

Become a Member of Harding House Co-operative

Harding House is a magnificent listed building situated in a prime position on Steep Hill within the Cathedral Quarter of Lincoln City Centre. The gallery is well established and provides a unique and exciting venue for contemporary art and craft. Formed as an artist's co-operative in 1994, the gallery is managed and staffed by a friendly and committed group of artists and makers.

Harding House Co-operative is just what its name implies and becoming a member carries with it both benefits and obligations. The benefits are many, Lincoln is a city on the tourist trail with many visitors from overseas throughout the year. We are in a prime location on Steep Hill with Lincoln Castle and Lincoln Cathedral close by and the Bailgate shopping area that is a favourite for residents and tourists alike. Tourists walk up and down the hill all year round and during the Lincoln Christmas Market the whole area is thronged with visitors. Steep Hill was named 'Britain's Best Place' by the Academy of Urbanism in 2011.

The gallery is run as a co-operative by a group of up to 12 members, all of whom are artists or makers of contemporary art and craft. The members of the co-operative are solely responsible for the staffing and day to day running of the gallery. The co-operative is non-profitmaking and all income is diverted back into the gallery. We also act as an agent for other artists and makers and operate a sale or return policy charging 40% commission on all work sold.

There are two galleries at Harding House, the downstairs gallery displays a comprehensive range of contemporary work for sale including ceramics, glass, jewellery, photography and painting, while the Upper Gallery is used for temporary exhibitions. Please look at our website to give you a feel of the type of work we exhibit at Harding House Gallery.

The gallery is open throughout the year, Monday to Saturday 10.00am to 5.00pm. and 11am to 4.00pm on Sundays. We are open late into the evening during the busy Lincoln Christmas Market period in December.

How it Works:

As a member of Harding House Co-operative you would have your own designated space within the gallery to exhibit your work and you would pay a small commission on work sold. Being able to display a large body of work is very advantageous and increases the likelihood of sales. You would have the chance to promote yourself and your work whenever you are manning the gallery. There would be the opportunity to have solo or joint exhibitions in the upstairs gallery at no cost and you would be part of a group of working artists and makers who are supportive of each other and their work.

Being part of the co-operative is a serious commitment and as a member you are expected to act responsibly and with consideration for the other members. There is a trial period of six months on both sides with a mentoring scheme for new members. All members pay a small monthly rent or retainer to the gallery. Six months notice in writing is required for cessation of membership.

A staffing rota is drawn up two months in advance and members choose their days for manning the gallery. Members spend on average 3 - 4 days a month staffing the gallery, however, the rota is flexible and negotiable. Various day to day tasks such as tidying,

cleaning and paperwork involved with the sales are always necessary and are undertaken by whoever is on duty that day.

Minuted meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 6.00pm and it is important that all members attend. At the meetings gallery business is discussed and decisions are made to ensure the smooth day to day running of the gallery. Submitted work for membership and on a sale or return basis are considered and voted on for acceptance into the gallery.

How to Apply:

Anyone who wishes to apply to become a member of the Harding House Co-operative needs to provide the following:

- A small body of original (retail priced) work which illustrates what would be put on display in the gallery.
- Images/photographs of other work which you may wish to include to support your application.
- A short written description of the type of work or an artist's statement.
- An up to date CV.

Once submitted to the gallery, your application will be considered at the next meeting, which takes place on the third Thursday of each month. The decision will then be given by post following the meeting.

If you are interested in becoming a member and wish to find out more, you can email us at info@hardinghousegallery.co.uk Ring us on 01522 523537 or come in and speak to the person behind the desk, we will always be pleased to meet you and answer any queries you may have.