

For the Love of Lettuce

What

Three micro-commissions for artists at any stage of their careers (including emerging artists) for Melbourne Festival in South Derbyshire, to be unveiled, showcased or premiered over the weekend of Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th September 2017.



Historically, Melbourne is well known for its market gardening heritage. These market gardens, which define the shape and feel of the village were (and still are) largely family businesses - and there are still three remaining in Melbourne.

As part of a Heritage Lottery Fund supported project, Melbourne Festival, working with People Express and Talking Birds, are offering three small commissions for artists to make new pieces of work **in any medium** inspired by Melbourne's market gardening heritage and the oral history collected as part of the project so far. Work can be shown outdoor at one or more chosen site/s along the arts trail in the village setting or within a local venue.

<http://fortheloveoflettuce.wordpress.com>
<http://melbournefestival.co.uk/for-the-love-of-lettuce/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne,_Derbyshire
<http://www.people-express.org.uk/for-the-love-of-lettuce/>

Where

Melbourne Festival is a hugely popular, well-established volunteer-run annual festival, now in its thirteenth year, the highlight of the Melbourne Festival is the Art & Architecture Trail which regularly attracts audiences of over 5000, of all ages including families, and has 150 artists exhibiting in 70 venues. Melbourne is in the heart of South Derbyshire close to Derby, Nottingham and Leicester.

In 2016 the Festival worked together with People Express [www.people-express.org.uk/] and Talking Birds [www.talkingbirds.co.uk/] to pilot "For the Love of Lettuce", offering mentored micro-commissions to two East Midlands based Artists to make work inspired by, and in celebration of, Melbourne's Market Gardeners and the beauty of the vegetables they produce.

Following the success of these micro-commissions, Photographer Chris Mear and Artist Emma Pegg are making larger pieces for this year's festival, in addition to this open call for three more new pieces of work made 'For the Love of Lettuce'.

Who

The artists will be engaged by People Express and mentored by Talking Birds. The commission is administered by the Melbourne Festival. The three local market gardeners are F Jackson and Son Market Gardeners, William Sharp & Sons, and Heaths of Melbourne.

How

There are three micro-commissions of £1000 (inclusive) on offer, and artists will be selected by People Express, Talking Birds and Melbourne Festival.

To apply, please outline your project/installation/performance idea (max 500 words); tell us a little bit about you and what it is about the commission that interests you (max 300 words); give us a rough outline of how you will achieve your idea within the £1000 available; and include up to 5 images of previous work or web links to up to 5 images/previous projects.

Commission Resources and additional information:

There is a small materials budget for each commission of up to £150, for materials above this budget and/or for the hire of equipment the partners will aim to secure donations and/or loans. Artists are welcome to use People Express' attic workshop space for making, performing or devising, and use of our digital resources. The partners can promote any participatory, volunteering

or shadowing opportunities if part of your proposal, including the involvement of the Market Gardeners.

Our artistic ambitions for the commissions are to break the mould of Melbourne's very successful, but more traditional rural Arts Trail by offering audiences the unexpected, extraordinary and thought-provoking.

People Express, Talking Birds and Melbourne Festival are ethical employers/commissioners of artists and creative practitioners, we respect the artist's ownership of any ideas and proposals put forward for the Love of Lettuce commissions.

Key Dates

Commissions advertised: from Wednesday 5th July 2017

Closing date: Midnight - Tuesday 25th July 2017

Applications to be sent to: **loveoflettuce@gmail.com (Applications only - no enquires)**

(File sizes no more than 2MB please)

Enquires:

Please contact People Express directly if you have any queries about the commissions

Telephone: 01283 552962 or email: julie.batten@people-express.org.uk

If you would like more information about Melbourne Festival please email:

sharon@melbournefestival.co.uk

Interviews:

Shortlisted artists will be notified on 1st August if they have been selected for interviews.

Interview dates : Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th August 2017

Install work at Melbourne Festival: 11th to the 15th September (depending on the site/venue)

Melbourne Festival Weekend: 16th & 17th September 2017 10am to 5pm both days

Un-install from Melbourne Festival: 17th to 18th September (or TBC depending on site/venue)

