

The Reader and dot-art Announce New Partnership

The Reader, which in September re-opened the Mansion House in Calderstones Park after a multi-million pound refurbishment project, has announced a new partnership with local art organisation dot-art, who will be delivering a range of activities including art classes, community workshops and a curated programme of exhibitions within the Mansion.

The Reader, a national charity championing the value and benefits of literature and Shared Reading, is bringing a wide range of activities to its Calderstones base, including a visual art programme. By teaming up with dot-art, a fellow social enterprise that has been operating in Liverpool for 13 years, The Reader will be able to offer visitors lots of ways to engage with art, all led by local creatives.

From January 2020, building on their successful partnerships with Bluecoat and many others, dot-art will be running a series of art classes and workshops, all with a link to either literature or the stunning setting of Calderstones Park. Embark on a 10 week **Photographic Adventures in Nature** course, trying your hand at a range of analogue photography techniques, or an evening course in **Textile Arts**, creating a range of nature based items using felting, stitching, sewing and printing. Three day courses will take place at weekends in **Illustrating a Short Story** and **Organic Pattern Design**, and one day workshops include **Walking Drawing: Mindfulness and Observation**. For younger artists, the **dot-art Club** will offer drawing sessions for 10 to 13 year olds in half term blocks, after school on a Wednesday. For more details please see dot-art.co.uk/art-classes.

Call for Exhibition Proposals:

Another exciting addition to The Reader offering is **Art in the Mansion**. dot-art will curate a rolling programme of exhibitions of local artists' work within the public areas of the Grade II listed Mansion House, with all art available to buy through the shop. This will complement the existing, highly successful exhibition programme in The Reader Gallery in the stable block; attracting a different audience, as artists will not need to staff their exhibitions.

Art in the Mansion will launch with a special Christmas exhibition, with artists invited to submit proposals by **THURSDAY 28th NOVEMBER** to exhibit between 9th December and 5th January. Submissions are also invited for exhibitions in the first quarter of 2020.



Application process:

- Artists / groups are invited to read full details and complete a form here: dot-art.co.uk/art-in-the-mansion where they will be asked to submit examples of work and an exhibition proposal, as well as 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice of dates and required number of weeks.
- Exhibitions will last a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 6 weeks.
- This will be a rolling process, with applications reviewed every quarter.

Ailsa Horne, Director of Calderstones and Commercial at the Reader said:

“We’re really excited about this partnership, which will continue to build on our already-successful Gallery that showcases the work of local artists. It’s great to see the Mansion House alive with so much activity – from weekly Shared Reading groups, as well as new, volunteer-led knitting, yoga and gardening activities. Art will be a brilliant addition to our weekly offer.”

Lucy Byrne, Managing Director of dot-art added:

“I have been a huge admirer of the work of The Reader for many years, so am really delighted to be working with them at their wonderful new home in Calderstones Park. Like The Reader, dot-art is an entrepreneurial organisation with social goals and the support of communities at its heart and we believe this partnership aligns perfectly with our values and stated aim to enable everyone to enrich their lives through art.”

The Reader at Calderstones programme of events and activities is backed by a number of supporters including The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, players of the People’s Postcode Lottery and The National Lottery Community Fund.

– ENDS –

For more details, please contact:

Gina Schwarz, dot-art: 0345 0176660 / gina.schwarz@dot-art.com
High resolution images available on request.



Notes to editors

About The Reader www.thereader.org.uk

The Reader is a national charity that wants to bring about a reading revolution so that everyone can experience and enjoy great literature, because we believe it's a tool for helping humans to survive and to live well.

We are supported by public funding from Arts Council England, players of the National Lottery through Big Lottery Fund and the Postcode Care Trust thanks to the support from players of People's Postcode Lottery.

For over a decade, we've helped to improve well-being, reduce social isolation and build community across the UK and beyond by bringing people from all walks of life together to connect, reflect, and discover great literature.

Every month in communities across the UK, 1,000 of our volunteers bring 2,500 readers together to enjoy and experience literature's life-supporting benefits through live reading aloud and group discussion. We call this Shared Reading.

We also work in partnership with clinical commissioning groups, public health bodies, NHS trusts and prisons to deliver Shared Reading activity that supports thousands of people across the UK. We read with schools, families and looked-after-children, adults in community spaces, people in care homes, people with physical and mental health conditions, those coping with or recovering from addiction, and people in the criminal justice system.

Everything we do – from our global Shared Reading movement to the events, activities and social businesses on offer at Calderstones Park – builds warm and lively communities by bringing people together and books to life.

@thereaderorg #SharedReading
The Reader - Charity Number 1126806 (SCO43054 Scotland)

About dot-art:

dot-art supports visual artists and champions art as an integral part of everyday life.

We do this by selling locally sourced, affordable art, working with businesses to put art in the workplace and public realm, running art classes and working with schools and community groups.

All this is underpinned by our unique membership scheme for artists in the North West which gives access to all the activities above and a package of support and advice, creating and developing artists' careers.

Find out more: dot-art.com / @dotart

