ART

for St. Anne's



St. Anne's is one of the six remaining churches designed by Hawksmoor for London. A pure expression of his artistic vision and a landmark for Limehouse in East London, it sits patiently in the poorest part of the city, listed on Historic England's At Risk Register.

It seems, this magnificent example of English Baroque architecture just simply isn't valued enough to be saved. The opportunity to conserve it is slipping through our fingers, literally turning to dust.

Care For St. Anne's is a secular organisation whose remit is the maintenance and restoration of the Hawksmoor masterpiece - but we are struggling. Limehouse needs creative investment in this symbol of local community and pride; London needs the only largely unrestored Hawksmoor church to be saved for posterity; and on a national level we need to cherish and conserve our canon of architectural

Artists like you are being invited to contribute your creative response to St. Anne's beauty, to its decay and perhaps to the process of its restoration. Your work will be shown in a dedicated exhibition on these themes in the church.





The inception of the idea came from documentary photographs - some shown here - taken during restoration surveys. In many, the beauty of the dilapidated building was captured almost accidentally. There is a poignancy to this that only the visual poetry and perspective of artists can address - not surveyors nor engineers, not even architects concerned as they are with techniques of restoration that respect the aesthetics of the original Hawksmoor design but which focus on rendering the building for contemporary use.

Your art works will be presented in the faded grandeur of the St. Anne's church gallery. Using this architecturally stunning space for displaying artwork is part of our ongoing plan to open the church for arts and community use. Whave already held several successful shows here. We cordially invite you to come and visit, to see the space for yourself and to discuss more of what we have to offer. For instance, one idea is for you to sell signed and/or limited edition prints throughout the duration of the show, both in person and via a dedicated web-page.

Our priority with this project, is to generate income, benefitting you and other participating artists, and at the same time adding to the church restoration fund. We envisage dividing the proceeds with 50% for you, the artist and the balance contributing to St. Anne's restoration.

Of most urgency is the installation of a lift, the key part of a long awaited plan to improve access to all parts of this Hawksmoor building. Accessibility remains an essential prerequisite for opening the church to the entire community.

Importantly, we also plan to record and conserve these artistic representations of St. Anne's for future generations of artists, local residents and historians. We particularly see this being a useful resource for arts education in schools and universities. We already worked with Bartlett School of Architecture and local school children on past projects and a local school will be incorporating this new project into their own art lessons.

Timeline

We invite artists to participate in this project over the next months, with a view to submitting work to the curation team by the end of January 2027. The resulting exhibition **‘Art for St. Anne’s’** will be mounted from March to June 2027.

Next Steps

First, let us know if you might consider participating. Second, arrange with us to visit the church and seek your inspiration for creating an image. You might find your idea in any corner… and you are free to use any medium of your choice.

We look forward to your positive response.

Please contact any of the following to arrange your visit and for further information:

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