

Ancient Objects – New Writing

4 Artists

4 Objects

4 Locations

4 Unique Stories

Journeys Festival International celebrates the creative talents of exceptional refugee and asylum seekers artists, sharing the refugee experience through great art and culture. The Festival presents a broad range of creative activity including music, dance, poetry, spoken word, theatre, performance, visual arts and heritage projects.

www.journeysfestival.com #JourneysMcr

Manchester Museum is a proud part of The University of Manchester. The Museum displays works of archaeology, anthropology and natural history and provides access to about 4.5 million items from every continent. It is the UK's largest university museum and serves both as a major visitor attraction and as a resource for academic research and teaching. It has around 500,000 visitors each year.

www.museum.manchester.ac.uk

Job Description and brief for Creative Writing Lead Practitioner

1. Introduction to the Project

Ancient Objects - New Writing will bring together four artists/writers from refugee backgrounds to develop new writing in response to objects housed in the Manchester Museum collection. This work along with the selected objects will then be displayed in Manchester Libraries as part of Journeys Festival 2018.

Four professional artists or writers from refugee backgrounds will visit Manchester Museum and work with the curatorial team to learn about heritage objects in the Ancient Worlds and Living Cultures galleries. Through this process the participants will select an object that particularly speaks to them and then work with museum staff and a creative writing lead practitioner in a series of 5 creative writing sessions to create a new text that draws on their connection to the object and the inspiration gained from its heritage.

The writing that is generated may focus on storytelling, poetry, drama, short fiction, or another form. Building on the successful partnership already in place between Manchester Museum and Manchester City Council (My Manchester Museum) and ArtReach, the selected objects will be taken out of the museum and installed in community libraries in Longsight, North City (Harpurhey), Wythenshawe, and Central Library (Manchester city centre), where they will be exhibited. Public performances or readings of the new work, along with supporting discussion events, will engage the wider public around each library as well as in the museum itself as part Journeys Festival International, 4-14 October 2018. Local community audiences will also be able to engage with the work through an informal tour or trail of the works at each Library, guided by specially produced publication to accompany the project. After the festival a digital version of the project will be hosted on the Journeys Festival International website.

2. Structure for delivery

The Creative Writing Lead Practitioner will design and deliver a series of creative writing workshops that will inspire participating artists or writers to create a piece of writing that responds to the heritage objects they have selected in an imaginative and inspiring way. They will also help to design the public event or performance where this will be delivered in each library.

3. Job Description for Creative Writing Lead Practitioner

The Creative Writing Lead Practitioner will:

- Design and deliver a series of 5 half day workshops that inspire participants and assist them to complete and present a quality piece of new writing.
- Assist participants in developing an effective way to deliver a public event / performance / discussion of the work in libraries.
- Take an active role in the public events and discussions of the project and the work at the libraries and museum.
- Work with the ArtReach Marketing and Communications Manager to help guide and deliver print and copy for the information panels in libraries and community platforms for inclusion within the larger Journeys Festival International promotion.
- Contribute to blog posts about the project as it develops.

4. Person specification

The Creative Writing Lead Practitioner for this work will have the following skills and experience and to meet the requirements indicated below:

- A knowledge and understanding of the local refugee and asylum seeker community
- An excellent track record for developing writing and spoken word work
- Experience of delivering high quality inspirational workshops
- Experience of producing copy for websites and print material
- A knowledge and understanding of heritage and its importance to diverse communities.
- Experience of public speaking about their work and the ability to engage and inspire a wide ranging public audience.
- Passion for and commitment to innovative arts and heritage projects
- An awareness of Safeguarding issues to consider when working with refugees and asylum seekers.
- Must hold current DBS disclosure certificate or be willing to apply for one.

5. Project Time Allocation

It is anticipated that the Creative Writing Lead Practitioner will contribute at total of 6 days of time to planning and delivering this work. Workshops are expected to be delivered in half day sessions from May to July 2018 with the public exhibition and delivery taking place in October with a key presentation on 6th October 2018.

The fee for delivering this work is a flat fee of £1200 inclusive of travel and expenses on a freelance basis.

6. Next Steps

Ancient Objects - New Writing will form a significant part of the Journeys Festival International working in Partnership with Manchester Museum and Manchester City Council, funded by Heritage Lottery Fund.

Workshops will begin in May 2018. Public Activity has been scheduled for Refugee Week w/c 18 June, and Journeys Festival 4 -14 October. Installation will take place in the week commencing 24 September 2018 and will remain on display for until November 2018.

Proposals should include the following:

- A short covering letter detailing your interest in the project and ideas for facilitating this work
- An Artist Statement and CV
- Up to 4 links to, or texts about relevant similar work you have delivered

Please send your proposals to: dan@artreach.biz

The Deadline for Submissions is: 12 Noon, Monday 7th May 2018

If you require further information don't hesitate to contact Dan Williamson dan@artreach.biz or 0161 2734090