

Rallying call for artists to join open-air project

Some of Norwich's most historic sights are set to be celebrated in a new open-air art project – and artists have just under two weeks left to apply to take part.

Paint Out Norwich – a new addition to the Hostry Festival – will see a trail of artists out and about in the city in October creating artwork inspired by six landmarks.

Norwich Castle, the city's two cathedrals, the market, Elm Hill and Pull's Ferry will be the subjects of the En Plein Air art competition, and after two days of painting the artists' work will be featured in an exhibition that will run throughout the festival.

The overall winner will be awarded a £1,000 prize and there will also be a People's Choice Award.

Organisers had been looking for 12 artists to take part but this has now

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been increased to 20, and the deadline to apply is September 1.

James Colman, from the Hostry Festival selection panel, said the project was about celebrating the city and a great opportunity for artists, both professional and amateur.

He said: "I believe the whole experience will be a richly-rewarding experience for artists. It will be a lot of fun and they will get the chance to take on new challenges, meet other artists, and have their work on show for two weeks at the Hostry."

Stash Kirkbride, the Hostry Festival's artistic director, said the idea behind Paint Out Norwich was also to give the public a chance to see artists at work, and there will be a trail map for people to follow.

"We hope as many people as possible will enjoy the project," he said.

The artists selected will be painting at the six locations on October 22 and 23, and the exhibition will be at Norwich Cathedral's Hostry from October 24 until November 2.

There will be a gala launch night at the Hostry on October 23 where some of the works will be auctioned and the prize winners will be announced.

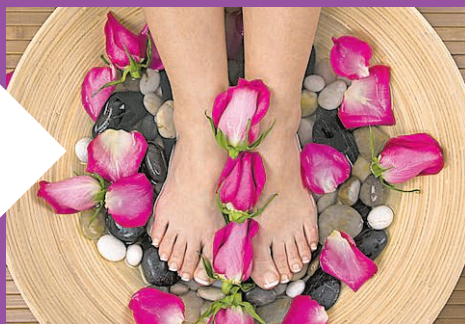
■ To apply, artists should submit their biography and examples of work to Paint Out Norwich by September 1 - visit www.paintoutnorwich.org. For more on the Hostry Festival visit www.hostryfestival.org

■ Do you have a story about the arts in Norwich? Email Emma Knights at emma.knights@archant.co.uk

■ Some of the Norwich landmarks that will feature in the En Plein Air art competition. Above, Norwich Castle, below, the market, and top left, Pull's Ferry. Pictures: STEVE ADAMS/DENISE BRADLEY/SIMON FINLAY



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