposed sculpture/artwork.
- ✓ A costing for the completion of the finished piece.
- ✓ An implementation plan and timescale for the finished piece.

Fees

The shortlisted artists/craftspeople selected to develop their concepts further will receive a fixed fee of £1000 to cover design development including any models or maquettes based on their initial response to the brief.

The final commission total budget will not exceed to £18,000 to include all associated costs, materials and expenses.

STAGE 1 Submissions

Submissions should include:

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- Examples of previous works
- Concept development timescale
- Curriculum vitae.
- An initial concept or proposed approach: Up to 2 sides of A4 detailing the approach that you would take if awarded the commission.
- Outline commission development timescale
- Artists should also confirm that they are available to undertake the work which is provisionally scheduled for completion and installation by November 2017

STAGE 1 Deadline

Submissions must be received by **midnight 24 July 2016**

The submissions will be assessed based on:

- Response to the brief to act as a focal point for remembrance
- Budget for final commission
- Timescale for final installation

Visits to the site will be arranged during **August 2016** for shortlisted artists.

**The commission forms part of the HLF supported Art Gallery Redevelopment project:
*Inspiring Art and Music***

STAGE 2 Submissions

Submissions should include:

- A design with proposed materials, scale etc.
- A model/design of the proposed sculpture/artwork.
- A costing for the completion of the finished piece.
- An implementation plan and timescale for the finished piece.
- A full method statement with reference to HSE regulations and requirements.
- An indication of availability to attend a selection panel

STAGE 2 Deadline

Submissions must be received by **midnight 23 October 2016**

Please note that contractual arrangements will be determined through discussion with the commissioned artist.

These discussions will include resolution of long term usage and display, licencing (if applicable) and copyright agreements

The copyright and all intellectual property rights in the works remain vested in the artist/craftsperson/designer. Ownership of the finished work will remain with Aberdeen Art Gallery once the project has been completed.

Should the finished work be accessioned into the Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums' permanent collection, we would take the opportunity to discuss further acquisition of preparatory material.

Please return all submissions FAO:

Helen Fothergill
Head of Collections
c/o Aberdeen Maritime Museum
Shiprow
Aberdeen AB11 5BY

For digital submissions, please submit via www.wetransfer.com

If you have any further questions please contact:

Liz Louis
Curator (art)
Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums

llouis@aberdeencity.gov.uk

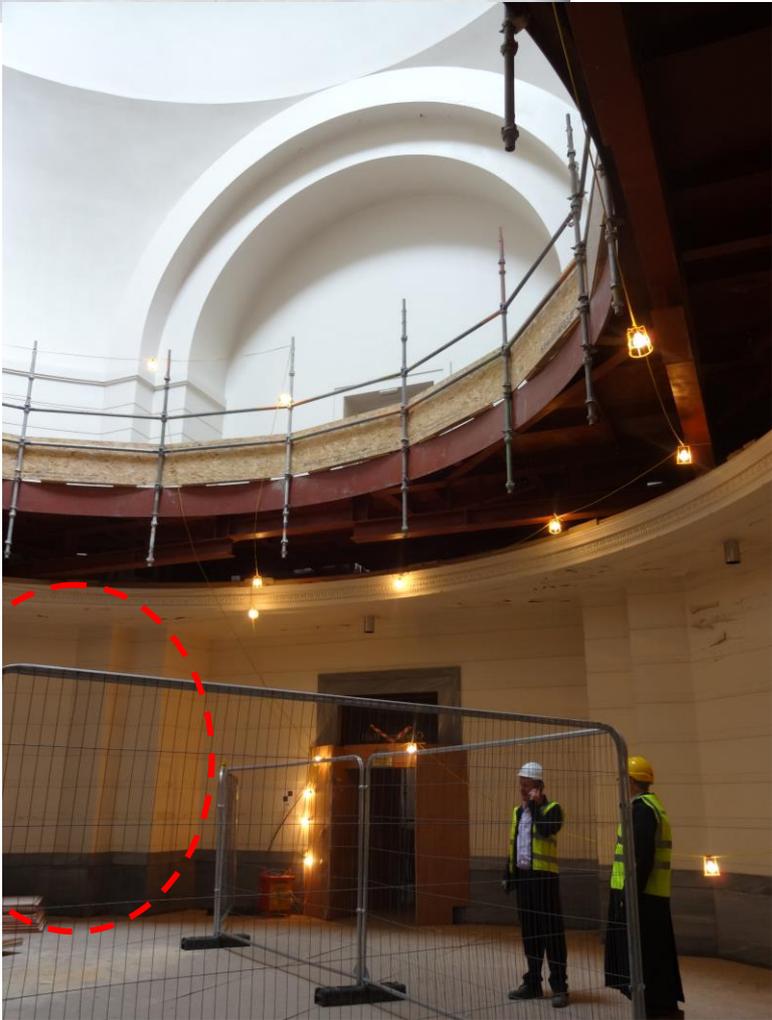
01224 523693



Photographs: during construction process



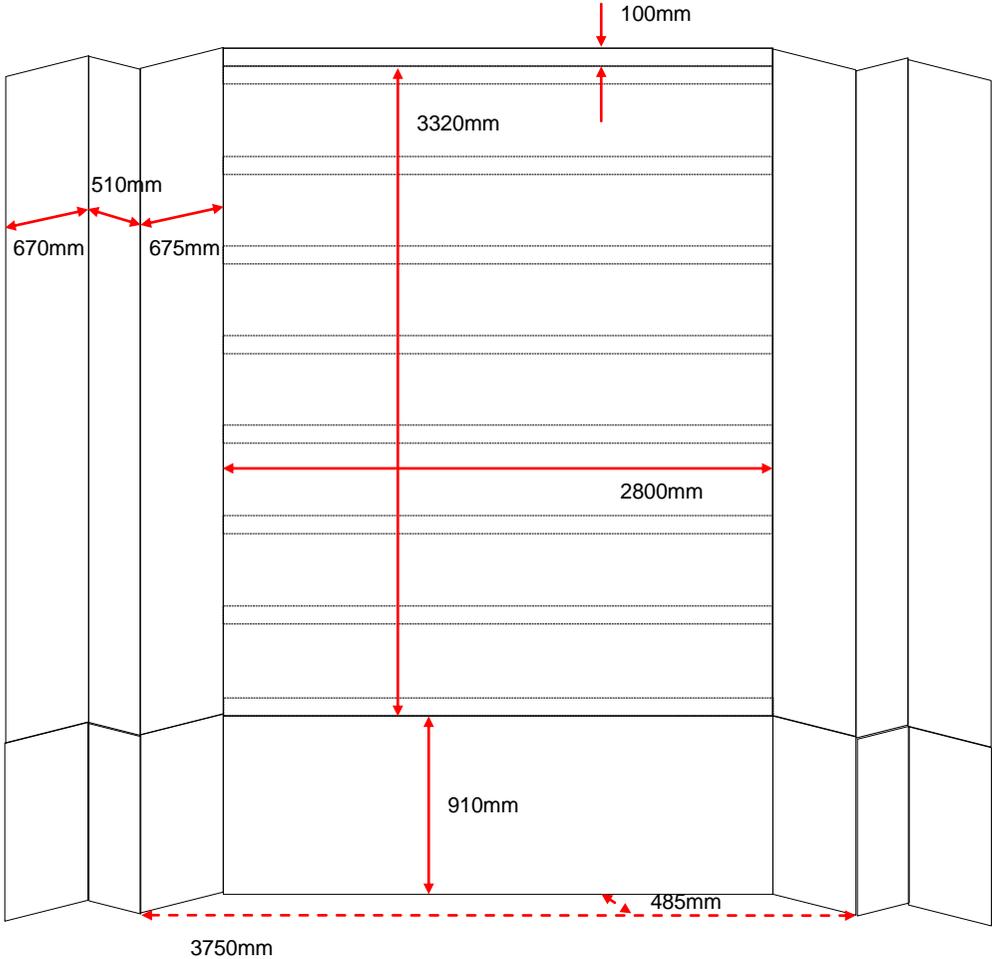
Proposed location for commission.
Opening reinstated
New extended balcony being installed



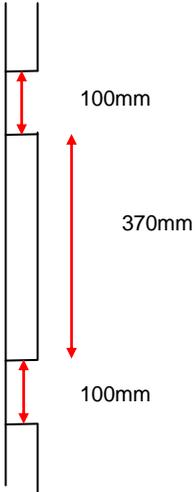


Proposed location for commission.
Indication of angles; rustication, high marble skirting

Diagram: dimensions (reference photograph above)



Detail of rustication



NB: Not to scale - treat as a guide only