



## **Information Sheet & Application Form**

Torre Abbey is currently seeking artists, makers, performers to apply for our new Spring Open exhibition to be held at Torre Abbey, 17<sup>th</sup> April to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The following pages will give you more details but please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

### **Torre Abbey Spring Open Art Exhibition: Chasing Rainbows**

Rainbows are not just a beautiful natural phenomenon, they represent peace and hope and the metaphorical promise of sunshine after the rain. In 2020 they were used as a powerful emblem of solidarity with our NHS and key workers, while throughout history they have been given a spiritual meaning in every major religion. Rainbows were also adopted by the peace movement in the 1960's and have become an enduring international symbol of the LGBT+ community.

For our new Spring Open Art Exhibition, we are encouraging artists to work in all mediums to create a timely celebration of rainbows which will be able to be enjoyed in spaces both inside our buildings and outside in our stunning interior gardens. We would love artists to be inspired to be as colourful, quirky and dynamic as possible and not only limited to more conventional art forms. We would love the exhibition to be a kaleidoscope celebration of colour, where the sky is the limit and rainbows are a bridge to more positive and peaceful future.

### **Background to Torre Abbey**

The story of Torre Abbey began on 25 March 1196 with the arrival of an abbot and six canons at Torre (the area from which the later names of Torquay and Torbay are derived). They had been sent from Welbeck Abbey in Nottinghamshire, following a gift of land from the lord of the manor of Torre, William Brewer.

Rich fertile land, proximity to the sea and stone from a nearby headland provided the founding medieval Premonstratensian monks with all the resources they needed to establish Torre Abbey.

Today established as a local authority museum with approx. 40k+ visitors per annum, you can learn about these early years and also about the interesting Georgian Cary Family who resided in the Abbey for hundreds of years. This fascinating family invited Horatio Nelson for a dinner party and this is recreated in the Dining Room through digital talking dinner plates.

This Ancient Scheduled Monument has beautifully presented heritage rooms, galleries, art exhibitions, interactive displays, talking portraits and videos which bring the Abbey's colourful history and art collection to life.



With over 600 incredible works of art from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present day, the Abbey's collection includes Pre-Raphaelite works including Holman Hunt's 'The Children's Holiday' and Burne-Jones' drawings for 'The Planets'.

Highlights are the watercolours by Thomas Luny and FJ Widgery and a rare proof set of William Blake's 'The Book of Job'.

## **Spirit of Place Statement**

“Torre Abbey is a place that makes you feel you belong. Set in the heart of Torquay, overlooking meadows and sandy beaches, it is physically and emotionally part of the landscape.

It is a haven away from the busy town that surrounds it, a place where over many centuries generations of previous owners and residents have created a richly layered history with a beauty which is visible at every turn, as if the walls are telling stories. The unusual and eclectic architecture, vibrant gardens, fascinating artefacts and innovative exhibitions are some of the features that make it both captivating and unconventional.

Torre Abbey retains the feeling of being a secret place closed off from the outside world which evokes a sense of peace and calm; there is space for sanctuary and contemplation for those who seek it. Natural moments of spirituality can be felt in the shade of the monastic ruins. It is a place full of stories both told and as yet untold; an exciting fusion of ancient and modern.

The sense of time having passed is central to Torre Abbey’s spirit. It is place which is compelling on many levels. For some it is simply a nice place to be, for others as if stepping into another time or world- a moment in history, a scene conjured from a piece of art. A place where imagination comes to life.

Torre Abbey is not frozen in time, the changing sights and sounds make it feel vibrant and alive as it continues to make memories for the future. “

## **Available spaces**

We are not limiting display options to any particular room or part of the site. We invite you to include several favoured spaces in your application (indoors and out). Our selection panel will consider these and will offer you the most appropriate based on their joint curatorial view and based on what is most appropriate to the Abbey and any limitations that the fabric of the buildings and grounds may create

Restrictions to note are as follows:

Wall hung pieces must be able to accommodate our fixings to allow them to be hung from our permanent museum hanging track. Only certain rooms are equipped with this.

No alterations can be made to the walls, floor, and ceilings inside the museum which would cause a change to the fabric of the building (e.g drilling, adhesive, use of chemicals).

**Ballroom** – It is possible there may be weddings using this space and, if so, we must be able to temporarily remove or relocate your work during the event. This must be discussed between Torre Abbey and the artist.

**Gatehouse** – The environmental conditions here are not in line with the rest of the House so some works may not suit this space – in particular paper. This area is also not accessible as there are steps leading up to it however there is the opportunity to show film at the bottom of the stairs.

As a Museum, we are not able to have any “live” elements to your work such as plants, food or liquid (this applies to indoor spaces only). There are many spaces that work beautifully for performance work both within the pay barrier and outside in the public spaces.



## **Insurance**

Torre Abbey will insure physical art works and equipment whilst in situ however we will require you to have your own Public Liability Insurance and a full risk assessment. Any electronic equipment will need to be PAT tested (we may be able to arrange this).

## **Fees**

There are no fees to take part in this event. In the case that your work is for sale, we would take a 30% commission.

Work must stay in situ for the full duration of the exhibition. If it is sold during this time it cannot be removed for the new owner and arrangements should be made to deliver it at a later date.

## **Current operating procedures**

Torre Abbey is operating fully within COVID-19 guidelines. At present, this means there is a one way system in place, allocated time slots and restricted opening hours and numbers. We do not know at present how long this will stay in place but we very much hope that we will be functioning more as we have in the past, where visitors have the freedom to explore the indoor and outdoor spaces as they choose. However I am afraid we are closed after 19<sup>th</sup> December until 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021.

## **How to apply**

Please complete the application form and return to [Anna.Gilroy@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:Anna.Gilroy@torbay.gov.uk) no later than 8pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Please also use this email if you would like to discuss your proposal beforehand.

A selection panel will be made up of the Abbey exhibition and curatorial team and external creative professionals. The decision will be final and the panel may contact you with any questions they may have before their final decision.

All successful artists will hear individually no later than the end of January 2021. Installation dates will be agreed with artists in the New Year.

**Please send sketches/plans / details of proposed work(s) that you are proposing to create in time to exhibit in June or sculptures that are already available.**

## **Application Form**

<b>Contact name :</b>	
<b>Names of all artists if a collaborative submission :</b>	
<b>Lead contact address:</b>	
<b>Mobile:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Facebook : Twitter: Instagram:</b>	
<b>Website:</b>	
<b>Tell us a little about you – for example, your background, interests, career highlights, why you are applying for this exhibition:</b>	

<p><b>We would like to see 5 examples of your work. Please include links here. Alternatively you can attach these files to your application but please include information on each here:</b></p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p><b>Please attach up to 6 images of works to be considered for our 2021 exhibition. If the work is not complete, please include any sketches or plans. Make sure to include materials and dimensions for each.</b></p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p>
<p><b>Finally, can you tell us a little about how the work you have submitted relates back to our “Chasing Rainbows” theme for this exhibition:</b></p>	

**Please return completed form, with attachments if applicable, to [Anna.Gilroy@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:Anna.Gilroy@torbay.gov.uk) no later than 8pm on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**