

Winter Exhibition at Two Temple Place



Programming

In 2011 the Bulldog Trust started a project to host annual exhibitions at Two Temple Place. The exhibition programme's mission is threefold:

- to showcase and raise awareness of museum and gallery collections around the UK
- to promote curatorial excellence by offering up-and-coming curators a chance for a high profile solo show under the guidance of our Curatorial Advisor
- to enable the public to enjoy the magnificent late Victorian house, Two Temple Place – free of charge

Two Temple Place itself is an extraordinary architectural gem. It was built as an office for William Waldorf Astor in the late 19th century. As a unique venue in central London, exhibitions are intended to raise awareness of both the specific works on display and our partner museums and galleries around the country. The spaces have been fully adapted to accommodate exhibitions, with top grade lighting and hanging systems, security and environmental controls, and conform fully to the terms of the Government Indemnity Scheme.

For the curator, devising a show for the ornate and intricately decorated space is a huge challenge that calls for imagination and ingenuity. Successful exhibitions bring together works in ways that respond to and complement the building's unique décor, often to stunning effect.

The exhibition programme and curators for each show are chosen by a panel at Two Temple Place and approved by the Board of Trustees. The panel currently includes:

- Mary Rose Gunn, Chief Executive of the Bulldog Trust
- Martin Caiger-Smith, Curatorial Advisor and Head of the Courtauld's MA Programme 'Curating the Art Museum'

We have welcomed over 90,000 visitors to Two Temple Place during our first two exhibitions and have received extensive media coverage. We also run a successful education outreach programme for London Primary schools and host a wide range of events during our exhibitions.

We are constantly looking for new and exciting ideas for our annual exhibition programme (exhibitions to be held between January and April each year). We are keen to promote discussion around the content of the programme and would welcome proposals from professional curators, representing individual institutions or groups of institutions. All shows must fulfill our three purposes but providing these are met, almost anything is possible.



Our first exhibition was curated by Dr Esme Whittaker and held in partnership with the William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow. In *William Morris: Story, Memory, Myth* (October 2011 - January 2012), Dr Whittaker looked at how William Morris told stories through pattern and poetry, examining the tales that were most important to him, such as the works of Geoffrey Chaucer, Norse saga, Arthurian legend and Greek myth. Our second exhibition, *Amongst Heroes: the artist in Working Cornwall* (26th January – 14th April 2013) in partnership with the Royal Cornwall Museum in Truro, was curated by Roo Gunzi, a young art historian currently working on a PhD with Professor Caroline Arscott at the Courtauld Institute of Art. *Amongst Heroes* included works from over 30 lending institutions.

Our third exhibition *Discoveries: Art, Science and Exploration from the University of Cambridge Museums* will open to the public on 31st January 2014.

We are currently discussing our programme for January 2015 and beyond and welcome approaches. Decisions for January 2015 will be announced in January 2014. Please contact Mary Rose Gunn, Chief Executive of the Bulldog Trust, if you are interested or would like more information, at info@bulldogtrust.org or 020 7240 6044.

Q & A

Who can approach us?

We are keen to receive proposals from independent curators, as well as approaches from institutions who believe their collections might afford possibilities for exhibitions. We have in the past successfully brought curators with relevant expertise into contact with institutions to encourage productive collaborations.

Do the exhibitions have to be from the same period as the house?

No. We are keen to experiment with new ideas, and to include exhibitions which transcend the building's period and style. The building itself imposes some constraints, but we feel exhibitions of almost any kind can succeed at Temple Place. Compatibility with the building is, however, a key criterion in assessing proposals.

Does it have to be 2D art?

No. There is scope for 3-D objects and/or cases in most rooms. The main rooms upstairs must remain available for corporate hospitality purposes however so there are limits to the quantity of floor space that can be used.

Who funds the exhibitions?

The Bulldog Trust raises funds to cover the cost of the exhibition through commercial activities at Two Temple Place and through a range of other sources. The programme is reliant on this funding, and collaborating institutions may be required to participate in seeking funding, to raise a percentage of funding themselves.

Do curators get paid?

Curators receive a curatorial fee for their involvement in the project.



September 2013

