



Artist Brief: Crafting Cultures at Calverley Old Hall Art Commission



Location

Calverley Old Hall, Woodhall Road, Calverley, Pudsey, LS28 5NL (West Yorkshire)
Artists are welcome to work occasionally on site in our Community Space, or the work can be carried out remotely if preferred.

Who are we?

[The Landmark Trust](#) is the UK's second biggest historic buildings charity. We rescue extraordinary historic buildings from dereliction and give them a vibrant new life as places everyone can enjoy for short breaks. Each year some 40,000 people stay in our buildings, and another 15,000 visit them on public open days or through our public engagement programmes.

Calverley Old Hall is our most recent large repair project. This outstanding Grade I Listed medieval manor house is based in Calverley, a historic village located between Leeds and Bradford. Having been on the Buildings at Risk Register for almost a decade, in May 2022 the Landmark Trust was awarded a £1,600,000 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a two-year project to repair the building and bring it into new use. This huge repair project has just come to an end, resulting in a multi-use site, including a spectacular self-catering holiday accommodation for 10, alongside a self-contained residential flat and a dedicated Community Space for hire, opened in October 2024.

This creative artistic commission marks the conclusion of this incredible repair project, and aims to bring to life one of the most incredible discoveries of the past two years, the Painted Chamber.

For more details about our repair project please visit: www.landmarktrust.org.uk/calverley

The Painted Chamber

Found unexpectedly beneath modern lath and plaster walls during the repair works to Calverley Old Hall, the Painted Chamber dates to around 1560 and is thought to be one of the most significant painted schemes in the UK.



It is painted in the Grottesque style, a style of wall painting believed to take inspiration from the Ancient Roman frescoes found in Emperor Nero's hidden palace in Rome, the *Domus Aurea*. The paintings feature a range of motifs, including Tudor Roses, birds, classical urns, winged creatures and even human portraits. The 500-year-old painted walls survive largely intact and have been meticulously conserved as part of the Calverley Old Hall repair project.

Now functioning as a bedroom in the Landmark Trust holiday let, the Painted Chamber allows guests to be transported back to the 16th century, experiencing a glimpse of Calverley Old Hall as it once would have been.

This commission will allow us to share these incredible wall paintings more widely, whilst also giving visitors to the Community Space next door the opportunity to reflect and feel inspired by the artwork on display.

More information on the history of Calverley Old Hall and the discovery of the Painted Chamber is available on our [website](#).

Who we are looking for

The Landmark Trust is looking to commission two artists or freelance creatives to create two unique pieces of artwork which reflect the extraordinary Painted Chamber at Calverley Old Hall.

Using the Painted Chamber as inspiration, they will produce a creative response to the paintings. There is no expectation for the artists to work in a set medium; the response can be in any medium, including digital, and the Landmark Trust welcomes applications from artists using both traditional and non-traditional methods. The final outputs will be displayed at Calverley Old Hall in the Community Space.

The two artists will work independently on their own artworks. Each will work closely with members of the Landmark Trust's project team, including the Project Engagement Officer who is responsible for delivering the NLHF funded activities.

Practitioners responding to this opportunity should carefully consider how their response can align with the Landmark Trust's priority to deliver high quality, creative heritage interpretation on site which is widely accessible.

Access to the Painted Chamber

The two chosen artists will be invited to visit the Painted Chamber in the week commencing 27 January 2025 for an initial site visit, to gather ideas and more detailed images if required. Further access can be arranged if necessary, however applicants should be aware that due to the nature of the building as a holiday let, access to the Painted Chamber will be limited.

The artists will also be offered the opportunity to work within our dedicated Community Space for a set number of days if they so wish, however this is not a requirement should the artist prefer to work offsite.

For a more detailed overview of the Painted Chamber, please read [this document](#) on our website.

High resolution reference photographs are available to all applicants via [PhotoShelter](#) – use the password 'print' to download.

Contacts

The Project Engagement Officer will be the main contact for this work. They will act as point of contact for any other experts or members of staff required and gather necessary information from them which will help with the delivery.

The agreement will be with the Landmark Trust.

Who can apply?

Whilst anyone can apply for the commission, we particularly welcome local artists and creatives from the Leeds and Bradford area.

The chosen artists can be at any point in their career, from emerging to established artist, but must be confident in their practice and their ability to deliver to a set timescale.

We are looking for artists/freelance creatives who:

- Show creative flair and ability to interpret the Painted Chamber in an interesting and engaging way through their practice
- Have a portfolio of inspirational work
- Have an interest in history and/or historic buildings
- Have experience in sharing their work with the public both in person and online

The final piece should:

- Take into account the history of the Painted Chamber and its recent conservation
- Be suitable for wall mounting in the Community Space*
- Be inspiring and speak to a modern public audience**

*Please note: the Community Space is a medium-sized room, so any artwork will need to take the limited display space into consideration. As the room needs to remain functional, the artworks will need to be wall-mountable to ensure the floor space remains unobstructed. For more information on the Community Space, please [see our website](#).

**artists are invited to submit their ideas and to respond creatively to the Painted Chamber, however we are not looking for a recreation or exact replica of the Painted Scheme.

Equal Opportunities

Landmark believes that every individual should have an equal opportunity to access, benefit from and enjoy Landmark's work, whatever their background, culture or identity, and no matter how they encounter us – through holidays or events, as a member of staff or local community, as a freelance practitioner, through restoration projects or digital engagement. We seek to represent and embrace the breadth and variety of British history, culture and society, valuing visible and non-visible differences with openness and acceptance. We expect all our staff, including those hired as freelance practitioners to support Landmark's equality, diversity and inclusivity principles and aspirations.

Budget

For each freelance artist, the following budget has been outlined for the project:

Professional Fees- **Up to £2500**

Materials and equipment (including installation and display costs)- **Up to £450**

How do I apply?

Please send us an email expressing your interest in the role, which includes the following information:

1. A statement demonstrating the specialist or general understanding, knowledge, skills, training and competencies you have to deliver this project
2. An outline, or description, of your predicted output/s (you may also wish to submit images/sketches to help support your ideas)
3. A portfolio of your previous relevant work
4. A statement or breakdown of fees regarding how the project can be achieved within the budget. Please note, the budget is fixed, so all artist costs related to the project including travel should be accounted for in the budget available.

Key dates

- **Please email all applications by 5pm on Monday 13 January 2025 to:**
calverley@landmarktrust.org.uk
- We aim to shortlist by Friday 17 January 2025 and to interview shortlisted artists either online or in person at Calverley Old Hall on Thursday 30 January 2025.
- The work should be completed and ready for display by Friday 28 March 2025.

For an informal conversation about the commission, please email:

calverley@landmarktrust.org.uk