

## **Enchanted Parks – Artistic Commission Brief Supporting Information**

### **The location – Saltwell Park, Gateshead**

Saltwell Park is one of the finest and largest municipal Parks in the North of England. The park has won a series of high profile awards and has undergone a major Heritage Lottery funded renovation. The Victorian park is built around the 'fairytale' style architecture of Saltwell Towers, it owes a large part of its character to the vision of the eccentric stain-glass maker William Wailes.

Created with a combination of 'never-ending' vistas, a series of Garden Rooms and the picturesque Dene, the park is an extraordinary mixture of Victorian municipality and a wealthy man's dream. The park has a resident Keeper and is locked at dusk. There is a quiet beauty which pervades it at night when nature seems to take over again.

### **Commission Sites**

All proposals need to consider a potential site specific location or locations for the proposed artwork/s for installation within the Enchanted Parks prescribed programme areas of the Park. The winter park environment must be taken into account; the weather could be cold, freezing, wet, snow filled, windy and uninviting as well as crisp, dry, still and dreamlike. The majority of the trees will also be without leaves.

Previous areas used for Enchanted Parks and in which the artwork commissions have been placed are within a 25 acre area located in the southern half of Saltwell Park (**these are potential sites but not confirmed and agreed as we expect to develop a new route for 2011**)

These are:

- The Grove, Loggia & Bandstand
- South Park Lawns and Pathways
- Aviary Lawn
- The Octagon Lawn at the rear of Saltwell Towers
- Saltwell Towers – exterior and interior gallery
- Saltwell Towers Garden area
- The Memorial Rose Garden
- The Saltwell Dene

These are all areas for consideration **but we are also interested in considering other new locations within the park** these will be discussed at the site visits.

### **Work with Gateshead community groups and organisations**

Proposals are welcomed for artwork that seeks to engage with specific Gateshead community groups or organisations (either in the development of, or creation of the artwork). Support will be available from the Enchanted Parks team to set up these working partnerships.

### **Enchanted Parks 2011 - Key Commission Information**

#### **We have listed here the key points for the Enchanted Parks Commissions brief**

- The Enchanted Parks programme is part of the 2011 NewcastleGateshead Winter Festival
- Enchanted Parks 2011 will take place in Saltwell Park, Gateshead in December for five evenings from Wednesday 7th December to Sunday 11th December 2011

- We are inviting proposals for the commission of temporary artworks
- The artworks will be site specific or site sympathetic locations in Saltwell Park.
- The art works will be installed for the duration of the Enchanted Parks 2011 programme
- The commissions are for **ideas** on the theme as described in this document
- Proposals made can be for a commission budget for proposals costing from £ 1,500 to £5,000. More commissions will be selected for art work proposals in the mid range of this budget (between £2,000 - £3,000)
- We are aiming to commission artworks for 15+ sites within the Park for 2011
- The commission is not just for visual artworks, but for a wide range of art forms including multimedia, sound, music, writing, outdoor performance and live art. We are interested in the use of sound, music, stories, the mix of technology and the use of low energy technology where possible
- We are expecting an audience in the region of 10,000 over the duration of this event. Our audiences will include groups of friends, extended families, young people and children
- Art works can be from large scale to an intimate small scale experience
- We will look at ideas that require some works due to their delicate nature or sensitive valuable equipment, to be demounted and re mounted each day
- The Enchanted Parks look and feel for the public will be of a celebratory, wintry and seasonal event
- The art works proposed can be for new work or interpretations or representations of existing art work. Art works can be from large scale to a intimate small scale experience
- In the park, the artworks will be presented as an illuminated trail which will be open to the public in the evening at dusk and after dark
- The winter park environment must be taken into account; the weather could be cold, freezing, wet, snow filled, windy and uninviting as well as crisp and dry. The trees will be without leaves.
- Artworks if possible are to be technically self supporting. But we will if required look at providing main electrical power for lighting, sound and other electrical equipment.
- We are keen to also promote the use of low voltage and low energy consumption powered equipment and lighting systems
- All art works must be fully visible/audable from the hard surfaced park pathways
- Magnetic Events will provide a close and supportive role as producers. They will provide technical and production support
- We recommend that a site visit is made to Saltwell Park before a commission proposal is made. Specific dates with after dark access have been arranged in July and August.

### **What Will Be Commissioned?**

Over the past four years we have built up this event, it has a loyal but broad following (10,000 tickets for the 2009 event were taken up in less than 48hours with all tickets for the 2010 event selling out before by the end of November). The artistic and creative quality of the event has also been recognised in the media through the regional culture awards.

- The commissions will be considered against **the strength and quality** of the artistic ideas in response to the Artistic Themes and the site specific nature of Saltwell Park.
- The Enchanted Parks evening programme will be presented after dark from 5.00pm onwards. Please consider how your work will be seen after dark and how you may use

darkness in presenting your work to the audience. The park is not normally open to the public after dark except during Enchanted Parks and other special events and is therefore a unique outdoor environment.

- The commission is for artworks that are site specific or suit a specific location in Saltwell Park and in order to be eligible proposals must be located within the designated park area as show the map in the section describing the Park
- Proposals must be feasible, and will be expected to fully realisable and achievable within the artwork production period and commission budget
- All plans must address the practical issues of installing and presenting artworks outside over period of up to 5 days in December
- The production or making process of the artwork/s will take place in the artists own facilities or spaces. The completed artworks will be delivered to Saltwell Park for their final production and installation on site by artists with the Magnetic production and technical support team

### **Commission - Practical Support for Artists**

NewcastleGateshead Initiative, Gateshead Council and Magnetic Events will provide a close and supportive role (with Magnetic Events as producers) working with artists, creative people and designers.

We will provide:

- Advisory and technical support for artist's and the commissioned artworks
- Commission programme administration including budget payments and monitoring
- The programme Producer role for the artistic and event management
- Marketing and Media Communications
- Transport or delivery from the commission studio or making space of art works to the Park
- Lighting and Sound Designers with advice and practical support
- Permissions for the use of the park spaces
- On Site technical support and practical advice
- On Site Health & Safety Management
- Assistance towards travel costs for the installation period
- Assistance towards local accommodation if required, for the installation period
- Production and Technical support staff for the installation and exhibition period
- Advice on materials and equipment for the installation of the art works.
- Launch Event and VIP Preview
- Audience and Public Management throughout the programme
- Artwork invigilators as Enchanted Parks guides
- 24 hr Site Security
- Removal of artworks and recycling after the programme has finished

### **Who Can Make a Proposal?**

- Individual artists, creative people and designers
- Arts organisations and creative companies
- Artists may collaborate with others on the development of ideas (other artists, makers, community participants, engineers, technical experts - for example),
- Applicants from ethnic minority backgrounds or with disabilities are welcomed.
- We will try to meet the access requirements of any applicant on request.

**SALTWELL PARK – BACKGROUND AND SELECTED SITE IMAGES (these are just examples of sites used previously in the park and will not necessarily be used in 2011)**

The Grove and Band Stand



Band Stand Loggia with Seating



The Curiosity Box – Ross Ashton



The Grove. Blankets by Heather Deedman



Saltwell Towers



Saltwell Towers and Park Lighting Scheme

Octagon Lawn and Saltwell Towers





The Three Birds A Calling – Ira Lightman



## The Rose Garden



Rose Garden- The Four Birds A Calling – Adept



The Saltwell Dene Stream and Walkways

### **Gateshead Sculpture Trail in Saltwell Park**

Gateshead has an international reputation for its Public Art Programme. Since its start in the 1980s this commitment to improving the public realm has resulted in over 80 works of art sited around Gateshead. The sculptures are a proud feature of the borough and have attracted British artists of international acclaim such as Andy Goldsworthy, Richard Deacon, Colin Rose and Antony Gormley. As part of Gateshead's Sculpture Festival 2006-7, 14 artists were invited to create artworks for a temporary sculpture trail in Saltwell Park. The sculptures create new interest in the park and raise the profile of the role of outdoor sculpture. The theme for the Trail was 'World Culture' and the artists interpreted this in a variety of ways. Sculptures ranged from traditional stone carving to temporary works incorporating plastic and sound. Following the success of the Install Sculpture Trail, some of the sculptures have remained in situ. The sculptures were commissioned by Gateshead Council for the Install Sculpture Trail as part of the Gateshead Sculpture Festival 2006.

### **Artists and Art Works:**

- Origin - Joseph Hillier
- Juxtaposition - Hideo Furuta
- Ventifact - Cate Watkinson
- Anyone There - Fred Watson
- Ship Shape and Gateshead Fashion - Marcela Livingston & Liam Curtin
- Foliate Carving - Gilbert Ward
- This way up - Stephen Newby
- Wriggle - Colin Rose
- The Language Stone - Gordon Young
- Seedling - Daniel Clahane
- Pavilion for Cultural Exchange - William Pym
- Ship of Fools - Neil Canavan
- We are all in this together - Sam McGeever
- Chrysalis - Sam Brewster

Highlighted works are those that are still sited in the park

To see more on these works please look at:

[www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk) and follow the links to Art in Gateshead and Public Art and Temporary Art

### **Travel Directions**

The park is open from dawn to dusk, including public holidays and is located behind the former Gateshead College off and signposted from the A167. The Park can be accessed by pedestrians only from East Park Road, West Road, Saltwell Road South, Saltwell View and Joicey Road.

Public car parking including for disabled visitors, is available off Joicey Road

Address: Saltwell Park, Saltwell Road, Gateshead, NE8 4SF

