

Artist Call Out

Strawberry Hill House is seeking a local Visual Artist to help build an installation of letters at the House in late October.

Project Overview

Inspired by the prolific writings of Horace Walpole, we launched a letter writing campaign '**Write to Horace**' asking local people to write about how the community has come together to make a difference during this crisis. We have now received over 250 letters including those from local schools, House volunteers, members and people in the community.

Project Aims

We are seeking a local visual artist to display the letters we have received, in an imaginative installation at the House in late October, which will be part of our 10-year anniversary celebrations of the restoration of Strawberry Hill House, created in the 18th century.

Our aim is for people to read and reflect on these letters as a fitting welcome back to our local community and wider visitors now we have fully re-opened Horace's 'little gothic castle'.

Background on Horace Walpole and Writing

Horace Walpole 'Man of Letters', was a prolific writer, starting at the age of 7 and continuing with this passion into his 70's. During his lifetime he produced some 7,000 letters, the world's first gothic novel 'The Castle of Otranto' (inspired by a nightmare he experienced at Strawberry Hill House), and an account of his collection in 'A Description of the Villa of Horace Walpole'. He even had a private printing press in the grounds of the house, the first in the country.

Walpole's letters, which describe the people he met, his local community and his thoughts about the world around him, captured the spirit, issues and wit of the age. During lockdown, in 2020, letter-writing feels more relevant than ever and the humble letter has had a resurgence as people have sought to keep in touch.

Artist Fee and Installation Build

There will be a fixed fee for the artist of £1,500 for this project.

N.B. There is a similar amount available for installation materials and installation costs, usually payable direct by us to the suppliers.

Location

Locations for the letters are to be confirmed, but currently The Gallery, The Library and Staircase.



Timescale and Delivery

All Applicants will be notified on Wednesday 23th September, and those shortlisted will be invited to an online interview on Friday 25th September.

We would like the installation to be ready for an initial preview on Saturday 24rd October and then open to the general public for six weeks from Sunday 25th October.

To Apply

Please email Bethan Wood, Marketing & Communications Manager:
bethan.wood@strawberryhillhouse.org.uk with the following:

- A short statement of no more than 600 words, outlining previous examples of work, why you think you would be a good choice for this project and any initial response you might have to the brief. This will be explored further at interview stage.
- Contact details for two referees - please note these will only be sought for the successful artist after the interview stage.

CLOSING DATE Friday 18th September at 2pm

Please note Bethan will be on leave between Thursday 3rd - 13th September. If you have any enquires during this time please contact:
julia.reed@strawberryhillhouse.org.uk



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