

The Penn Club Centenary Artwork Commission Brief

For response by 31 March 2019

Background

The Penn Club is a Members Club with a strong Quaker ethos, open to non-members for B&B. In 2020 The Penn Club will be celebrating its centenary and are commissioning a piece of artwork to mark the occasion.

History

The Penn Club has its beginnings in the First World War. Many young Quakers wanted to contribute to the defence of the country in a way that did not compromise their anti-war stance. This led to the formation of the Friends Ambulance Unit, which worked alongside the Red Cross in providing medical aid to British and French troops.

After the war members of the FAU decided to form a club with premises in central London as a place to meet. Money left over when the Friends Ambulance Unit disbanded was the start of the fundraising for the Club. In October 1920 The Penn Club opened its doors in Tavistock Square. In 1938 the Club moved to its present location at 21 to 23 Bedford Place.

Over the years the Club has had to adapt in order to continue. As the demand for residential accommodation decreased the Club became a place for members to stay on their visits to London. Non-members were allowed to stay as long as they understood and contributed to the peaceful atmosphere of the Club.

Throughout this time the members have been the lifeblood of the Club. The Board is formed of members who shape the direction of the Club and ensure its survival for the enjoyment of future members.

The Club is a not-for-profit organisation with surplus funds being used to maintain and improve the building and to provide better facilities for those who use the Club.

Although not a formal Quaker institution, the Club maintains close ties to the Quaker world and operates on the traditional Quaker values of integrity, equality, tolerance, simplicity, honesty and fairness in all its dealings.

Vision

The theme for the Centenary Celebration is "Celebrating 100 Years of Quaker hospitality in Bloomsbury" so this could be a starting point for the work. It would be desirable if there was a nod to the history of the Club in the finished piece.

Submission requirements

Submissions should be made via email (fergal@pennclub.co.uk) or letter (to Fergal Crossan, The Penn Club, 21 Bedford Place, London WC1B 5JJ) **by 31 March 2019**. (This is an extended deadline). Please include a short statement on your vision of what form the finished artwork would take. Also include a short bio/CV and link to your portfolio so the committee can view some of your previous work.

Practicalities

3 artists will be shortlisted and asked to submit a full proposal. The 3 shortlisted artists to be paid a fee of £500 for their time.

The chosen artist will receive £8,000 for the finished work. The Board will make the final decision on choice of artwork. The Club would require licencing rights to the artwork so it can be used in reproductions and other advertising and merchandising opportunities.

The artwork to be completed by Spring 2020 to be unveiled at Garden Party in July 2020.