

TACTILE TOO

What is TACTILE TOO?

TACTILE TOO is a contemporary textiles handling resource, showcasing the work of emerging Northwest textile makers. The resource will be used alongside the existing resource TACTILE which comprises works commissioned from some of the UK's best-known and innovative textile makers including Michael Brennand-Wood, Alice Kettle, Lynn Settrington and Michele Walker. Both resources will be available for students to look at, handle and gain inspiration from. The resource will focus on makers that are using textiles **expressively**. The work that each maker provides will serve to teach students about **creative practice** and also encourage them to **experiment with new techniques**, as well as gain an understanding of career paths.

This is the third and final year of the programme. We are looking to commission four textile makers, having successfully selected seven distinctive artists over the last two years. TACTILE TOO was launched in Spring 2013 comprising works from Laura-Jane Atkinson, Emma Blackburn, Karen Casper and Chloe Hamill. Most recently, July 2014, we launched works by Harriet Lawton, Bella May Leonard and Elizabeth Jane Winstanley. To find out more about tactile too visit <http://tactiletextileresources.wordpress.com/>.

How would a textile maker benefit from this commission?

The chosen makers' work will become part of the Whitworth Art Gallery's handling collection. Their work would be used to inspire post-16 textile and art students, Higher Education students and practising textile makers. Their work would be used alongside the work of those artists involved in TACTILE thereby establishing a link between their work and work of well-known UK textile makers. A small fee (£400) will be paid to the selected makers to cover material and making costs.

The Whitworth Art Gallery will cover the cost of the bespoke TACTILE boxes that store the textile commissions, for example the plastic box, plastic sleeves, conservation materials, etc.

As part of the commission, there will be an opportunity for you to develop workshop delivery skills through the learning and engagement programmes offered at the Gallery.

There will be professional development opportunities through a series of seminars organized over the next three years and the creation of a docent programme.

Criteria

What are the criteria for applicants?

Applicants must be practising textile makers based in the North West of England. In this instance, we are using the North West to comprise the counties Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire.

This includes students currently studying in the North West and students who have graduated from other colleges but who are now based in the North West. Appropriate candidates must either be in their **final year of their degree** or **have graduated no more than three years ago**. TACTILE TOO aims to showcase the work of makers that are using textiles as an expressive medium rather than those designing for industrial purposes.

What will be initially required of applicants?

Applicants will be required to submit **4-10 images of their work** with accompanying labels, which should include the titles and an explanation of techniques used along with any other relevant information. **An artist's CV and statement** should also be included. It is also important that a **500 word (max) proposal** is provided which will comprise a description of the suggested work and a brief outline of the evidence of process, which will be included alongside the work.

Please bear in mind that the works will be housed in a robust plastic box, similar to the boxes that contain the TACTILE textile works. The dimensions for the box are either:

64 litre 710 x 440 x 310 mm

84 litre 710 x 440 x 380 mm

What would be required from a chosen maker?

A final piece or samples outlining a creative process would be at the core of the project. Although there will be specific instructions surrounding the careful handling of the work and the work will be stored in specially designed boxes, makers should remember that their work is being commissioned to be part of a handling resource. The maker will also be required to provide labeled samples and evidence of experiments. These will be a fundamental part of the resource, as they will encourage students to experiment with new techniques. A FACTFILE will accompany the makers' work. For the FACTFILE makers will need to provide an artist CV and statement along with any publications associated with exhibitions they have featured in. It would also be beneficial for makers to provide images of their other work, material swatches, mood boards and an artist interview.

The commission theme is called:

- Textiles Transform: Extra/Ordinary

All applicants must respond to the above theme. The theme has been developed to explore the concept of the sensory nature of textiles, that they have the power to evoke personal emotional responses based on memory and subconscious perceptions. It is important to ensure that these ideas are clearly explained and demonstrated in the proposal submission and the tactile handling resource.

The deadline for submissions is Monday 15 September 2014.

How will submissions be judged?

- The applicant must provide everything that the call for submissions asks for (images of their work, artist CV and statement and the proposal).
- The intended piece should fit the category of textile art as opposed to textile design.
- What they are going to make should be suitable for use in a handling collection (not too delicate and fragile).
- The resource should demonstrate a range of techniques to students. The judges will ensure that the makers selected will differ significantly in the way techniques are used.
- The judges must get a sense from the makers' proposal that they intend to respond well to the chosen theme.
- The panel will be made up of Dr Jennifer Harris, Deputy Director Whitworth Art Gallery, Denise Bowler, Secondary & Post-16 Coordinator and a TACTILE textile maker.

The successful candidates will be invited to attend an informal meeting to discuss their submission in further detail.