

Volunteering Opportunity – Below the Salt artist's project at Temple Newsam

What is the Project?

- *Below the Salt* is an exhibition of three new works by artist Catherine Bertola at Temple Newsam, which is part of Leeds Museums and Galleries. Temple Newsam is a Tudor-Jacobean house that now operates as a museum, housing decorative arts collections of national importance. Its temporary exhibitions bring together the historic with the contemporary, and this project centres on a pivotal moment in the house's history – its 500-year anniversary – and is inspired by the first inventory of the house made on 14 September 1520 and the collections it now holds.
- The exhibition has developed out of Catherine's interest in how the house has been occupied by people and objects over the course of its history, and how social hierarchies have been expressed through the architecture and use of materials within the building, segregating those who lived from those who worked.
- The title *Below the salt*, is both the title of the exhibition and also one of the artworks being produced.
- To create the *Below the salt* artwork, a series of temporary installations will be made on the floor of the Great Hall, where salt will be used to recreate the damask designs of early woven table linen held in the collection at Temple Newsam. The work makes reference to the value salt held in early 16th Century dining, and its use as a signifier of status within a space like the Great Hall, and how it would have been used in 1520, when the house was first built.
- Three installations will be created over a number of days in January 2020, each installation based on a different pattern that will be photographed before being cleared away. The photographs will then be developed using a traditional Salt and Silver technique, and it is these framed images that will be included in the final exhibition.

What's in it for you?

- Working closely with an artist and finding out more about how they work
- Being part of creating a new and unique artwork
- Working in the historic setting of Temple Newsam and finding out more about its heritage
- Working in a small team alongside another volunteer each time

What's involved?

- Catherine would like to recruit a team of volunteers to assist in the production of the salt installations.
- The floor pieces will be made using pre-cut stencils that salt will be brushed over before being lifted off to leave the pattern. The process is relatively straightforward.
- While the task does not involve any heavy lifting, it will require being able to kneel down for periods of time (knee pads/kneelers will be provided), as well as having patience and meticulous attention to detail to match up the patterns and stencils.
- Training will be given on a special briefing session prior to the installation period.
- Catherine will need assistance during January - the weeks of 6th, 13th and 20th and possibly extending into the week of 27th. Exact dates during these weeks are currently being planned. Catherine will need two volunteers on each day of making, which could be broken into half-day sessions depending on people's availability.

The role will suit people who..... are patient, reliable and happy to follow task instructions. You may have an interest in art and/or history and are keen to find out more about how artists work. You will enjoy meeting people and being part of a team. You will be keen to learn new skills and have meticulous attention to detail. All volunteers should be willing to abide by the Council's code of conduct, but no qualifications or experience is required.

We welcome applications from all sections of the community.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Location:	Temple Newsam House, Temple Newsam Rd, Leeds LS15 0AE
Time commitment:	A full day or a half day
Day:	TBC – likely to be a range of weekdays to opt into based on your availability
Duration:	During January 2020

	The project will be during the weeks of 6th, 13th and 20th January and possibly extending into the week of 27 th January.
Expenses:	Out of pocket travel costs between home and your volunteering place will be paid up to the value of £6 per day.
Further info:	Contact Yvonne Hardman, Head of Collections and Programmes – yvonne.hardman@leeds.gov.uk
Closing date:	5pm on 8th December 2019

If you are interested, please complete the application form on our website <https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/volunteer/> or contact Karen Mackie, Volunteer Coordinator, on 0789 127 1365. Email volunteer@leeds.gov.uk to request an application form.



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