

Creative Arts Policy Statement

Our Mission and Values

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?
(Micah 6.8)

Exeter Cathedral exists for the glory of God and as a sign of God's kingdom. Our mission is growing in prayer, making disciples and serving people in Devon with joy. We express this through:

- Daily worship and prayer
- Welcome and pastoral support
- Nurturing disciples
- Learning together
- Serving the community

We are committed to and will courageously pursue being:

- Welcoming To All
- The Best We Can
- Open and Listening
- Fair and Respectful

Theological Context

The Cathedral building is a work of art in itself but it is more than a scheduled monument or architectural gem; it is the place where the Christian community gathers to tell the stories of its faith and of its past and to engage with the building and all that it contains. The building itself is of differing artistic forms and media; it contains painting, stained glass, polychrome and gilding, carvings in stone and wood, ceramics, textiles, precious metals and the spoken and sung word. The building is not a museum but is a place for a living tradition with a resident community and with people coming with different expectations every day.

The Cathedral was built primarily for worship and the liturgy itself is a form of art in that it uses words, symbolic actions, colour, light, darkness, music and movement to engage with all who come to the Cathedral.

The story of the Christian Faith is fundamentally the story of the word made flesh, of God taking on human form and giving spiritual significance to the physical and the material, and often finds its expression through the creative arts over many generations. The story of faith has inspired great artists – painters, sculptors, musicians, masons, glaziers, carpenters, choreographers among others to express this story in many different ways.

Dissonance and Debate

Occasionally there may be discomfort about a piece of art in the Cathedral. Artistic expression does not always bring about a sense of peace or tranquillity and this is true of all forms of art including music through many generations and is certainly not restricted to modern art. For example, the triptych *The Garden of Earthly delights* by Hieronymous Bosch (1450-1516) continues to cause debate and discussion among art historians as to its meaning and interpretation and those viewing it still find it as disturbing an image as those painted 500 years later by the Spanish Surrealists.

Art in the Cathedral will sometimes challenge and even shock. This challenge or even sense of the shocking should not be gratuitous and the Cathedral needs to be sensitive to what might be seen as offensive in some sections of society or cultures (for example, explicit sexual imagery). However, art by its very nature will provoke a reaction in those who experience it and the Cathedral should not step back from what might be seen as difficult decisions.

Aims and Objectives for proposed exhibitions and creative arts installations

- Increase visitor footfall to the Cathedral (particularly by providing a reason for repeat visits) that sees a positive impact on the Chapter's financial position.
- Enhance the Cathedral's regional and national reputation and profile, particularly through the generation of positive PR and hospitality to aid the work of the Development Office.
- Provide opportunities to support the Education Department in its programming.

Proposals for exhibitions and installations should

- Engage creatively with the building and the Christian faith it embodies whilst reflecting our organisational values (see above)
- Enrich the experience of those who visit and worship at the Cathedral
- Connect with and represent currents of secular culture
- Provoke and promote learning through art for all ages
- Enhance the Cathedral's regional and national reputation and profile
- Inspire members of the public to visit the Cathedral

Practical information

- **Visitors to Exeter Cathedral pay an admission charge (with the exception of Residents' cardholders, Friends of Exeter Cathedral and annual passholders). Exhibitions and installations are included in this charge and exemptions and concessions are not made.**
- Subject matter must be appropriate to the Cathedral and receive approval from the Chapter or its nominated committee. While nudity and representations of the human form are acceptable, graphic genital or sexual representation is not. Party-political material is not acceptable. However, political and social observation, commentary and engagement is to be encouraged! Work that is felt to be racist, homophobic, intentionally offensive, discriminatory or derogatory will not be accepted.
- Subject matter must be appropriate to the scale of the interior or external setting.
- Appropriate Method Statements and Risk Assessments must be completed to the satisfaction of the Cathedral's Clerk of Works, and any issues addressed.
- Artists/exhibitors are responsible for the costs of insuring, transporting and securing installations as appropriate. Exeter Cathedral will not accept responsibility for any damage to, or theft from, exhibitions in the Cathedral or its precincts.
- Exeter Cathedral can provide a limited number of free marketing opportunities to help promote the exhibition/installation. These are usually limited to displaying posters around the site, inclusion in any printed event guides and digital opportunities including the website, social media and email marketing.
- Selling exhibitions are permitted provided prices are not displayed in the Cathedral. A commission will be payable and agreed at the time of booking. It may be possible for associated merchandise to be sold in the Cathedral Shop by separate arrangement.
- The Chapter reserves the right to withdraw an exhibition it considers inappropriate.
- Exeter Cathedral is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk, and therefore all exhibitors and practitioners are required to comply with the Cathedral Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment Policy.
- In some circumstances the Chapter may provide, free of charge, a private view or drinks reception for up to 50 people.