

Art & Literacy School Workshop: Practitioner Brief Bristol Museum & Art Gallery

Background information

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery tells the story of our world in every display, from the beginning of time to the present day. 19 galleries over 3 floors reveal fascinating cultures, ancient civilisations, human invention and creativity, as well as showcasing our beautiful and fragile natural world.

World-class collections of art, archaeology, geology and natural history are displayed inside this Edwardian building. On the Second Floor, the seven art galleries showcase work by Bellini, Cranach, Renoir, Pissarro, Sisley, Bomberg and Hepworth.

Places of Desire (Victorian Art Gallery) – this gallery explores the themes of travel, romance and modern life showing the extraordinary range of styles and subject matter that artists were experimenting with during this exciting period in British and other European art.

The Pre-Raphaelites are represented with works by Millais, Rossetti and Arthur Hughes.

The museum is open Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm during term time and also on Mondays during school holidays. The Learning Team offer art gallery based workshops for primary school learners and guided tours of the art collection for KS3 and above.

Pre-Raphaelites Temporary Exhibition, 16 May—27 September 2020

This exhibition takes a fresh look at the Pre-Raphaelite movement and focuses on paintings of knights and medieval heroines. Along with highlights from our own collection, the exhibition will feature loans from art collections around the UK including the Tate Gallery. Among others, the show will feature works by Edward Burne-Jones, Frank Dicksee, William Morris and Dante Gabriel Rossetti, a founder of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.

In the 19th century British artists and audiences developed a taste for themes such as chivalry and the Middle Ages, and introduced medieval romance and courtly love to the Victorian art scene.

At the time, there was a thirst for historical knowledge and an overwhelming desire to escape from the Victorian present day. The reality of 19th century life couldn't compare to an idealised medieval world where men were honourable, women chaste, and contented peasants worked the land.

The Pre-Raphaelites were fascinated by the stories, objects and colours of an imaginary medieval world. They rebelled against academic conventions and searched for new means of artistic expression by choosing entirely new subjects and portraying them in shockingly heightened realism. The Victorian obsession with the Middle Ages echoes current social anxieties where other worlds always seem happier, morally more sound and desirable.

The themes of this exhibition include:

- **An Artist's Dream** - Victorian artist dreaming of a medieval world away from the trials of a rapidly changing industrial society
- **Pre-Raphaelites and medieval literature** - art works were inspired by works of literature
- **Pre-Raphaelites and medieval Christianity** - works were inspired by and directly represented, figures from myth and religious legends, especially King Arthur and his knights, St George and the Dragon
- **Pre-Raphaelites and Idealised Womanhood** - women as decorative, passive, good, or submissive – waiting for rescue, or being saintly or angelic. But there is also a stronger and sometimes a darker side to some of the female figures they painted
- **Pre-Raphaelites and National Identity** - Pre-Raphaelites ideas about Englishness

Related Schools Offer and Practitioner Brief

We are seeking to engage a professional writer or poet to co-create and facilitate, with the museum's Learning team, a workshops that focuses on literacy and Pre-Raphaelite art. The workshops will be at Bristol Museum & Art Gallery in the temporary exhibition gallery and the art galleries on the second floor.

The workshops will be suitable for Year 4-6 pupils (aged 8-11) from targeted primary schools in the Bristol area and will last approximately 90 minutes. The emphasis is on providing literacy and art focused activities using real artworks to inspire pupil creativity, use of imagination and speaking and listening skills. We would like an engaging learning experience in a setting which pupils and teachers may otherwise not visit or use as a learning environment.

The workshop will:

- Take place in both the Pre-Raphaelites exhibition and the art galleries on the museum
- Focus on improving pupils' literacy skills using Pre-Raphaelite artworks
- Bring the art and its themes to life through a creative, fun and practical literacy activity
- Link the art in the exhibition to the permanent art collection on display on the second floor
- Encourage teachers to use real artworks in future practice and help them to feel comfortable teaching in an art gallery environment

We are looking for a professional writer or poet who:

- has demonstrable experience of working with school children, aged 8-11 and teachers in either a learning, arts or heritage setting
- is confident leading around 30 children at a time in fun, practical literacy activities (this group of 30 can be divided into smaller groups)
- is available to deliver up to six 90 minute school sessions between May-July 2020
- has experience of co-creating and facilitating learning activities with cultural organisations

Payment for work:

You will be paid a fixed fee of £1150 for the work completed for this project. You will not be employed by Bristol City Council and will accrue no benefits from Bristol City Council, except that of the work itself. The fee covers:

- Initial planning meeting with the Learning team at Bristol Museum & Art Gallery
- Co-creation of the workshop
- Delivery of six sessions at Bristol Museum & Art Gallery each lasting 90 minutes
- Travel expenses, refreshments, phone calls, parking fees, overnight stays (if needed)

Failure to Complete:

Should you be unable to provide any of the services required for any reason, the fee paid will be proportionally and reasonably reduced.

Substitution:

You can engage another person to complete any part of, or the entire project, on your behalf; however, this should be agreed with the Senior Officer - Formal Learning before any work is undertaken. Under these circumstances, you will still receive the agreed payment but it will be your responsibility to ensure any payment made by you to a third party is fully compliant with all relevant financial legislation.

Formal Learning, Bristol Culture will provide/ be responsible for:

- Co-creation of the workshop, including information about the exhibition and art collections for use in workshop
- Support from one member of staff in all sessions
- Resources for use in the workshop
- Recruitment of, and communication with, schools to take part in the workshop

Further requirements:

- Bristol City Council requires freelance practitioners to have their own public liability insurance for at least £2,000,000 cover
- Bristol City Council cannot make payments to individuals without self-employed status. You must be registered as self-employed and you will be responsible for paying your own tax and National Insurance contributions
- A member of the Learning team will facilitate all workshops, however, you will be required to read and adhere to the Bristol Culture & Creative Industries Safeguarding Policy

More details about the above requirements will be provided at the point of engagement.

Expressions of interest:

If you would like to submit an expression of interest please send the following information to Rachael Hall, Engagement Officer (Formal Learning) rachael.hall@bristol.gov.uk by 9am on Wednesday 26th February 2020:

- Full contact details
- Brief CV (maximum two sides of A4)
- A statement outlining your suitability for this work and why you would like to undertake it
- Two testimonials/references

Further information:

Rachael Hall, Engagement Officer, Formal Learning, Bristol Museum & Art Gallery
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0117 922 3567