

SUMMERHALL

COURTYARD COMMISSION
2024



Pub Ramped
Entrance
Pub Ramped

SUMMERHALL

Summerhall is a ground-breaking arts village for diverse programmes of visual and performing arts. Now thirteen years old and a much-loved fixture in the Edinburgh arts scene, Summerhall is open year-round and presents a diverse programme of theatre, dance, live music, performance and visual art.



COURTYARD COMMISSION, OPEN CALL FOR VISUAL ARTISTS: TRANSFORMATION

Art is powerful. Art has the capacity to be transformative and to illuminate transformation. It is a language that transcends boundaries and unites individuals, communities and populations. Art can be a catalyst for change, change in perception, change in understanding, change in belief.

For the third year running we are delighted to announce the annual Summerhall Courtyard Commission Project. Through a process of open-call, proposal submissions and a panel selection, the project offers one local artist the opportunity to create site-specific work that will be exhibited on a permanent basis. This year we invite artists to submit proposals for commissioned pieces that respond to the theme of 'transformation'.

Samantha Chapman,
Head of Visual Arts



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FURTHER INFORMATION

- The successful artist or collective of artists will receive a commission of £2000 which should include materials and artist fee.
- The dimensions of the installation site are roughly 2.7m height x 6m width.
- Studio space for the creation of the work is available on site, in the Lower Café gallery, Summerhall, between the 16th of June and the 15th of July.
- The resultant artwork will be installed by the Summerhall team, on the outside of B block in the Summerhall Courtyard.
- Proposals should consider materials which are suitable for the allocated space, reasonably durable and weather resistant, to ensure longevity. Summerhall offers consultation on this.



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WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

From street art to print making, graphic design to sculpture, we are open to proposals from artists working in all media that would translate into a site-specific installation.

Your proposal should outline the approach you would take and examples of the materials to be used.

The work should be your own intellectual property.

HOW TO APPLY

We accept proposals in a variety of formats. Written proposals should be no more than 3 sides of A4, video and audio proposals should be no longer than 10 minutes.

The deadline for submission is 5pm on the 31st of May 2024.

Submissions should be sent to:
visualarts@summerhall.co.uk

If you would like this information in larger print or need assistance with your proposal, please let us know by emailing visualarts@summerhall.co.uk.

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PROJECT TIMELINE

- Closing date for proposals - Friday 31st of May
- Panel selection - Monday 3rd of June
- Commission awarded - Tuesday 4th of June
- Work starts - Wednesday 5th of June
- Work space available 16th of June - 15th of July
- Work completed - Monday 15th of July
- Installation - Sunday 21st and Monday 22nd of July
- Launch event - Thursday 25th of July



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SELECTION CRITERIA

- **Artistic Merit:** The artwork or exhibition content should demonstrate high artistic quality and innovation, regardless of style or medium. We welcome a diverse range of artistic practices, from traditional to contemporary, and value originality, creativity, and craftsmanship.
- **Relevance to concept / curatorial theme:** The artwork or exhibition content should be in line with the given theme or concept of the open call.
- **Representation and Diversity:** Priority will be given to artworks that reflect and celebrate diverse perspectives, experiences, and identities. We seek artwork that promotes representation and visibility for underrepresented groups, including marginalized communities, LGBTQIA+ individuals, people with disabilities, and artists from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Artists should demonstrate cultural sensitivity and awareness in their artwork, avoiding appropriation, stereotypes, or misrepresentation of any culture, tradition, or identity. We encourage artists to engage respectfully with cultural themes and practices, fostering cross-cultural understanding and appreciation.
- **Accessibility:** Consideration will be given to artworks that are accessible to a wide range of audiences, including those with disabilities or limited resources.

SELECTION CRITERIA *CONTINUED*

- **Community Engagement:** Preference will be given to artworks that engage with and resonate with local communities. Artists are encouraged to explore topics of relevance and importance to diverse communities.
- **Innovative Approach:** We value artworks that push boundaries, challenge norms, and provoke thought. Artists are encouraged to take risks, experiment with new techniques or concepts, and explore innovative ways of expressing their ideas.
- **Social Impact:** Consideration will be given to artworks that have the potential to create positive social change or foster dialogue and understanding on important social issues. Artists are encouraged to address topics such as diversity, inclusion, equity, social justice, and human rights in their artwork.
- **Artist's Statement:** Artists should provide a thoughtful and reflective artist's statement that articulates the conceptual framework, intentions, and inspirations behind their artwork. This statement should demonstrate the artist's commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and cultural sensitivity.
- **Previous Work:** While not required, consideration may be given to the artist's previous work and track record in promoting diversity, representation, and inclusivity in the arts. Artists are encouraged to provide examples of past projects that align with these values.