

Harding House Gallery Limited

Steep Hill, Lincoln, LN2 1LT

Harding House is a magnificent listed building situated in a prime location on Steep Hill. The Gallery is well established and re-opened in 1994 after much refurbishment by Lincoln City Council and English Heritage.

The Gallery is run as a co-operative by a group of up to 13 members, all of whom are artists or makers of contemporary craft. The members are solely responsible for the staffing and day to day running of Harding House. The co-operative is non-profitmaking and all income is diverted back into the gallery. We act as an agent for other artists and makers and operate a sale or return policy, charging 40% on all work sold.

Harding House is open throughout the year from 10.00a.m. to 5.00p.m. Monday to Saturday, 11a.m to 4p.m. Sunday, and late evenings during the busy Christmas Market period. There are two galleries at Harding House, the downstairs one displays a comprehensive range of contemporary work for sale and the upstairs gallery is used for temporary exhibitions.

We have CCTV security cameras in both the downstairs and upstairs galleries.

Adjoining the gallery there is some storage space, a kitchen and toilet. There is access to a private garden from the upstairs gallery.

Please note that Harding House does not have disabled access.

Membership of Harding House Co-operative

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. Harding House is 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.

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 only 10% 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. On joining, a non-returnable bond of £60.00 is paid to the gallery plus a £1.00 co-operative membership fee. There is a trial period of six months on both sides with a mentoring scheme for new members. All members pay a monthly rent or retainer of £15.00. 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. Members spend on average one day per week staffing the gallery but 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 Wednesday of each month at 6.00p.m. and it is important that all members attend. At the meetings gallery business is discussed and decisions made, and submitted work is considered for accepting into the gallery.

Anyone wishing to submit their work for consideration, either on a 'Sale or return' basis or as a prospective member of the co-operative, needs to provide the following: an up to date CV, photographs and/or slides of previous work, a short description of the type of work or an artist's statement and a small body of priced work which illustrates what would be put on display in the gallery. (Please price your work at the retail price bearing in mind the 40% commission charged by the gallery).

All these items need to be submitted to the gallery, and will be considered at the next meeting, which takes place on the third Wednesday of each month. The decision will then be given by post following the meeting.

Sale or Return contracts are issued and items are displayed in the gallery at the discretion of the person in charge of displays. SOR artists will have no say as to how or where their work is displayed but obviously it will be done as advantageously as possible. All SOR work is reviewed annually.

There is also the possibility to rent the upstairs gallery for an exhibition, original work to be submitted for consideration before each monthly meeting. The cost of hiring the gallery is £50 per week with 40% commission being levied. More specific information can be obtained by phoning the gallery and asking to speak to the Exhibitions Organiser.

We are constantly looking for new work and artists to join our co-operative. If you are interested then either speak to the person behind the desk or phone 01522 523537 for any queries you may have. If you would like to come and meet the members for a chat to see if Harding House Co-operative is for you then let us know and we can arrange a time to meet you.