

**Artist Commission These Things Matter:  
Open Call for artists to create original artworks in response to objects of empire.**

Museum of Colour (MoC), the Bodleian Libraries and Fusion Arts are working in partnership to build a small exhibition entitled *These Things Matter* through a collaborative process featuring six objects and six contemporary responses created by artists. We want to investigate the ideas and relationships that maintained systems of empire and slavery.

We would like to commission artists to interpret and respond to artefacts selected from the Bodleian Libraries collections through participatory community workshops (held October-December 2021). The six objects that will form part of *These Things Matter* were chosen due to their relationship to emotional control. We are looking for six artists/commissions to form the exhibition alongside the six artefacts. Please note that the items we are asking you to respond to may bring up difficult emotions.

**Who we are looking for**

You will have a defined contemporary practice, a 'portfolio' you can share, a proven ability to work to timelines, superb communication skills, an ability to work as part of a team and an understanding and interest of what Museum of Colour is doing. We welcome applications from contemporary artists working in any medium. You could be a photographer, a poet, a crafter or a live artist. We hope you don't let your art form restrict you from responding.

Your work will be a central element in the exhibition alongside the other artist commissions and artefacts. We want to create new works to combine with other elements and create a vision for this new and important exhibition with you.

**To apply, please submit an expression of interest including the following:**

1. Five examples of your work (please choose work that demonstrates your range and preferred medium)
2. Two references that we can take up if shortlisted
3. In your own words, tell us why you would like this commission and why you feel you are the right person to make it special (if you are not comfortable writing this, we will accept a recorded verbal submission of no more than 5 minutes)

We are excited to hear from you!

The fee per commission is **£2,000**

**Background**

*These Things Matter* is a project partnership between Museum of Colour (MoC), the Bodleian Libraries and Fusion Arts. The aim is to build a small exhibition through a collaborative process. We want to investigate the ideas and relationships that maintained systems of empire and slavery.

Community members were facilitated by curators and researchers from the Bodleian Libraries and MoC to choose objects that will form the foundation of this exhibition and the subjects of this artistic commission callout for responses. The objects selected relate to slavery and empire. Participants were encouraged to engage with the material, ask questions, discuss and then decide. The objects and items chosen by participants through this series of workshops are to be used for inspiration for the exhibition: we aim to make small shifts in decision making power and explore how it feels for all involved.

You will have access to the exhibition objects/artefacts, curators & researchers to assist and help contextualise the objects.

The exhibition will run from November 2022 – January 2023 at the Bodleian Library. It is expected that the exhibition will tour a number of libraries and small museums in the UK over 2023-24.

Museum of Colour is a digital museum celebrating the contributions of people of colour to the UK's film, television and the arts. MoC always works in partnership and each exhibition contains an element of response, where global majority artists are invited to engage with and respond to existing British heritage via artistic commission. You can see our work here:  
[www.museumofcolour.org.uk](http://www.museumofcolour.org.uk)

**Timescale:**

**Shortlisting/selection of artefacts & objects:** Community workshops Oct-Dec 2021 [Completed]

**Deadline for Artists' expression of interest:** 9am 21st February 2022

**Appointment made:** It is expected that the appointment will be made early March

**Start date:** As soon as is feasible for the chosen project to be successful

**Delivery to Bodleian date:** by the end of June 2022 at the latest

**Exhibition:** The exhibition will be held in the public area of the Weston Library

Please let us know in your submission if you give us permission to:

- Keep your details for future projects
- Add you to our mailing list.

Please send your applications to [connect@museumofcolour.org.uk](mailto:connect@museumofcolour.org.uk) by 9am on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022.

For shortlisting we will share Expressions of interest with project partners Fusion Arts and Oxford University's Bodleian Libraries.