

**Crawford
Art
Gallery**

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

For

RESEARCH ASSISTANT – BUILDING AS WITNESS

DECADE OF COMMEMORATION PROJECT

For

Crawford Art Gallery

Cork, Ireland

Date of Issue: 10 January 2022

Closing date: 12 NOON, 27 JANUARY 2022

Crawford Art Gallery

Overview:

The Crawford Art Gallery is a significant cultural institution based in Cork and is in part distinguished by being the only National Culture Institution located entirely outside of Dublin.

Based in a significant heritage building in Cork city, in a key city centre location, Crawford Art Gallery is extremely well placed to serve a wide catchment area and is a key visitor attraction in a city and a region that is experiencing significant growth as identified in Ireland Project 2040 and in the Cork 2050 programme. Over the course of 2019, there were 265,000 visitors to the Gallery.

Its ambitious programming includes exhibitions, projects and a rich Learn and Explore programme, which provides diverse audiences an opportunity to interact and engage with art and artists in a range of extraordinary contexts.

Crawford Art Gallery is committed to fostering recognition, critical assessment and acknowledgement of Irish and international art practice through its programming and collecting ethos. The Collection comprises of almost 4,000 works ranging from Eighteenth Century Irish and European painting and sculpture through to contemporary art and video installations.

More details on Crawford Art Gallery are available on the Gallery's website www.crawfordartgallery.ie

Scope of Project: Building as Witness

For the Decade of Commemorations 2021-2023, Crawford Art Gallery will create, under the theme of **Building as a Witness**, an interactive online programme, commissioned writings and visual responses and a digitisation project of the Gibson Bequest Archive.

Commencing 6 December 2021 – the hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty – **Building as Witness** spans the duration of the Irish Civil war with the project culminating on 14 April 2024 celebrating the centenary of the Gibson Bequest Committee agreed the purchase of Séan Keating's iconic painting *Men of the South*. The lens of the project will focus on the often overlooked histories the objects, events and the individual people and social groups that are entwined and enmeshed in the buildings of the Crawford Art Gallery.

During the Irish Civil War, the Cork School of Art (now Crawford Art Gallery) was witness to a variety of educational, community and commercial figures who formed part of Cork's socio-political landscape and was beginning its journey to extricate itself from the imperial educational umbrella of the South Kensington (London) School of Art system.

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Building as Witness aims to unearth, explore and create contemporary dialogues with the past to reveal new insights into the everyday comings and goings along with photographic, newspaper articles, Board of Management minutes, Teaching and Student roll-calls and other documentation alongside framed within the wider local, national and international events and narratives of the Irish Civil War and beyond.

Featuring stories – amongst others - figures like Diarmuid O’Ceallachain – the third Cork Lord Mayor appointed in 1920 (following the murder of Tomás MacCurtain and the death of Terence MacSwiney) who was on the Gibson Bequest Committee (an acquisition and student travel fund set up in 1919 upon the death of Joseph Stafford Gibson) to Wilhelmina Margaret Geddes who exhibited at the 6th Arts and Crafts Society of Ireland held in the Cork School of Art alongside the work of Harry Clarke in December 1921.

Crawford Art Gallery is inviting submissions from suitably qualified individuals with experience undertaking self-directed research as part of this project.

Research will facilitate a flow chart overview of key dates regarding the histories of staff, students and Board of the Cork School of Art and Gibson Bequest Committee and research through local sources including Newspaper Archives, Cork City Archives, Crawford Art Gallery Collection in relation to wider geographic surrounding of the building now known as Crawford Art Gallery e.g. advertising of local shops, incidents in surrounding tenements, public meetings in Cork School of Art, exhibitions, advertising of jobs etc. Research will include review and extraction of material found within the digitisation of Gibson Bequest Minutes project.

Key Tasks and Reporting Structure

This is a project specific, Contract for Service.

Duration: Flexible duration as agreed in advance with Project Team Lead

Research must be carried out between February and December 2022 and within the project budget, to be defined by the CAG team upon confirmation of the successful quotation.

Supplier must be available if timelines change due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Reporting to: Dawn Williams

The successful Supplier will work with Project Lead Dawn Williams and Assistant Curator Michael Waldron on research content and commissioned artistic responses to the research. This will include regular meetings and checks of work carried out for quality and relevance.

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Additionally they will liaise with the CAG Project Manager on digitisation work resulting from the research.

Tasks include:

- Collect and analyse primary and secondary sources, on-site, within Cork, Munster and nationally, if required
- Create and maintain project files
- Conduct literature reviews within area of focus
- Notify the Crawford Art Gallery Project Team of images that require use on the Building as Witness web and social media postings
- Research, identify, assemble and create a timeline of historically significant material and events/ happenings
- Provide research material and texts for a dedicated web presence within the Crawford Art Gallery's website
- Create short texts for weekly entries for web content and social media postings
- Create presentations to inform Crawford Art Gallery team, and artists and writers commissioned within the scope of Building as Witness project

Essential Experience:

- MA in Irish History / Art History
- Proven ability to conduct research in a professional manner with excellent time management and planning and organisational skills
- Strong analytical and communication skills
- Proven ability to work independently and evaluate data, assess alternatives, and formulate logical and sound decisions and/or recommendations
- Experience with relevant specialized software and databases, as required by a project
- Experience in organizing and presenting data
- Strong writing and editing skills to prepare and proofread clear, concise, and grammatically correct business correspondence, reports and publications and communicate complex information

Desirable Experience:

- PhD in Irish History / Art History
- Research and publication background on events leading up to and including the Irish Civil War, and wider social context specifically around the time frame of 1922-1924
- Interdisciplinary research and publication history

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This project is due to commence in mid-February 2022. Suppliers must be available to work on site in Crawford Art Gallery and other archival and research institutions from time to time from the commencement of the project.

Compliance with Public Health Guidelines and Gallery Policies will be mandatory while working onsite.

Quotation Submission Criteria:

To apply, interested candidates should submit a cover letter expressing interest in the contract and outlining relevant experience, together with a detailed research methodology proposal within a maximum 800 word count and curriculum vitae. Please include the names and contact information (mail & e-mail address, and telephone numbers) of references from two similar projects.

Suppliers must outline all and any costs associated with the provision of all services required pursuant to this RFQ, and specifically proposals should clearly state:

a. A single fixed blended daily rate for provision of the research services required. The quoted daily fee shall be that amount which is necessary to carry out all of the work required to satisfy the requirements set out in this RFQ; this sum shall include all costs.

b. The rates must be all-inclusive (i.e. including but not being limited to staff costs, administration costs, travel & subsistence), be expressed in Euro only and exclusive of VAT. The appropriate VAT rate(s) must be shown separately if applicable.

Questions regarding the research brief may be sent to dawnwilliams@crawfordartgallery.ie and should be submitted no later than 12 noon 17 January 2022.

Completed Application Forms

Applications will be accepted via email to hr@crawfordartgallery.ie (please ensure to insert "Submission for Research Assistant" in the subject field)

Closing date for receipt of application is **12 Noon 27 January 2022, late submissions will not be considered**

Conflict of Interest

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Any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest on the part of a Supplier, must be fully disclosed to Crawford Art Gallery as soon as the conflict or potential conflict is or becomes apparent. In the event of any conflict or potential conflict of interest, Crawford Art Gallery may invite the Supplier to propose means by which the conflict might be removed. Crawford Art Gallery will, at its absolute discretion, decide on the appropriate course of action which may, in appropriate circumstances, include eliminating a Supplier from the competition or terminating any contract entered into by a Supplier.