



FOUNTAIN
an AirSpace Gallery Exhibition
22nd September to 5th November, 2017

Call For Proposals

Fountain - from the Latin *fons* - meaning: a source or spring

Originally, fountains were purely functional, built to provide a source of clean drinking and bathing water for residents of cities, towns and villages, as an antidote to the many water-borne diseases of the time, such as cholera. However, dating back to Roman times and right through to today, the fountain has also been a feature of creativity - whether the ornate Roman or Moorish decorative depictions of folkloric traditions, as symbols of authoritative or industrial power or representations of wealth and prosperity, or the more playful contemporary versions seen in many British cities today.

Here in Stoke-on-Trent, the city's ceramic and pottery tradition saw companies such as Royal Doulton commissioned to make ceramic-based fountains for export all over the world - Doulton's "Green-ware" Hankinson Fountain still exist in Australia and India for example - and the recently restored Doulton fountain in Glasgow's Kelvingrove Park, built in 1888, is the largest fountain ever constructed in ceramic. Each of the city's Victorian town parks, and town centres had a centrepiece ceramic fountain, many of which have either disappeared or fallen into a state of disrepair, as their original functionality has lost its necessity, and fashions, tastes and attitudes for public realm features have changed.

Stoke-on-Trent City Centre's central retail area, Fountain Square, previously the site of several fountains since the late 18th century, has been without a fountain since the removal of the last version in the 1980's.

For AirSpace Gallery's exhibition as part of, and in partnership with, the British Ceramics Biennial 2017, we are seeking proposal responses from artists for a new fountain for Fountain Square. We are looking for a ceramic response, which explores the contemporary use for a fountain - what can it be, and what can it do? Can they help with urban regeneration? What purpose do they serve to a city's residents?

Where is the balance between functionality and craft? We invite artists to create an ambitious, large scale physical proposal incorporating clay for exhibition in our Gallery, as a provocation for discussion around how our city centres might look to adapt and change in the face of the many challenges of the 21st Century.

Details

Exhibition : 22nd September - 5th November, 2017

Install dates : 1st - 20th September, 2017

Deadline for Proposals : 14th July, 2017

Selection : In the week of 17th July, 2017

Fee : £3000 inclusive of materials.

Accommodation: AirSpace can offer free accommodation during the time of installation, if needed.

This opportunity is available to UK artists working in a ceramic tradition or with ceramics as a main material. We are looking for an ambitious large scale sculptural response, fully utilising the gallery area available - approximately 4 metres (w) x 5 metres (l) x 3 metres (h). The finished physical proposal's main material should be ceramic in form, but can include other materials. We are looking for responses which consider historic and contemporary concepts of the fountain, the function they might serve as a contemporary focal point within the Public Realm of a progressive, future-looking 21st Century City.

Submission

Applicants should submit the following in electronic form in a single PDF – with “Fountain Proposal” in the subject line:

Fountain Proposal

A full description (1000words max). Aspects to cover to include;

- The theme of and thinking behind your proposal,
- How a fountain might have an effect in the contemporary Public Realm
- Function, utility and form
- The importance of the ceramic process and the materials involved in your proposal
- An annotated guide of how you envisage the works in the gallery spaces.
- Your approach to Installation

You and Your Work: An introduction to your background and current practice (500words max)

CV: An up-to-date relevant curatorial/artists CV. Please include links to your work, previous exhibitions or other information that may help us to make a decision.

Images: 5 good quality images of current work / previous work, sketches or plans.

For more details, please email the Gallery at mail@airspacegallery.org