

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Two Temple Place is seeking creative proposals for our two next major spring exhibitions in January – April of 2024 and 2025.

The Brief

For our 2024 and 2025 exhibitions, we are looking for a creative and ambitious proposal that addresses our three key objectives:

- It must **showcase and raise awareness** of one or more **regional public collections** that deserve wider recognition;
- It will offer a significant development opportunity for someone with a brilliant idea to **curate** a major exhibition;
- It will focus on work that will engage, animate, enliven and provoke visitors to think differently about the world and the work, and encourage **audiences** to explore and **engage** more deeply.

We particularly encourage exhibition proposals that focus on stories and histories that may be missing from other exhibitions. We take this to mean artworks that highlight or explore Diaspora, migrant or refugee experiences, LGBTQIA+ and non-binary, Global Majority and ethnically diverse, neurodivergent, Disabled or health impaired, and unemployed people, those affected by homelessness, care-leavers, and those who identify as from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

What You Need to Know

Eligibility

Exhibitions can contain any media. Proposals *must* display imaginative engagement of new audiences and the significant strengthening of existing audiences. Proposals can be based on an individual collection, artist, collector, community or theme. The display will need to respond creatively to our building, which is a vibrant and outrageous mix of architectural styles. We're looking to be inspired by urgency and uniqueness, for work that will surprise and challenge visitors, and we're happy to take calculated risks.

We welcome approaches from surprising corners of the sector: professional cultural organisations, individual researchers, freelance curators, and regional museums and galleries. We want exhibitions to build on past audience development and we expect to work in partnership to spread risk, share resources, and build fruitful and resilient partnerships.

Funding

Costs for the exhibition are paid for by Two Temple Place. Production, materials, transport, publicity and management costs will be covered and managed by us, and a fee is paid to the curator.

Background

This is a fantastic opportunity to develop the next major exhibition for Two Temple Place and on tour beyond, working with us to surprise visitors to one of London's loveliest and most eccentric buildings, owned by a charity and run for the public.

The Exhibition Programme at Two Temple Place has grown in impact and reach since its inception in 2011, reaching audiences of over 350,000 and working with over 50 regional museums and galleries. In 2022, our tenth exhibition **Body Vessel Clay: Black Women, Ceramics & Contemporary Art** showcased the work of women of colour working in and with clay.

This exhibition is the heart of a year-round cultural offer that animates Two Temple Place for new audiences, making our remarkable building the inspiration for artists and makers from the widest range of artforms, and for a new community of visitors and participants.

Since 2011, the Exhibition Programme has celebrated museums and galleries outside London through major showcases of their collections in our beautiful, neo-Gothic home in central London. Twelve week long exhibitions, produced in partnership with one or several UK-based public museums or collections, have welcomed up to 57,000 visitors each year, raised the profile of collaborating institutions, unlocked significant funding for the partners, strengthened relationships with key stakeholders, enabled improved collection management, and generated new connections between curators and institutions. The programme has been made possible through substantial public funding, and was recognised in [The Mendoza Review](#) for its unique success in bringing together public collections.

Our exhibitions to date have also been an exciting chance for emerging and early career curators to showcase new ideas within a supportive, structured framework, with the support of the Two Temple Place team and senior Exhibition Advisors. Exhibitions are free to attend and are accompanied by a broad range of events designed to engage a wide range of visitors.

Curation

Two Temple Place are happy to accept proposals from independent curators and researchers as well as approaches from museums and galleries. There is significant flexibility on the makeup of the curatorial and exhibition planning team and in the past external curators with relevant expertise have been successfully brought together with institutions, where that's been beneficial to the overall project.

The curator/s will be required to have knowledge of appropriate collections across the UK (the curator may already be a part of one of these collections or institutions) in order to research and select objects for inclusion, write an article for the catalogue and the exhibition interpretation text, and plan the exhibition space at Two Temple Place. This will all be done with the support and guidance of the experienced exhibition team at Two Temple Place and the Exhibition Advisor.

Extensive curatorial experience is not required, but the selected candidate must be absolutely immersed in the subject matter, with the desire to excite and inform new audiences through the exhibition narrative.

Two Temple Place: Our Building

Two Temple Place is an extraordinary architectural gem. It was built as an office for William Waldorf Astor in the late 19th century and is a unique venue in central London. We want it to be celebrated, enjoyed and explored by artists and the community with honesty, irreverence and joy. Our spaces have been fully adapted to accommodate exhibitions with top grade lighting and hanging systems, security, and environmental controls, and they 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, and successful exhibitions bring works together in ways that respond to and complement the building's unique décor, and surprise and delight visitors.

Working in Partnership

It is part of our mission that each collaborative exhibition creates significant value for the partner organisations and collections, for us, and for the public. We're excited about possibilities for touring or for wider and deeper digital engagement, and about exploring these opportunities with our partners.

Previous partners have also benefited from increased profile through media coverage generated through the London showcase, advocacy and fundraising opportunities, learning and development for staff, networking opportunities, additional research and conservation of objects within partner collections and opportunities to take risks not otherwise possible within permanent collections.

Timeframe

Exhibition Dates:	January – April 2024 and 2025
Exhibition narrative:	Autumn 2022
Object list developed:	Early 2023
Catalogue article completed:	Summer 2023
Interpretation completed:	October 2023

Next steps

You must read the Exhibition Report www.twotempleplace.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2TP-Exhibition-Report-2011-20.pdf Please send proposal ideas (a maximum of three pages excluding images) by email to Rebecca Hone, Head of Exhibitions, Two Temple Place, and she is also happy to discuss your proposal in advance rebecca@twotempleplace.org

Two Temple Place, Summer 2022